## WOMEN EDUCATION AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Dr. M. Jeyaseelan

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## Chapter-38

## A Study on Influence of Socio-Economic Factors on Utilization of Health Care Services among Antenatal Women

M. Suganya\* Dr. M. Thamilarasan\*\*

Mothers and children together constitute nearly 57.5% of the total population in India and are the major consumers of health services. Promotion of maternal and child health is one of the most important components of the National Family Welfare Program of Government of India. The National Population Policy 2000 reiterates the Government's commitment to safe motherhood program. Despite all the effective measures, every year world-wide approx. 3,50,000 women die during pregnancy or child-birth. In India, the MCH and FW Services are provided through a network of health-centres as well as through homevisits by health-workers. Sub-centre is the key peripheral outpost for providing both MCH and FW services and these sub-centres in India are about 1,47,069 in number. As the sub-centres are very important health post in delivery of various services, a study was conducted to envisage the association of factors like maternal literacy, socio-economic status and accessibility of subcentre on utilization of these services. India has an excellent infrastructural layout for the delivery of MCH

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From time immemorial the position of women is the bone of contention. Women, the most vulnerable section of our society, are subjugated to various social evils though they have involved in nation building activities. On the one hand, there are efforts to empower them at various fronts. On the other hand, they are suppressed at many levels. The Indian Constitution ensures the equality but in practice there is widespread gender discrimination. This book highlights the various issues pertain to women due to the development and development initiatives.

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