

ORIGINAL RESEARCH ARTICLE

Recognition of High Risk Pregnancies and Referral Practices among Traditional Birth Attendants in Mkuranga District, Coast Region, Tanzania

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Abstract

A cross-sectional study was carried out in Mkuranga District of Tanzania with the aim of comparing the ability of trained and untrained traditional birth attendants (TBAs) in identifying women with danger signs for developing complications during pregnancy and childbirth as well as their referral practices. Study findings revealed that majority of the TBAs (86.5%) had not received any training. Trained TBAs were more knowledgeable on danger signs during pregnancy and childbirth and were more likely to refer women with complications to a health facility, compared to untrained TBAs. The authors recommend that in resource constrained countries like Tanzania and especially in remote rural areas, TBAs should be trained on early identification of mothers with obstetrical complications and on their prompt referral to health facilities that can provide emergency obstetric care. (*Afr J Reprod Health* 2005; 9[1]: 113-122)

Keywords: *Pregnancy, complications, TBAs, childbirth*

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