

# Women's Experiences of Institutional Delivery

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District-Udham Singh Nagar, Uttarakhand  
By  
Mahila Kalyan Samiti and SAHAYOG



# UTTARAKHAND AT A GLANCE

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- Total Population 84,79,562 (census 2001)
- 17% Scheduled Cast
- 3% Scheduled Tribes
- 93% Hilly Region, 63% covered by forest
- 74% population live in Scattered small rural settlement
- Distance of 25 K.M. from the Block headquarter, 27 K.M. from District Hospital.
- 22.6% of women aged between 20-24 years were married below the legal age.
- 47.6% ever-married women aged 15-49 are anemic
- Only 44.8% women had received three rounds of ante-natal check-up in their last pregnancy.
- Around 64% percentage of women had home -based childbirth;
- 41% reportedly had skilled personnel in attendance.
- Only 30% mothers received post-natal care within 2 days after birth,

**(NFHS-3, 2005-06).**

## BRIEF ABOUT STUDY

<b>Total Study Population</b>	<b>Total Delivery in total study population (Jan-March 2008)</b>	<b>Total Institutional Deliveries</b>	<b>Total Home Deliveries</b>	<b>Total Interviewed women</b>
10,000 contiguous population in each of the study blocks	<b>73</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>History of women interviewed</b>				
<b>Total women interviewed</b>	<b>Economic social status of women</b>	<b>Institution visited</b>		
<b>9</b> <b>(their deliveries took place from January-March,08)</b>	6- Schedule tribes 1- Schedule Caste 1-Sikh 1- caste not known	<b>6 Women</b> Community Health Centre	<b>3 Women</b> Private Nursing home	



# A few statement- why women went for institutional delivery

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- *"now days we have no options, we are forced to go (to hospitals) even if it means that we may have to tolerate some rude behavior" (UK 6, 26yrs, non-SC/ST).*
- *"The reason why my husband decided to take me to a government hospital to deliver was that in case any complication arose, it would be taken care of in a hospital and we would get Rs 1400 in the bargain" (UK 1, 23yrs, ST).*
- "The JSY money as being an additional incentive for choosing the government hospital "(**Three respondent**).
- One woman was fearful that she would lose her baby if she gave birth at home, as her earlier children had all died after home delivery, (except the first born who was born in a hospital) (**UK 3, 30yrs, ST**).



## Women experiences of Ante-natal care

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- All 9 received 2 T.T., IFA and some sorts of checkups- i.e abdominal and advise by ANM at sub-centre, PHC and CHCs.
- ASHA accompanied with a few to health centres for ANC
- 3 women got services of complication during pregnancies, arose, while 2 used private services for complications.




# Women Experiences at Govt. Hospital

## Admission and Delivery

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- None of the women except one have reported being formally admitted or discharged from the institutions in which they sought care.
- Five of these women were examined by a nurse soon after they reached the hospital;
- one had to wait half an hour until the nurse finished her cooking (UK 5)
- In one of the cases, the nurse came thrice to check on the woman during labour.
- **“There were wooden benches with or without sheets and in one case a bed on which the women delivered” - all 6 women who delivered in Govt. Hospital.**



# Women Experiences at Pvt.N.Home

## Admission and Delivery

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- Three women had gone to a private nursing home for their delivery. One of the women found the doors locked on reaching the hospital at 11 pm, and had to knock for ten minutes before it was opened by the nurse.
- In one case (UK 1, 23yrs, ST) initially the “XXX Nurse” was not willing to “*guarantee*” that the delivery would be successful as the fetus was in breech position and the woman was very weak. After the woman’s mother in law pleaded she finally agreed and said that it would cost them Rs. 5000.



## Quality of Care at Govt. Hospitals during delivery

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- No doctor available-all 6 deliveries
- Nurses providing intramuscular injections and also case of episiotomy
- Caste based discrimination
- Informal payments
- No other facility i.e. bed, cleanness etc.



## Quality of care- Private Nursing Home

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- All of the three women who delivered in private nursing homes were put on an IV drip and received in (two cases) two injections each.
- One of the women received a total of nine injections during the delivery. Two of these were for blood pressure, six were for increasing the pain and one was a TT injection after the delivery, and she fainted upon receiving the six injections to augment labour (UK 2).



## Quality of care- Private Nursing Home

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- All three of them were given enemas. The two women who faced complications were attended by the female provider “XXX Nurse (also referred to as XXX Doctor, but her qualifications are unknown) who runs the “XXX Nursing Home” close to the CHC.
- The third who delivered at a different site (the T. Private Hospital) mentions she had a female doctor attend her along with the nurse, and that she had a ‘small operation and three stitches’ which may mean an episiotomy (UK 7).jections with IV Drip



## Experience of Nurse and doctor's behavior

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- **"Nurses treat you well, if you do not scream in pain"- (2 women Govt. Hospital)**
- **"I was made to lie on the floor, hanging onto a chair with one woman holding my abdomen, and the nurse holding my legs apart with my feet. *I was so scared of being scolded by the nurse and her helper that I did not shout even once although I was in great pain. And because I did not scream the nurse did not scold me*" (UK 5, 24yrs, ST) (Govt. Hospital)**
- **"The nurse did not scold me, but she put a cloth into my mouth." (UK 7, 27yrs, ST). (Private Hospital)**



## Continued.....

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- ***“We were told that we would get facilities in the government. But in reality we got no facilities; we were expected to buy the medicines from chemists.”*** (UK 8, 27yrs, ST- Husband). ***(Govt. Hospital)***
- ***“We did not face any problems as such in the government hospital, but we spent Rs. 500 on medicines alone. We are poor working class people, where do we have the money to spend on medicines?”*** (UK 9, 20yrs, Other caste- Husband).
- ***“The nurse asked us to buy four injections, but she used only two of them. These nurses make us buy medicines and who knows how much they use and how much they keep.”*** (UK 6, 26yrs, Other caste- Mother-in-law).

# Experiences with Costs and Janani Suraksha Yojana

No	Avg Monthly Income of Hhold	Total money obtained from JSY*	Cost for care in pregnancy	Cost during delivery (include medi)	Costs of informal payment demanded	Cost incurred in Transport	Cost of Post Partum Care	Misc.	Total cost
UK 1	3000	Not eligible	150	2550		500	50		3250
UK 2	3000	Not eligible	7000	3000		450	3000		13,450
UK 3	3000	Nil		200	250	300	700		1450
UK 4	4000	Nil		200 + 5 admision	500	300		200	1205
UK 5	4000	Nil	190	100	350	400		200	1240
UK 6	3000	Nil	500	1500	350	150	350		2850
UK 7	7000	Not eligible	2,600	5000					7600
UK 8	3000	Nil		200	350	350			850
UK 9	5000	Nil	600	500		350			1400



# JSY- like a pipe dream!

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six of the respondents said that they had to make several visits in connection with claiming the JSY money. Sometimes the doctor would be unavailable and sometimes the nurse who had assisted with the delivery would not be there.

- *"I have not been able to find the time to go to the hospital again, as each visit to the hospital costs me my daily wages. We miss out on a day's pay and go to the hospital, but we come back empty handed"* (UK 3, 30yrs, ST- Husband).
- Another respondent told the researchers that when he had gone to enquire about the money, he was told by the staff, that the money would be paid to him only after the previous year's back-log had been cleared.
- **Another respondent** *"The behaviour of the nurse at the hospital was good, but had we got the money at the time of delivery, it would have been very useful to poor people like us. We could have used the money to buy food and other essentials, which would have made things a little comfortable for us. The ASHA had told us before the delivery that if we went to the government hospital and delivered, then not only would we get Rs1400, we would also not have to spend any money and that everything would be done free of cost. But not only did we spend Rs1000 on the delivery and we have still not got the JSY money."* (UK 8, 27yrs, ST)



# Recommendations to the Govt.

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- Need of strengthening some provision for home delivery (around 50% taking place)
- Quality of care need to be assured.
- Strictly banning/monitoring of the injections during or before delivery.
- Service providers training on sensitivity is essential.
- Giving award/incentives/promotions to sensitive ANM/Doctors.
- Strengthening the transport system by doing providing proper arrangements for referral.
- Regulation of private medical practices.
- Immediately action for Sub Centres functioning,
- Monitoring of JSY, also timely disbursement of JSY money from the Headquarter.