

# Knowledge, Perception and Level of Male Partner Involvement in Choice of Delivery Site among Couples at Coast Level Five Hospital, Mombasa County, Kenya

## Abstract

Involvement of males in reproductive health is an important step in reducing maternal and newborn deaths. A number of pregnant women attending Coast Level Five Hospital report waiting for their male partner to discuss and choose the delivery site. Although some do this when already in labour, there are no records on how many practice this and the influence of the couple knowledge and perception on male partner involvement in choice of delivery site. This descriptive cross-sectional study aimed at establishing the level of male partner involvement and influence of couple knowledge and perception on male involvement in choice of delivery site among women who delivered at this facility. Systematic sampling was used to select the participants. A semi-structured questionnaire and focus group discussion guide were used to collect data. Chi-square and binary logistic regression were used for statistical analysis. 40.6% of male partners were involved in choice of delivery site, women knowledge ( $\chi^2$ -19.256; df-1;  $p$ <0.001), women ( $\chi^2$ -11.347; df-1;  $p$ =0.001) and male partners' perception ( $\chi^2$ -10.909; df-1;  $p$ =0.001) influenced male partner involvement. However, women knowledge was the only predictor of male involvement (OR-3.843; 95% CI, 2.082-7.092;  $P$ <0.001). Male partner involvement was low, empowering women and encouraging positive perception among women and male partners will enhance male partner involvement in choice of delivery site. The health workers in Mombasa should come up with health education and communication strategies to improve public knowledge and perception towards male involvement and ultimately improve the level of male partner involvement in choice of delivery site.

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