THE BELIEFS OF SWAZI WOMEN REGARDING ANTENATAL CARE

Dr M.D. Peu
PhD, Department of Nursing, University of Pretoria

A.N. Sibiya
MCur, Department of Health

Prof MF Mulaudzi
PhD, Department of Nursing Science, University of Pretoria

Abstract
**Objective:** To explore and to describe the beliefs of Swazi women regarding antenatal care, at Msogwaba Trust in Mpumalanga province.

**Method:** A qualitative, descriptive, exploratory design was followed to conduct this study. Purposeful sampling was done from the Swazi women who meet the criteria required in the study. The researcher collected data using Siswati language then translated into English. Participants were interviewed in focus groups and the consent to participate was obtained. Data was analysed according to the Tesch method of data analysis by the researcher assisted by independent co coder. The main categories, subcategories and themes were identified.

**Findings:** The following categories emerged and supported with literature: Affective regard for pregnancy, Collective preservation of the pregnancy, Wisdom of traditional birth attendant, Male sexual supremacy and Contradicting practices

**Recommendations:** It was recommended that health care workers need to be educated on traditional, cultural knowledge so that they can deliver quality cultural sensitivity care.

**Conclusions:** It was therefore concluded that cultural knowledge should be included in the curriculum training of health care practitioners in order to improve the relationship of partners in healthcare.

**Key words:** antenatal care, culture, beliefs, grandmother’s role, birth attendant, traditional medication.