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Antenatal care services: Availability, acceptability and satisfaction among Fulani women of Ibarapa central local government area of Oyo State, Nigeria

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Utilization of antenatal care (ANC) services is important for pregnant women to have safe delivery and healthy babies. However, few studies dwelt on the connection between the contents of the ANC services made available by health care providers and its acceptability by pregnant women as well as the satisfaction of the services gotten. This study examined ANC Services: availability, acceptability and satisfaction among Fulani women of Ibarapa central local government area of Oyo state, Nigeria. Twenty in-depth interviews, two focus group discussions and six key informant interviews were conducted with purposively selected health officials, Fulani women and community leaders. Data collected was analyzed using thematic and content analysis. Utilization of antenatal care package largely depends on both the health care providers and pregnant women. On the part of the providers, there are issues of the availability of ANC services and the delivery to the consumers. Firstly, it is not all ANC providers that can provide focused ANC (FANC) package. Secondly, not all the providers are culturally competent to deliver FANC. With regards to the consumers, acceptance of FANC is influenced by religious beliefs, cultural norms and values. As parts of the remits of this study, ANC providers should be culturally competent and monitored to ensure that they offer adequate and quality ANC service delivery. The pregnant women need to be sensitized about the benefits of accepting ANC package.

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