

# Associated determinants in accessing and using maternal healthcare services by rural Bangladeshi women: a literature review



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## 1. Introduction

- The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) call for ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all by 2030<sup>1</sup>.
- Maternal mortality rates of Bangladesh remain high at an estimated 176 deaths<sup>2</sup>.
- Only 30% of rural women in Bangladesh enjoy facility-based childbirth<sup>3</sup>.
- Maternal healthcare access and use is poor for rural Bangladeshi women.

## 2. Linking with SDGs

- Goal 3: Good health and well-being
- Targets:
  - reducing maternal mortality
  - accessing reproductive health services
  - accessing essential healthcare services



## 3. Aim

- The literature review aims to identify and synthesise determinants that influence rural dwelling Bangladeshi women's access and use of maternity services.

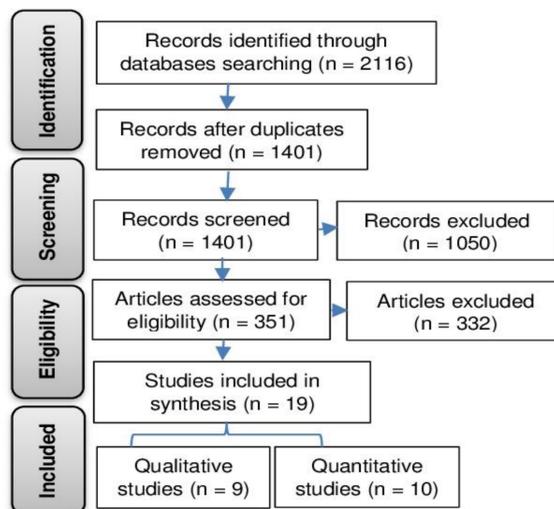
## 4. Research questions

- What are the determinants of maternity services accessibility and utilisation among rural Bangladeshi women?

## 5. Methodology

- A structured literature search was conducted of MEDLINE, PubMed, ProQuest, Web of Science, and Scopus databases from December 2018 to March 2019.
- The search included medical subject headings (MeSH) and key text words for determinants, healthcare access, and healthcare utilisation.
- Population, Intervention, Comparison and Outcome (PICO) model has been used to develop search terms.
- Included papers met the following criteria: (i) papers focusing on the determinants of healthcare access and utilisation, (ii) full text, (iii) English language (iv) peer-reviewed and (v) rural-region.
- Using inclusion criteria, papers were selected that described factors for women in maternal healthcare access in Bangladesh.
- Included papers were appraised, and data extracted and tabulated.
- Thematic synthesis was undertaken.

## 6. PRISMA flowchart



Adapted from Moher et al. (2009).



## 7. Findings

- 19 out of 2116 papers met the inclusion criteria (see PRISMA flowchart).
- The five themes related to determinants identified are shown in Figure 1.

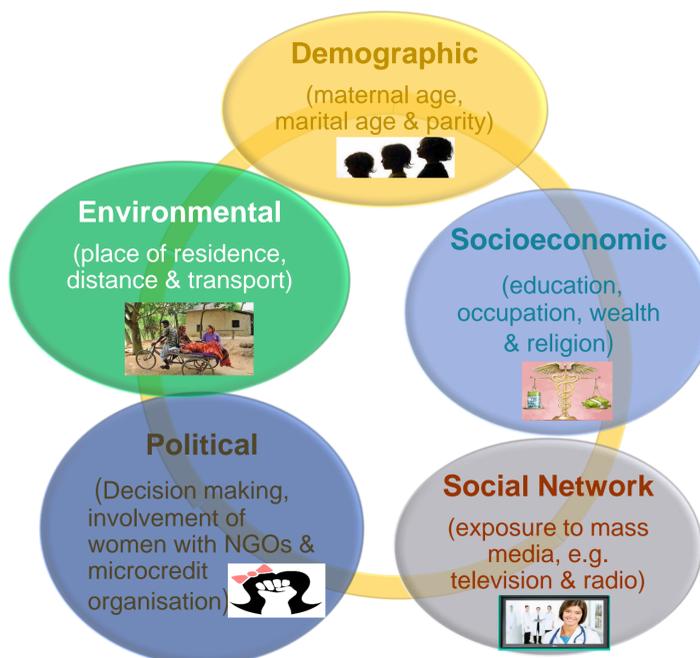


Fig.1: Determinants of maternal healthcare access and use

## Findings cont...

- The socioeconomic theme illustrates that higher educated mothers were around 16 times more likely to have antenatal clinic visits compared to illiterate mothers.
- The environmental theme shows that transportation during the rainy season becomes more difficult therefore delaying access to care.

## 8. Discussion & conclusion

- Socioeconomic and environmental factors were found more evident.
- The key to the connection between formal education and healthcare services is knowledge about health<sup>4</sup>.
- Economic deprivation resulted in poor healthcare.
  - Living in rural dwellings and transport issues were challenges.

Gaps: Most of the studies focused on antenatal care services and did not cover childbirth and postnatal care.

## 9. Future research direction

Research is needed to investigate needs, experiences, barriers and facilitators to access and use of maternal services for women in rural Bangladesh.

## 10. What needs to be done?

- To improve maternal services of rural Bangladeshi women, findings from the literature review identified the need to:
  - improve literacy levels of women;
  - reduce the cost of health services;
  - increase the number of facility-based care centres; and
  - improve rural transport.

## 11. Future impact

The next steps will be to undertake primary research to inform the development of an intervention which will assist with improving maternity healthcare services for rural dwelling Bangladeshi women.

## 12. References

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