



## The Exploring disrespect and abuse of childbearing women during childbirth in Zimbabwe

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### Abstract:

#### Introduction and Background

Kruk, et al, (2009) report that Disrespect and Abuse (D & A) in maternity care facilities are among the biggest barriers to women seeking maternal health services and closely linked to high maternal and neonatal mortality burden. Studies done in different settings have also reported D & A as a problem. Abuya, et al (2015) conducted a study in Kenya and reported that 20% of women experienced D & A. Sethi, et.al (2017) reported the same problem with a prevalence ranging from 0.09 to 93.7% in Malawi. In Tanzania, the prevalence was 15% in post-partum and 70% in community follow-up (Sando et al, 2016). These study findings reveal that D & A during maternity care as a big challenge and it shows a serious violation of universal rights of child bearing women.

#### Problem Statement

The media and public continue to report complaints about the treatment of women when they seek maternity care in Zimbabwe. Women 's experiences of D & A in maternity care environments result in lasting emotional trauma and fear of delivery in health facilities. D &A of women is a serious problem which involves non-compliance to human rights by health care providers.

#### Objectives

The survey sought to:

- Determine whether disrespect and abuse of women during child birth in maternity care facilities is a problem in Zimbabwe.
- Identify the types of disrespect and abuse of women during childbirth in maternity care facilities.

#### Biography:

Lilian is a Principal Nursing Officer at Parirenyatwa Group of Hospitals in Harare. A holder of Doctor of Philosophy Degree, Masters' Degree in Nursing Science (MCH and Midwifery Major) and several other qualifications. She has vast experience in nursing and midwifery education, practice, regulation and



research. A reviewer of AJM and now focusing on publishing of scientific articles and the latest being "The relationship between HIV self-care practices and maternal health outcomes". She is the president for Zimbabwe Confederation of Midwives and the Chairperson of Nurses Council of Zimbabwe.

#### Publication of speakers:

- Abuya, T., Warren, C. E., Miller, N., Njuki, R., Ndwiga, C., Maranga, A., ... & Bellows, B. (2015). Exploring the prevalence of disrespect and abuse during childbirth in Kenya. *PloS one*, 10(4), e0123606.
- Bowser, D., & Hill, K. (2010). Exploring evidence for disrespect and abuse in facility-based childbirth. Boston: US-AID-Traction Project, Harvard School of Public Health.
- Sethi, R., Gupta, S., Oseni, L., Mtimuni, A., Rashidi, T., & Kachale, F. (2017). The prevalence of disrespect and abuse during facility-based maternity care in Malawi: evidence from direct observations of labor and delivery. *Reproductive Health*, 14(1), 111.
- Sando, D., Ratcliffe, H., McDonald, K., Spiegelman, D., Lyatuu, G., Mwanyika-Sando, M., ... & Langer, A. (2016). The prevalence of disrespect and abuse during facility-based childbirth in urban Tanzania. *BMC pregnancy and childbirth*, 16(1), 236.
- World Health Organization. (2016). The prevention and elimination of disrespect and abuse during facility-based childbirth: WHO statement.

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