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Information Needs and Seeking Behaviour of Antenatal Patients in Central Hospitals in Delta and Edo States, Nigeria

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Abstract

The study was carried out to ascertain the information needs and seeking behaviour of Antenatal patients in Central Hospitals in Delta States, Nigeria. The research design adopted for the study is a descriptive survey design. The population of the study covered all the central hospitals in Delta and Edo states. The total population of the study is seven hundred and fifty (750) antenatal patients registered in the central hospitals at the time of the study. Five hundred and twenty-six (526) respondents were selected for the study via a purposive sampling technique. A total of 526 copies of the questionnaire were distributed to the respondents and 393(75%) copies were returned. The method of data analysis adopted was descriptive statistics covering frequency count and percentage. The findings of the study revealed that the antenatal patients need information on how to stay healthy during pregnancy, foetal development care, sex of their baby, the progress of pregnancy, labour/ stages of birth, diets/nutrition during pregnancy, screening test, sex during pregnancy, among others. The antenatal patients rely on health services providers (physicians/doctors, nurses, midwives) antenatal classes, mobile apps on pregnancy, and experience mothers/ friends as their preferred information sources during pregnancy. The antenatal patients use the information they get to stay healthy during pregnancy, know about foetal development/ care, know the sex of babies, take good health decisions, understand the progress of their pregnancy, know the benefits of attending antenatal classes, know about labour/ stages of birth, among others. The challenges that militate against the accessibility and use of information by the antenatal patients as indicated by the responses are the negative attitude of some health professionals, low self-esteem and other sociodemographic factors, insufficient time to interact with health provider, inability to distinguish between correct and false health information, among others. It was recommended from the study that the government of Nigeria should create helplines where the antenatal patients can call and get instant information that meet their various health needs and television and radio stations should redesign their programmes to meet the aspiration/ information needs of antenatal patients.

Keywords: Information Needs; Seeking Behaviour; Antenatal Patients; Central Hospitals; Delta and Edo States; Nigeria

INTRODUCTION

Information is very vital to human development and is needed in all aspects of life. We need information on health, politics, religion, business, economy, education, governance, and so on. Information is a strategic resource for virtually any person and can confer political and economic powers (Erimieleagbon & Okonoko, 2009). Information is a vital ingredient for the survival of professionals in diverse fields, as lawyers require information to handle cases properly, judges require information to pass unbiased judgment, doctors require information to treat their patient, architects require information to design cutting edge building plans, teachers require information to prepare lesson notes, teach their students and prepare them for a future career ahead of them (Edewor, Ijiekhuamhen, & Emeka-Ukwu, 2016). In the same vein, pregnant women undergoing antenatal require a wide range of information to stay healthy all through their pregnancy stage to the final delivery of their babies.

Antenatal care is the healthcare support women receive during pregnancy which enables them to make informed health decisions. Tommy's Pregnancy Hub (2020) affirms that antenatal care ensures pregnant women and her unborn baby are as well as possible throughout the pregnancy circle. Women undergoing antenatal are active information seekers due to the vast variety of information needs they wish to satisfy. Information needs are gaps that prompt women undergoing antenatal to engage in information-seeking activities to fill the knowledge gap and make informed health decisions. Information needs may vary from one person to another as what constitutes an information need to one person may be known adequately by the next person. However, Mohamed and Elsadig (2011) asserted that an antenatal patient who seeks information about her health has a better chance of detecting at an early stage any developing risk factors, correct them promptly, and prevent them from deteriorating. According to Nwaru, Wu, and Hemminki (2010), antenatal appointments are a woman's opportunity to get the right information about her pregnancy.

Information-seeking behaviour mainly deals with the psychological behaviour of the seeker, which could involve searching, locating, retrieving, using, and averting challenges that militate against the access and use of information (Karunarathna, 2008). The information-seeking behaviour of antenatal patients will cover a lot of key areas in their information seeking life cycle, this could involve the information needs that prompt them to seek information, their preferred information sources, their methods of demanding information, the purpose of using information, and the challenges that militate against their accessibility and use of information, among others. Currently, there is a gap in the literature on the information needs and seeking behaviour of antenatal patients in central hospitals in Delta and Edo States, Nigeria which prompted the need for the study.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The general objective of the study is to ascertain the information needs and seeking behaviour of antenatal patients in central hospitals in Delta and Edo States, Nigeria. The specific objectives are to:

- ✓ Ascertain the information needs of antenatal patients in the central hospitals in Delta and Edo States, Nigeria.
- ✓ Identify the preferred information sources of antenatal patients in central hospitals.
- ✓ Examine the purpose of using information by antenatal patients in central hospitals.
- ✓ Establish the challenges that militate against the accessibility and use of information by antenatal patients in central hospitals.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The following research questions were formulated to guide the study:

- ✓ What are the information needs of antenatal patients in the central hospital in Delta and Edo States, Nigeria?
- ✓ What are the preferred information sources of antenatal patients in central hospitals?
- ✓ What is the purpose of using information by antenatal patients in central hospitals?
- ✓ What are the challenges that militate against the accessibility and use of information by antenatal patients in central hospitals?

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The theoretical framework for the study was anchored on Wilson's Model of Information Behaviour (Wilson, 1999). Wilson labeled his model "Information Behaviour Model" to distinguish it from the other information search models. Wilson's model is aimed to outline what is composed of Information Seeking Behaviour as an alternative to information needs. Wilson's model postulates that information-seeking behaviour arises as a consequence of a need perceived by the information seeker. To satisfy that need, the user consults and makes demands from formal or informal information sources/ systems. These demands for information results in success or failure in finding relevant information. The successful retrieval of information results in users' satisfaction as he or she can make informed decisions as the knowledge gap is filled. On the contrary, failure to retrieve the required information could result in the user seeking information in other sources to ensure the needs are met.

Wilson's model shows that part of information seeking behaviour may involve other people through information exchange. The information perceived as useful may also be passed on to other people that may require it to make informed decisions and choices. Relating the Wilson Model of Information Behaviour to the present study, information-seeking behaviour arises from a need perceived by an antenatal patient which is here referred to as an information seeker. To satisfy that need, the antenatal patient seeks information from various sources/ places at their disposal. The information obtained can be used for various purposes depending on the needs of the antenatal patient. According to the Wilson Model of Information Behaviour, it is normal for the information seeker to encounter some challenges in the

information search process. This study will identify the challenges that militate against the accessibility and use of information by women undergoing antenatal.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The literature review was done in line with the objectives of the study. Literature was reviewed on the information needs of antenatal patients, preferred information sources of antenatal patients, the purpose of using information by antenatal patients, and the challenges that militate against the accessibility and use of information by antenatal patients.

Information Needs of Antenatal Patients

The information needs of antenatal patients are numerous and vary from one pregnant woman to another. Kelly, Albers, and Baker (2010) in their study on family health and medical guide opined that every antenatal patient needs information on diet/nutrition, breastfeeding, and family planning to a large extent. According to Mohamed and Elsadiq (2011), antenatal patients need information on breastfeeding, family planning, infant immunization, the progress of the pregnancy, and the importance of attending antenatal classes. Kamali, Ahmadian, Khajouei, and Bahaadinbeigy (2017) studied the health information needs of pregnant women. The study was carried out to ascertain their information sources, motives, and barriers. The findings of the study revealed that the majority of pregnant women need more information on physical and psychological complications after delivery, growth, and development of the foetus, suitable nutrition during pregnancy, and special tests during pregnancy. Oladapo, Iyaniwura, and Sule-Odu (2008) studied the quality of antenatal services at the primary care level in Southwest, Nigeria. The findings revealed that antenatal patients require information on personal health care, medical test during pregnancy, treatment during pregnancy, growth of their unborn baby, healthy nutrition for expectant moms, labour and delivery process, breastfeeding, and family planning. The findings also revealed that the majority of the respondents reported they had no information on the development of their unborn baby, hence they will require the antenatal classes to throw more lights in that area.

Preferred Information Sources of Antenatal Patients

Information can come from virtually anywhere; personal experiences, social media, newspapers, expert judgment, journals, books, blogs, and websites, etc. depending on the source at the disposal of the seeker as it the time the information is required (Triton College Library, 2020). Otaiby, Jradi, and Bawazir (2013) assessed pregnant women's knowledge and preferences in Saudi Arabia. The findings of the study revealed that physician was the preferred information source of the pregnant women undergoing Antenatal, this is followed by health educators, nurse, scientific materials, internet among others. Grimes, Foster, and Newton (2014) studied the sources of information used by women during pregnancy to meet their information needs. The findings revealed that chatting with a midwife was the preferred source as indicated by the majority of the pregnant women, the internet was indicated as the preferred source by less than half of the respondents while group information sessions were the least preferred information source. The study of Kamali, Ahmadian, Khajouei, and Bahaadinbeigy (2017) on the health information needs of pregnant women revealed that the preferred information sources as indicated by the majority of the respondents are physician,

Family/friends/colleagues, internet, mass media, printed sources, Midwives/Nurses, Prior knowledge or experience, among others. Nwaru, Wu, and Hemminki (2010) opined that antenatal appointments are a woman's opportunity to ask questions about her pregnancy. And she can receive information from such appointments at the hospital where she is due to give birth, from community midwives at a health center, and in her own home where the midwife visits her. Antenatal patients can seek information at hospital antenatal clinics, community health centers, and pharmacies (Sullivan, 2005). Agus and Horiuchi (2013) asserted that antenatal classes and health centre/maternity are the major places antenatal patients seek for information. Antenatal patients seek information from listening to the radio or watching television programmes, where there may be no information-seeking intended, but where information acquisition may take place nevertheless (Choo, Detlor & Turnbull, 2000).

The purpose of using information by antenatal patients

Pregnant women during antenatal appointments gain access to a wide range of information that could enhance their well-being as well as the well-being of their unborn child. According to Goke (2012), the information received by antenatal patients from health care professionals is mainly to reduce the death rate, educate women on postnatal care and immunization date, knowledge of proper diet during pregnancy, positive lifestyle, and breastfeeding. This information would enable pregnant women to understand their health and the well-being of their unborn child. Lincetto, Mothebesoane-Anoh, Gomez, and Munjanja (2018) affirmed that antenatal patients can use the information they receive from antenatal appointments to understand their wellbeing and health status of their unborn child, recognition, and management of pregnancy-related complication, recognition, and treatment of underlying illness, understand and know their test results of the various medical test (like anemia, STIs (particularly syphilis), HIV infection, mental health problems, and/or symptoms of stress or domestic violence) and develop healthy home behaviours and birth emergency preparedness. UNICEF (2020) affirmed that going for antenatal care at the early stage of pregnancy would avail the pregnant woman the opportunity for early diagnosis and treatment of infections, prevent low birth weight and other conditions in the unborn. The antenatal appointments would enable the pregnant woman to understand their health, it would also enable the health professional to handle the antenatal classes to understand much about the pregnant women's health which makes it very easy for the woman to put to birth easily during labour (UNICEF, 2020). Ben-Joseph (2020) opined that the information pregnant women receive during antenatal would enable them to understand their weight/ blood pressure, the growth and development of their unborn baby (feeling your abdomen, listening for a fetal heartbeat, measuring of the belly), medical test (blood, urine, cervical test, and ultrasound), nutrition and right supplements, the right exercises to engage in, best sleeping positions, things to avoid during pregnancy (alcohol, drugs, etc.), as well as other healthy pregnancy habits throughout the nine (9) months period.

Challenges that militates against the accessibility and use of information by antenatal patients

A lot of challenges have been identified in the literature as factors that militate against the access and use of information by women undergoing antenatal education sessions. Javanmardi, Noroozi, Mostafavi, and Ashrafi-rizi (2019) studied the challenges to access to health information during pregnancy in Iran. The findings of the study revealed that enormous duties of women at home/ outside home, inability to distinguish between correct and false information, insufficient time to interact with health care providers, unsuccessful attempts to access various information resources, common pregnancy-related complains, stress and anxiety of confronting the challenges during pregnancy. Goke (2012) affirmed that antenatal patients need behavioural change while seeking information. Also, the negative attitude of some health professionals is a big challenge to antenatal patients' information seeking. Mood swings in pregnancy and depression is also a challenge to access and use of health information (Villar& Khan-Nedofur, 2003). Romano (2007) asserted that some of the challenges encountered by pregnant women while seeking information were: the high cost of access to the internet, inadequate searching skills, low quality of some information retrieved, inability to read, and lack of access to hospital libraries. Gazali; Muktar&Gana (2012) identified low self-esteem and sociodemographic factors as the barriers facing women while seeking health information. Onuoha and Amuda (2013) studied the information-seeking behaviour of pregnant women in hospitals of Ibadan Metropolis. The study revealed that lack of library or information centers 163 (39.6%), lack of income 107 (26.0%), and time 100 (24.3%) were identified as the barriers to the access and use of health information by pregnant women.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research design adopted for the study is a descriptive survey design. The population of the study covered all the central hospitals in Delta and Edo states. The total population of the study is seven hundred and fifty (750) antenatal patients registered in the central hospitals as at the time of the study. Five hundred and twenty-six (526) respondents were selected for the study via a purposive sampling technique. The instrument used for data collection was a self-constructed questionnaire that was distributed with the aid of four (4) research assistants. Descriptive statistics such as frequency count, percentage were used to analyze data generated from the demographic information and the various research questions of the study.

RESEARCH FINDINGS

This section presents the findings of the study based on the study objectives. The data were analyzed using descriptive statistics i.e. tables, frequencies, percentages and mean.

Questionnaire Response Rate

The response rate distribution of the study.

Table1: Questionnaire Response Rate

Hospitals	Number of questionnaire administered	Number Returned	% of Return
Central Hospital, Agbor	90	66	12.5%
Central Hospital, Sapele	100	53	10.1%
Central Hospital, Warri	89	85	16.2%
Central Hospital, Auchi	82	54	10.3%
Central Hospital, Benin-City	87	72	13.6%
Central Hospital, Uromi	78	63	12.0%
Total	526	393	75%

A total of 526 copies of the questionnaire were distributed to the respondents and 393(75%) copies were returned. The response rate of 75% is considered adequate for the study because the standard and the acceptable response rate for most studies is 60% (Dulle, Minish-Majanja & Cloete, 2010).

Section A: Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

Table 2: Distribution of Respondents by Marital Status

Marital Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Single	18	4.6%
Married	372	94.6%
Divorced	3	0.8%
Total	393	100%

Table 2 shows that there were more married antenatal patients (372, 94.6%) than the other groups.

Table 3: Distribution of the Respondents by Age

Age	Frequency	Percentage (%)
18-22	31	7.9
23-27	100	25.4
28-32	125	31.8
Above 32	137	34.9
Total	393	100.0

Table 3 shows that majority of the antenatal patients were adults as indicated in their ages. It should be noted that those above 32 years (137, 34.9%) were more in number.

Section B: Analysis of the key findings of the study

Ascertain the information needs of antenatal patients in the central hospital in Delta and Edo States, Nigeria

Table 4: Information needs of antenatal patients in the central hospitals in Delta and Edo States

Information needs of Antenatal Patients	Frequency	Percentage
Information on Diets/nutrition during pregnancy	354	90%
Information on how to stay healthy during pregnancy	393	100%
Information on foetal development/care	393	100%
Information on Sex during Pregnancy	284	72%
Information on labour/stages of birth	376	96%
Information on antenatal care services available	266	68%
Information on immunization	124	32%
Information on the sex of my baby	393	29%
Information on screening test	294	75%
Information on the progress of the pregnancy	393	100%
Information on maternity rights and benefits	224	57%
Information on breastfeeding	246	63%
Information on exercises during pregnancy	214	54%
Information on Family Planning	134	34%
Information on positive lifestyle	94	24%

The findings of the study have revealed that antenatal patients mainly need information about their health. From Table 4 it was revealed that the antenatal patients in central hospitals in Delta and Edo states need information on how to stay healthy during pregnancy, foetal development care, sex of their baby, the progress of pregnancy, labour/ stages of birth, diets/nutrition during pregnancy, screening test, sex during pregnancy, antenatal care services available, breastfeeding, maternity rights and benefits, exercise during pregnancy, family planning, immunization, and a positive lifestyle.

Identify the preferred information sources of antenatal patients in central hospitals

Table 5: Preferred information sources of antenatal patients in central hospitals

Preferred Information sources of Antenatal Patients	Frequency	Percentage
Health textbooks	146	37%
Physicians/ Doctors	393	100%
Articles in magazines	124	32%
Antenatal classes	393	100%
Nurses	393	100%
Previous pregnancy experience	114	29%
Midwives	268	68%
Mobile Apps on Pregnancy	324	82%
Experienced Mothers/ Friends	312	79%
Family members	284	72%
Articles in newspapers	98	25%
Audio-visual sources	78	20%
Online Webpages	268	68%
Health programmes on television	168	43%
Health programmes on radio	118	30%

The findings from Table 5 have revealed that antenatal patients rely on health services providers (physicians/doctors, nurses, midwives) antenatal classes, mobile apps on pregnancy, and experience mothers/ friends as their preferred information sources during pregnancy. The other preferred information sources by the antenatal patients are family members, online pages, health programmes on television, health textbooks, articles in magazines, health programmes on radio, previous pregnancy experience, articles in newspapers, and audio-visual sources.

Examine the purpose of using information by antenatal patients in central hospitals

Table 6: Purpose of using information by antenatal patients in central hospitals

Purpose of using information by antenatal patients	Frequency	Percentage
To stay healthy during pregnancy	393	100%
To take good health decisions	376	96%
To know about foetal development/ care	393	100%
To understand the progress in my pregnancy	344	86%
To know about labour/ stages of birth	288	73%
To know the diets/ nutrition suitable during pregnancy	246	63%
To know my health status as a result of the test screening	218	55%
To understand my Maternity rights and benefits	224	57%
To know the benefits of attending antenatal classes	317	81%
To know the types of exercises suitable during pregnancy as well as the benefits	212	54%
To know the benefits of breastfeeding	186	47%
To know the sex of the baby I'm carrying	387	98%
To understand sex positions suitable during pregnancy	204	52%

It is glaring From Table 6 that the antenatal patients use the information they get to stay healthy during pregnancy, know about foetal development/ care, know the sex of babies, take good health decisions, understand the progress of their pregnancy, know the benefits of attending antenatal classes, know about labour/ stages of birth, know the diets/ nutrition suitable during pregnancy, understand their maternity rights and benefits, know their health status as a result of test screening, know the types of exercises suitable during pregnancy as well as the benefits, understand sex positions suitable during pregnancy and know the benefits of breastfeeding.

Establish the Challenges that militates against the accessibility and use of information by antenatal patients in central hospitals

Table 7: Challenges that militates against the accessibility and use of information by antenatal patients in central hospitals

Challenges that militates against the accessibility and use of information	Frequency	Percentage
Inability to distinguish between correct and false health information	312	79%
Insufficient time to interact with a health provider	286	73%
Health-related illness associated with pregnancy	186	47%
Stress and anxiety of confronting the challenges during pregnancy	146	37%
Insufficient time to interact with a health provider	318	81%
Negative attitude of some health professionals	393	100%
Mood swings in pregnancy and depression	164	42%
Insufficient Television/ Radio Programmes on Antenatal Sessions	246	63%
Insufficient online Webpages on pregnancy/ antenatal	144	37%
Low self-esteem and other sociodemographic factors	393	100%
High cost of access to internet	302	77%
Inadequate searching skills	212	54%
Low quality of some information retrieved	268	68%
Lack of access to hospital libraries	78	20%
Experienced mothers/ friends not sharing their experiences adequately	126	32%

Table 7 revealed that the challenges that militate against the accessibility and use of information by the antenatal patients are negative attitude of some health professionals, low self-esteem and other sociodemographic factors, insufficient time to interact with a health provider, inability to distinguish between correct and false health information, high cost of

access to internet, insufficient time to interact with health provider, low quality of some information retrieved, insufficient Television/ Radio Programmes on Antenatal Sessions, inadequate searching skills, health-related illness associated with pregnancy, mood swings in pregnancy and depression, stress and anxiety of confronting the challenges during pregnancy, insufficient online Webpages on pregnancy/ antenatal, experienced mothers/ friends not sharing their experiences adequately, and lack of access to hospital libraries.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The study was carried out to ascertain the information needs and seeking behaviour of antenatal patients in central hospitals in Delta and Edo States, Nigeria. The study recorded a response rate of 75% which was considered sufficient for the study. The data from the study revealed that there were more married antenatal patients than the other groups. The finding also revealed that the majority of the antenatal patients were 32 years and above.

Information needs of antenatal patients in central hospital in Delta and Edo States

The findings indicate visibly that the major information needs of the antenatal patients are Information on how to stay healthy during pregnancy, information on foetal development/care, Information on progress of the pregnancy, information on progress of the pregnancy, and information on the sex of their baby. Other information needs as indicated by the respondents are information on labour/ stages of birth, information on diets/ nutrition during pregnancy, information on screening tests, information on sex during pregnancy, among others. This finding agrees with the study of Oladapo, Iyaniwura, and Sule-Odu (2008) which revealed that antenatal patients require information on personal health care, growth of their unborn baby, healthy nutrition for expectant moms, and labour and delivery process. One striking revelation of the findings that are not prominent in other studies in the literature is that the antenatal patients in Edo and Delta States, Nigeria require information on the sex of their baby in order to prepare adequately before the birth of the child.

Preferred information sources of antenatal patients in central hospitals

The findings revealed that the preferred information sources of the antenatal patients are doctors, nurses, antenatal classes, mobile apps on pregnancy, experienced mothers/ friends, family members, midwives, among others. This finding concurs with the study of Otaiby, Jradi, and Bawazir (2013) and Kamali, Ahmadian, Khajouei, and Bahaadinbeigy (2017) which revealed that the majority of the antenatal patients rely majorly on Physicians/ Doctors for their health information needs during pregnancy. A lot of the antenatal patients in Edo and Delta States, Nigeria most often seek self-help by relying on mobile apps on pregnancy for their health information needs.

Purpose of using information by antenatal patients in central hospitals

The findings indicate clearly that the antenatal patients in Edo and Delta States, Nigeria use the information they get to stay healthy during pregnancy, know about foetal development/ care, know the sex of babies, take good health decisions, understand the progress of their pregnancy, know the benefits of attending antenatal classes, know about labour/ stages of birth, know the diets/ nutrition suitable during pregnancy, among others. This finding agrees

with the affirmation of Lincetto, Mothebesoane-Anoh, Gomez, and Munjanja (2018) that antenatal patients can use the information they receive from antenatal appointments to understand their wellbeing and health status of their unborn child, recognition, and management of pregnancy-related complication. After obtaining health information from the various sources at their disposal they use it positively to stay healthy, know the sex of the baby they are carrying, and track the development of their unborn babies

Challenges that militates against the accessibility and use of information by antenatal patients

The findings revealed that the challenges that militate against the accessibility and use of information by the antenatal patients as indicated by the responses are negative attitude of some health professionals, low self-esteem and other sociodemographic factors, insufficient time to interact with health provider, inability to distinguish between correct and false health information, high cost of internet access, among others. This finding is in total alignment with the affirmation of Goke (2012) that the negative attitude of some health professionals is a big challenge to antenatal patients' information seeking. The finding also agrees with the study of Gazali; Muktar&Gana (2012) which identified low self-esteem and sociodemographic factors as the barriers facing women while seeking for health information. The findings are in concordance with the study of Javanmardi, Noroozi, Mostafavi, and Ashrafi-rizi (2019) which show clearly that that enormous duty of women at home/ outside the home makes it difficult to have spare time to seek for health information.

CONCLUSION

Antenatal patients are expectant mothers that require a lot of information to see them through their period of pregnancy to eventual delivery of their baby. The study has indicated some of the gaps that prompt the antenatal patients to seek for information, the main ones are information on how to stay healthy during pregnancy, foetal development care, sex of their baby, the progress of pregnancy, labour/ stages of birth, diets/nutrition during pregnancy, screening test, sex during pregnancy, antenatal care services available, breastfeeding, maternity rights, and benefits to mention only but a few. Whenever the antenatal patients require information to meet their information needs, they consult their preferred information sources to fill the gap in their knowledge. The antenatal patients that consult central hospitals in Edo and Delta States rely mainly on doctors, nurses, antenatal classes, mobile apps on pregnancy, experienced mothers/ friends, family members, midwives to meet their information needs. This implies that antenatal patients rely on reliable sources for their information needs. The information they receive enables them to stay healthy during pregnancy, know about foetal development/ care, know the sex of babies, take good health decisions, understand the progress of their pregnancy, and know the benefits of attending antenatal, etc. In spite of the vast amount of information sources available to antenatal patients, some challenges still exist that militates against the accessibility and use of information by the expectant mums. Inadequate access to information is the major cause of the rising amount of deaths of women during pregnancy/ childbirth. The prominent challenges that limit access/ use of information by the antenatal patients are negative attitude of some health professionals, low self-esteem and other sociodemographic factors, insufficient time to interact with health

provider, inability to distinguish between correct and false health information, high cost of internet access, among others. These challenges can be mitigated if the government of Nigeria has the goodwill to attend to the needs of the antenatal patients by ensuring they are armed with unlimited access to credible sources that meet their varying information needs.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations were made in line with the findings of the study:

1. The government of Nigeria should create helplines where the antenatal patients can call and get instant information that meet their various health needs.
2. The antenatal patients should endeavour to create time to attend antenatal classes and discuss with a physician on their health information needs.
3. Training that boosts the self-esteem of women should be included in the antenatal classes for pregnant women, this will enhance their confidence to speak up regarding their health needs.
4. The government of Nigeria should ensure that there is a library attached to all central hospital stock with information resources that meet the information needs of antenatal patients.
5. Television and radio stations should redesign their programmes to meet the aspiration/information needs of antenatal patients.

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