

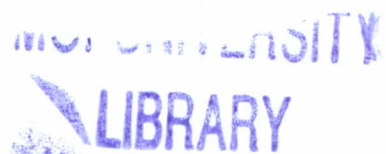


**A SURVEY ON BIRTH PREPAREDNESS AND PREGNANCY
OUTCOME IN KAKAMEGA DISTRICT**



BY

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ABSTRACT

Objective: The main objective was to survey birth and emergency preparedness and pregnancy outcome. Emergency preparedness of the health facilities was also assessed.

Design: The study design was a cross - sectional survey. Data was collected through interviewer administered questionnaire and key informant interviews.

Setting: The study was conducted in selected health facilities within Kakamega District of Western Kenya, which serve resource poor communities.

Subjects: 15-49 year old expectant females from 36 weeks of gestation to within 42 days post delivery.

Main outcome measures: The outcome of interest was a healthy mother and a healthy baby on one hand and perinatal morbidity and mortality on the other. Birth weight was used as a measure of outcome; babies weighing 2500g and above were considered favourable, while those weighing less than 2500g, unfavourable.

Results: Low levels of birth and emergency preparedness at individual, family community and government level is rife. Results showed that there was no statistically significant difference in outcome between mothers who were well prepared and those who were not based on birth weight as a measure of outcome.

Conclusion: It is recommended that women be empowered to make their own decisions regarding pregnancy and other reproductive health issues and not to wait for their husbands/guardians which delays management.