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Respectful maternity care among recently delivered mothers in public health facilities in Uttar Pradesh, India: A situational analysisAnanta Basudev Sahu¹, Kali Prosad Roy¹, Katie Giessler², Kovid Sharma¹, May Sudinaraset², Vivek Sharma¹, Sun Cotter² and Dominic Montagu²¹Population Services International, India²University of California-San Francisco, USA

Background & Aim: India has demonstrated impressive gains in maternal health in recent years by reducing the MMR from 167 in 2011-13 to 130 in 2014-16; however, sustained efforts are needed to achieve the SDG target. In order to reduce preventable maternal and new-born mortality and ensure Respectful Maternity Care (RMC), the Government of India launched LaQshya program in Uttar Pradesh. This study presents prevailing condition of RMC in selected public health facilities in Uttar Pradesh (UP), India.

Methods: A quality improvement program, SPARQ focused on people-centered respectful care for maternal health has been designed to implement in selected public health facilities in UP. Under this, we conducted a cross sectional study among 600 recently delivered women in six facilities of Kanpur and Unnao districts in UP during May-July 2018. Data was collected based on domains and definitions for Person Centered Care (PCC) for maternal health quality, by Afulani, et al. RMC domains were mapped as a proxy measure from PCC domains i.e. autonomy, dignity, feeling, privacy, choices, freedom from ill treatment and coercion and companionship during maternity care.

Results: An overwhelming response was found when patients were asked about dignity and respect, however, only few patients reported any introduction from the providers. About one fourth of respondents reported their consent/permission was taken before procedure and two-thirds were not involved in decision making about their care. Almost half were not able to labor at their position of choice, reported inaction for not controlling their pain and felt inadequate privacy during labor and delivery.

Conclusion: This research finding reveals the status of RMC are considered as baseline at the beginning of LaQshya program. This advocates for high-quality experience of care that is respectful, dignified and individualized in nature. Further research may help to understand the progress and course correction for effective interventions.

ananta@psi.org.in