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Original Research Article

A Study of Postpartum Depression in Rural Community Attending Primary Health Centre

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Abstract:

Background: The postpartum period has both positive and negative impacts on women depending on individual vulnerability. Depression frequently occurred during later weeks of pregnancy and after delivery, both in developed and developing countries, but there were cultural differences in risk factors. According to the literature, women who live in poverty, and experience family discord or violence, increased life stress, and have little social support are more likely to be depressed. Depression in the postpartum period affects mother, baby, and the relationship between them.

Aim: Aim of the study is to study the prevalence of depression in the postpartum period and to study demographic factors playing a role in postpartum women to cause depression.

Methodology: This is a cross-sectional study where 120 postpartum women conducted in Rural Primary Health Center of Chandragiri Chittoor District and in the postpartum unit government maternity hospital and Department of Psychiatry, Sri Venkateswara Ram Narayan Ruia Govt General Hospital, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh, India.

Summary and Conclusion: The prevalence of postpartum depression was 18.3% lower socio-economic class, young age group, interpersonal conflicts are strong predictors of postpartum depression, which is consistent with previous literature. In postpartum, events such as interpersonal and marital conflicts and conflicts with in-laws, financial problems serve as important predictors of postpartum depression.

Keywords: Postpartum Depression, Demographic factors, Social factors.

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Introduction

The postpartum period is portrayed as a happy time for mother and family. Contrary to this perception, women are at the highest risk for depression during their breast feeding period; the postpartum period has both positive and negative impacts on women depending on individual vulnerability. While it is a period of growth and hope, there is also a transformation in physiological, psychological, and social perspectives (financial constraints, interpersonal relationships), which can, in turn, lead to emotional instability in women. [1]

Depression frequently occurred during later weeks of pregnancy and after delivery, both in developed and developing countries, but there were cultural differences in risk factors. The perinatal period typically refers to the time from 28 weeks of gestation and ends up to 4 weeks after birth. 2 Pregnancy may induce or exacerbate stress with a negative impact on pregnancy (pregnancy loss) and also postpartum period. These periods are considered to be a high-risk time both for preexisting and new psychiatric illness.

Despite being a frequent medical disorder during pregnancy [3,4] depression remains under-detected and undertreated during prenatal care with potential sequelae persisting well beyond the perinatal period. According to the literature, women who live in poverty, and experience family discord or violence, increased life stress, and have little social support are more likely to be depressed. [5,6,7] Depression in the postpartum period affects mother, baby, and the relationship between them. [8,9,10]Depression in the postpartum period may cause an adverse effect on one's ability to maintain self-care, nutrition, breastfeeding of baby, infant care, reduced postnatal clinic visits, and may affect the mother's physical and mental health and infants monitoring growth and development.

A recent systematic review of WHO, perinatal mental disorders among women in high-income countries have primarily depression or anxiety in 13 % of women who have recently delivered and higher rates from developing countries, where the mean prevalence of these disorders was found to be 19.8% in women who had recently given birth. [11] Indian data of PPD reports of approximately 23% of women in hospital-based data and vary from 11% to 26% in community-based studies.

The purpose of this study is that there is a lack of Indian studies on this subject, especially in rural areas. Because of the above, the present study is being undertaken to assess depression and its correlates and to aid early diagnosis in postpartum women from a rural community in South India. Determining the prevalence and determinants of depression in postpartum can help us to target women at increased risk for screening and prevention. There is an increased opportunity to anticipate those women at risk for depression and, consequently, to decrease the impact of postnatal depression on the mother, her baby, and her family. Postpartum depression is the most common complication, and postpartum depression can affect the health of the mother and child. So it is necessary to identify and treat it.

Aims:

- To study the prevalence of depression in the postpartum period.
- To study demographic factors playing a role in postpartum women to cause depression.
- To study the association between socio demographic factors with depression in postpartum women.

Methodology

This is a cross sectional study done in 120 Postpartum women during October 2018 to September 2019 in Rural Primary Health Center of Chandragiri Chittoor District and in the postpartum unit government maternity hospital and Department of Psychiatry, Sri Venkateswara Ram Narayan Ruia Govt General Hospital, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh, India. The institutional ethics committee has given ethical approval for this study, written informed consent obtained from all participants. The information and objectives of the study and the information about the questionnaire explained and informed to all the participants. The data was collected using a self-administered semi-structured questionnaire. The questionnaire was designed to collect information on the participant's sociodemographic characteristics and employed the EPDS scale for screening postpartum depression and ICD 10 for diagnosis.

Inclusion Criteria: Postpartum women at the age of 18-40 yrs. irrespective of parity.

Exclusion Criteria: Individual Subjects with a history of substance dependence, Past History of psychiatry illness, organic brain disorders, Subjects with acute medical conditions like a cardiac failure etc. Subjects with intellectual disability.

Tools used for assessment: A semi-structured socio-demographic proforma; Kuppuswamy's socioeconomic status scale; The Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale (EPDS); ICD International Classification of Diseases-10 Criteria.

The study has been approved by the Institutional Ethics Committee of S.V. Medical College, Tiruapti during its meeting with Lr.No.03/2019.

Statistical analysis: The Statistical software namely SPSS 21.0, Med Calc 9.0.1, and Ep Info were used for the analysis of the data and Microsoft Word and Excel have been used to generate graphs, tables, etc. to assess the prevalence of postpartum depression in post-partum women and to assess the association between socio-demographic factors with depression in postpartum women and the role of obstetric factors and depression in postpartum women. The odds ratio and chi-square/ Fisher Exact test have been used to find the significance of study parameters on a categorical scale between two or more groups. P <0.05 was considered to be statistically significant.

Observation & Results

Table 1: Distribution of patients according to Post-partum d	epression
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EPDS	No. of postpartum women	%
No Depression	98	81.7
Depression Present	22	18.3
Total	120	100.0

Age	EPDS					
	Depression Pres	ent	No Depression		Total	
	postpartum	%	postpartum	%	Total postpartum	%
	women (n)		women (n)		women (N)	
18 - 21 Years	5	22.7	25	25.5	30	25.0
22 - 25 Years	10	45.5	52	53.1	62	51.7
26 - 29 Years	0	0	12	12.2	12	10.0

Table 2: Distribution of subjects based on Age

> 30 Years	7	31.8	9	9.2	16	13.3
Total	22	100.0	98	100.0	120	100.0
Chi-square	X^{2} Value = 9.854	; $df = 3$; $P =$	=0.019 (significa	nt at 0.01 at l	evel) (p<0.01)	

	Table 3: Distribution of subjects based on Religion								
Religion		EPDS							
	Depression Present		No Depression		Total				
	postpartum women	%	postpartum women	%	Total postpartum women	%			
	(n)		(n)		(N)				
Hindu	20	90.9	66	67.3	86	71.7			
Muslim	1	4.5	0	0.0	1	0.8			
Christian	1	4.5	32	32.7	33	27.5			
Others	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0			
Total	22	100.0	98	100.0	120	100.0			
Chi-square	X^{2} Value = 11.008; df	= 2; P=0	0.004 (significant	at 0.01 a	nt level) (p<0.01)				

Table 4: Distribution of subjects based on Education:

Education			EPDS			
	Depression Prese	nt	No Depression		Total	
	postpartum	%	postpartum	%	Total postpartum	%
	women (n)		women (n)		women (n)	
Illiterate	8	36.4	20	20.4	28	23.3
Primary school	2	9.1	18	18.4	20	16.7
Secondary school	4	18.2	12	12.2	16	13.3
High School	6	27.3	18	18.4	24	20.0
Intermediate	0	0.0	20	20.4	20	16.7
Graduate / PG	2	9.1	10	10.2	12	10.0
Professional	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total	22	100.0	98	100	120	100.0
Chi-square	X^{2} Value = 8.587;	df = 5; P	=0.127 (Not sig	nificant) (p>0.05)	

Table 5: Distribution of postpartum women according to Occupation

Occupation of the			EPDS			
patient	Depression Present		No Depression		Total	
	postpartum	%	postpartum	%	Total postpartum	%
	women (n)		women (n)		women (n)	
Unemployed	12	54.5	42	42.9	54	45.0
Unskilled	7	31.8	32	32.7	39	32.5
Semiskilled	2	9.1	21	21.4	23	19.2
Skilled	1	4.5	3	3.1	4	3.3
Total	22	100	98	100	120	100.0
Chi-square	X^{2} Value = 2.095; df	= 3; P =	=0.553 (Not signi	ficant) ((p>0.01)	

 Table 6: Distribution of subjects, head of the family according to Occupation

Occupation of the head of	EPDS							
the family	Depression Present		No Depression		Total	Total		
	No. of Present	%	No. of Pre-	%	No. of Pre-	%		
			sent		sent			
Profession	4	18.2	32	32.7	36	30.0		
semi-professional	16	72.7	24	24.5	40	33.3		
Shop owner	0	0.0	20	20.4	20	16.7		
Skilled Worker	2	9.1	10	10.2	12	10.0		
Semi-skilled worker	0	0.0	4	4.1	4	3.3		
Unskilled worker	0	0.0	8	8.2	8	6.7		
Unemployed	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0		
Total	22	100.0	98	100.0	120	100.0		
Chi-square	X^{2} Value = 21.002; d	f = 5; P =	0.001 (signi	ficant at	0.01 at level) (p<	(0.01)		

Month Income			EPDS				
	Depression Presen	ıt	No Depression		Total	Fotal	
	No. of Present	%	No. of Present	%	No. of Present	%	
> 41430	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	
20715-41429	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	
15536 - 20714	6	27.3	22	22.4	28	23.3	
10357 - 15535	8	36.4	32	32.7	40	33.3	
6214 - 10356	0	0.0	2	2.0	2	1.7	
2092 - 6213	8	36.4	42	42.9	50	41.7	
< 2091	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	
Total	22	100.0	98	100.0	120	100.0	
Chi-square	X^{2} Value = 0.884; d	f = 3; P=0	.829 (Not signi	ficant) (p	<0.05)		

Table 7: Distribution of subjects according to Monthly family Income

 Table 8: Distribution of subjects according to socioeconomic status

SES	EPDS								
	Depression Present		No Depression	Depression Total					
	postpartum	%	postpartum	%	Total postpartum	%			
	women (n)		women (n)		women (n)				
Upper	2	9.1	2	2.0	4	3.3			
Upper middle	0	0.0	8	8.2	8	6.7			
Lower middle	6	27.3	46	46.9	52	43.3			
Upper lower	14	63.6	34	34.7	48	40.0			
Lower	0	0.0	8	8.2	8	6.7			
Total	22	100.0	98	100.0	120	100.0			
Chi-square	X^{2} Value = 11.6	37; df = 4; 1	P=0.020 (sign	ificant at 0.0	1 level) (p<0.01)				

Table 9: Distribution of subjects according to family type

Family	EPDS							
type	Depression Present		No Depression		Total			
	postpartum women	%	postpartum women	%	Total postpartum wom-	%		
	(n)		(n)		en (n)			
Nuclear	8	36.4	20	20.4	28	23.3		
Joint	14	63.6	78	79.6	92	76.7		
Total	22	100.0	98	100.0	120	100.0		
Chi-square	X^{2} Value = 2.557; df =	1; P=0.1	110 (Not significar	nt) (p>0.	.05)			

Table 10: Distribution of subjects according to marital status

Marital	EPDS						
status	Depression Present		No Depression		Total		
	postpartum women	%	postpartum women	%	Total postpartum	%	
	(n)		(n)		women (n)		
Married	22	100.0	98	100.0	120	100.0	
Widow	0	.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	
Total	22	100.0	98	100.0	120	100.0	

Table 11: Distribution of subjects according to Family support

Family sup-	EPDS						
port	Depression P	resent	No Depression		Total		
	postpartum	%	Postpartum	%	Total	Postpartum	%
	women (n)		Women (n)		women (I	n)	
Yes	6	27.3	42	42.9	48		40.0
NO	16	72.7	56	57.1	72		60.0
Total	22	100.0	98	100.0	120		100.0
Chi-square	X^{2} Value = 1.818; df = 1; P=0.178 (Not significant) (p>0.05)						

Partner Vio-	EPDS					
lence	Depression Present		No Depression		Total	
	postpartum wom-	%	postpartum wom-	%	Total postpartum	%
	en (n)		en (n)		women (n)	
Yes	13	59.1	44	44.9	57	47.5
NO	9	40.9	54	55.1	63	52.5
Total	22	100.0	98	100.0	120	100.0
Chi-square	X^{2} Value = 1.451; df = 1; P=0.228 (Not significant) (p>0.05)					

	Fable	12:	Distribution	of subjects	according to	Partner	Violence
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Table 13: Distribution of subjects according to Interpersonal conflicts

IP con-	EPDS						
flicts	Depression Present		No Depression		Total		
	postpartum women	%	postpartum women	%	Total postpartum wom-	%	
	(n)		(n)		en (n)		
Yes	16	72.7	38	38.8	54	45.0	
NO	6	27.3	60	61.2	66	55.0	
Total	22	100.0	98	100.0	120	100.0	
Chi-square	X^{2} Value = 8.368; df = 1; P=0.004 (significant at 0.01 level) (p<0.01)						

Table 14. Distribution of subjects according to Alconol abuse by husband	Table 14: Distribution of subjects according to Alcohol abuse	by husband
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Alcohol abuse by	EPDS						
husband	Depression Present		No Depression		Total		
	postpartum women (n)	%	postpartum women (n)	%	Total postpartum	%	
	women (ii)		women (n)		wonnen (n)		
Yes	6	27.3	44	44.9	50	41.7	
NO	16	72.7	54	55.1	70	58.3	
Total	22	100.0	98	100.0	120	100.0	
Chi-square	X^{2} Value = 2.296; df = 1; P=0.130 (Not significant) (p>0.05)						

Discussion

Prevalence of postpartum depression: Results from the study 120 postpartum women participated and screened with Edinburg Postnatal depression scale (EPDS) and found 22 participants have postpartum depression (PPD), and 98 participants do not have postpartum depression (PPD), so this study has postpartum depression (PPD) prevalence of 18.3%.

This study is in comparison with the study conducted in Tamilnadu by Chandran et al. in 2002, in 2002 on 359 women at six weeks postpartum period, which found 19.8% prevalence of postpartum depression. 12 Compared to the current study, the higher percentage was noted, i.e., 40.4% PPD in the study conducted in Turkey by Ekuklu G et al. in 2004 on 178 women at six weeks postpartum using EPDS with cut off \geq 12. [13]

In the Arabian country, a study done by F.H. Al Dallal, I. N. Grant (2012) documented the prevalence of postpartum depression among Bahraini women was 37.1% using EPDS with cut off score >12. [14]

Indian studies were done by Patel V et al. in 2002 in Goa, were assessed on 252 women in 6 - 8weeks postpartum using EPDS with cut off ≥ 12 found a higher prevalence of 23% postpartum depression. [15]In south India, Karnataka, a higher prevalence of postnatal depression, was 31.4% among 102 women using EPDS with cut off score >13 (Shivalli S. Gururaj N, 2015) [16]

The difference in findings of the present study with other studies quoted above could be due to variations in culture, use of different screening/diagnostic tools, and different cut off points on various depression scales to determine postpartum depression, further due to varying time points during the postpartum period when the symptoms are assessed.

Distribution of postpartum depression according to maternal age: In this study Out of 120 study subjects 30 (25%) women were in the age group of 18 - 21 among them 5 (22.7%) were depressed, among 62 (51.7%) women in the age group of 20 - 25,among them 10 (45.5%) were depressed, among 12 (10%) women in the age group of 26 - 29,among them No one depressed and among 16 (13.3%) women in the age group of ≥ 30 among them 7 (31.8%) were depressed in postpartum respectively. Age had a statistically significant relationship with postpartum depression.

This study is in contrast with studies of O'Hara and Swain (1996) [17], Beck (2001) [18], Pireira PK et al. (2009) [19] and Shivalli S (2015), [16] that maternal age was not significantly associated with the development of postpartum depression. This study is in similar to the Study of Johanson et al. [20] found a significant relationship between young age and postpartum depression

This difference may be due to might have been because of the sample size, difference in the sociocultural aspects like age at marriage, the difference in the study type, and the use of different screening tools with different cut off points or diagnostic scales.

Distribution of postpartum depression according to religion: In the current study majority of them, i.e., 86 (71.7%) were Hindus, only 01(0.8%) were Muslims and 33 (27.5%) were Christians. Among them 20 (90.9%), 1(4.5%) and 1(4.5%) have postpartum depression respectively. Religion had a statistically significant relationship with postpartum depression. This study is in contrast with the study done by Shivalli S, Gururaj (2015) in Bangalore rural south India. [16]

This difference may be due to sample size and as the study was done at the Tirupati rural community, which was populated majorly by the Hindu community and small Muslim community.

Distribution of postpartum depression according to education: In the current study among 120 women, 28women were Illiterate, 20 women studied up to Primary school,16 women studied up to secondary school,24women studied up to high school,20women studied up to intermediate,12 women done graduation. Among them 8 (36.4%), 2 (9.1%), 4 (18.2%), 6(27.3%), 0(0%) and 2(9.1%) have postpartum depression respectively. education had no statistically significant relationship with postpartum depression. This study is in comparison with the results of the meta-analyses by O'Hara and Swain (1996) [19], and Beck (2001) [18] found that the level of education was not significantly associated with the development of postpartum depression

Distribution of postpartum depression according to subject's occupation: In the current study, out of 120 women, 54 (45%) were an Unemployed, 39 (32.5%) Unskilled, 23 (19.2%) Semi-skilled, 4 (3.3%) were skilled by occupation. among them 12 (54.5%) were an Unemployed, 7 (31.8%) Unskilled, 2 (9.1%) Semi-skilled,1 (4.5%) were skilled by occupation have postpartum depression respectively. Subject's occupation had no statistically significant relationship with postpartum depression.

The current study is similar to studies of Hobofoll (1995)21, F.H. Al Dallal, [14] and I.N. Grant (2012), [22] that there is no significant relationship with occupation in ante and postpartum depression. But this study is in contrast with Shivalli S, Gururaj (2015) [16] in Banglore, where employed women have shown the risk for PND, but binominal logistic regression ruled its effect.

These differences might have been due to the methodological differences and the economic variations in the place of study.

Distribution of postpartum depression according to socioeconomic status: In the current study, out of 120 women, four women are in upper, 8 in upper-middle, 52 in the lower middle, 48 in upper-lower, and 8 in lower socioeconomic status. Among them, 2 (9.1%) upper socioeconomic status, 6 (27.3%) lower-middle and 14 (63.6%) upper-lower socioeconomic status have postpartum depression respectively. The high proportion of postpartum depression was seen in (63.6%) upperlower socioeconomic status .so in this study. Lower Socioeconomic status had a statistically significant relationship with postpartum depression.

Low SES has emerged as one of the most significant determinants of postpartum depression in this study.

In the current study, poverty played a major significant factor in developing postpartum depression. This is similar to the studies of Lee (2001) [23], Patel (2002), [15] which specifically studied low-income populations within China and India, respectively, and found that financial strain was an important risk factor in postpartum depression. Similar findings are also seen in the Indian study of Chandran et al. (2002) [12] in which poverty plays a significant role in PPD.

Findings from this study suggest that the relationship between poverty and mental disorders is a universal one, occurring in all societies irrespective of their levels of development. Hence, the low SES can posit a woman to be at increased risk of depressive symptoms during postpartum when facing troubles related to an increased number of children, an infant's increased demand for food, clothes, and education, care for infant's illnesses and other stressful life events.

Distribution of postpartum depression according to family type: In a current study among 120 women majority of women belong to the joint family. 76.7% belong to a joint family, and 23.3% belong to the nuclear family. Among 92 women in the joint family, 14(63.6%) have postpartum depression, and Among 28 women in the nuclear family, 8(36.4%) was postpartum depression. Thus showing the type of family is not significantly associated with postpartum depression.

This study is similar to an Indian study done by Chandran et al. (2002), [12] which found the type of family does not show a significant risk for depression. In contrast to this study, an Indian study carried in Karnataka by Shivalli S (2015) [16] found a significant association between type of family and postpartum depression. **Distribution of postpartum depression according to marital status:** In this study majority, i.e., 120(100%) of women, are married, and there are no widow women. Thus showing marital status not significantly associated with postpartum depression. These results may be due to small sample size.

Distribution of postpartum depression according to family and social support: In this study, social support means support from mother in law, husband, and neighbours. In this study sample, as is common in rural communities in India, most participants were from extended families and lived in the home of their parents-in-law. Because the postpartum period needs much practical and emotional support from mother in law and husband, Cultural factors probably play a vital role in the family and social support.

Out of 120 subjects, 48 (40%) women had family and social support and 72(60%) of women do not have family support. Among them, 6(27.3%) women with family and social support, 16(72.7%) women without family, and social support have post-partum depression. Thus showing is family and social support not significantly associated with postpartum depression. O'Hara & Swain (1996) [19]examined five studies in which overall levels of social support measured during pregnancy based on over 500 subjects. They found that there was a strong negative relationship between social support and PPD. This study suggests that women who do not receive good social support during pregnancy are more likely to develop postpartum depression.

postpartum Distribution of depression according to Partner Violence: In this study, partner violence is considered as verbal abuse, physical abuse, and sexual abuse by husband, but none of the patients in the study have reported sexual abuse, so only verbal and physical abuse were considered. Out of 120 subjects, 57 (47.5%) women had Partner Violence and 63 (52.5%) of women do not have Partner Violence. Among them, 13 (59.1%) women with Partner Violence 9 (40.9%) women without Partner Violence have postpartum depression. Thus showing is Partner Violence not statistically significantly associated with postpartum depression. This is in contrast to the study of Milogrom (2008) [24], where they identified a history of husband abuse as a significant risk factor in perinatal depression. Jesse & Swanson (2007) [25] also identified a significant association between perinatal depression and abuse by the husband.

Distribution of postpartum depression according to Interpersonal conflicts: Out of 120 subjects, 54 (45%) women had interpersonal conflicts and 66 (55%) of women do not have Interpersonal conflicts. Among them, 16 (72.7%) women with Interpersonal conflicts, 6 (27.3%) women without Interpersonal conflicts have postpartum depression. Thus showing is Interpersonal conflicts statistically significantly associated with postpartum depression. Similar results were found in a study from Goa (Patel et al., 2002), [15] where poverty and marital violence Interpersonal conflicts in the context of an infant gender bias were significant risk factors for the prevalence of post-partum depression. None of the subjects in this study had a family history of depression. May be due to cultural norms affecting women's reporting of their family illness or lack of knowledge, which are strong predictors of depression according to previous literature.

depression Distribution of postpartum according to Planned Pregnancy: Out of 120 subjects, 40 (33.3%) women had Planned Pregnancy and 80 (66.7%) of women do not have Planned Pregnancy. Among them, 6 (27.3%) women with Planned Pregnancy 16 (72.7%) without Planned Pregnancy have women postpartum depression. Thus showing Planned Pregnancy is not statistically significantly associated with postpartum depression.

These similar findings were reported in the studies of Hedge S et al. (2012), [26] Milogrom J et al. (2008), [25] and Shivalli S (2015) [16] that unwanted pregnancies do not have a relationship with postpartum depression.

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