

Focus Group Discussion Guide: TRADITIONAL BIRTH ATTENDANTS

Interview Schedule

Interviewer Comments:

Interviewer code _____

Date _____

District _____ Location _____

Venue _____

Time: from _____ to _____

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION WITH TRADITIONAL BIRTH ATTENDANTS WHO HAVE ATTENDED DELIVERIES WITHIN PAST SIX MONTHS

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| Respondent Code: | Ethnicity: |
| Participants names: | |
| Distance to facility w/ maternity: (less than 5km) (more than 5km) | Closest facility w/ surgical capacity: |
| Training: (trained) (untrained) | |

Research Objectives:

- A. To find out TBAs understanding of skilled care vs. traditional care
- B. To investigate TBA perspectives on women's current preferences for birth attendant and location, and the barriers and motivations to increasing skilled attendance
- C. To investigate focused areas of TBA knowledge, skills, and practice, only as relevant to TBA recognition of major obstetric complications, and current practice of TBAs in treating or referring when these situations occur
- D. To find out TBA perspective on reasons behind household and community level delays in seeking skilled care for normal births and in obstetric emergencies
- E. To find out TBA perspectives on factors influencing timely receipt of quality obstetric care at facilities; their perception of facility/provider barriers, motivators, willingness of providers to change
- F. To find out TBAs' awareness of the need for and content of early postpartum care (at 1 and 2 weeks following birth); when and what TBAs do now during first week after birth
- G. To identify TBAs' understanding of who comprises their own social networks and how these social networks might be best used to rapidly spread information about improved obstetric care practices

Say: This is part of a study to learn more about how we can help women be healthier in pregnancy and childbirth. We want to ask you about TBAs' ideas on how communities can keep women healthy, because we know you are very important during childbirth.

BIRTH PREPAREDNESS

Notes for the Interviewer

Key ideas to explore:

- How do TBAs view preparations that women and their families make for childbirth?
- How are TBAs involved in birth-preparedness?

Questions to ask:

1. What preparations do women and their families make for childbirth?

Who is involved? When do they make these arrangements?

2. What do TBAs do to help women prepare for childbirth?

What do TBAs discuss with women and/or their families during pregnancy? Do they ever advise women and their families to purchase any items or set money aside in advance? If so, do they usually comply?

3. Do TBAs ever help prepare a pregnant woman to give birth in a health facility?

If yes: What do you do? How do you advise her?

If no: Why not? If a woman was planning to deliver in a health facility and asked for your assistance, would you be willing to help her?

4. Do women ever come see TBAs during their pregnancies for check-ups?

What do they do? Why? What advice do TBAs give them?

SKILLED CARE AT CHILDBIRTH

Notes for the Interviewer

Key ideas to explore:

- How do TBAs view women and families preferences for birth location and attendant?
- What do TBAs think about assisting deliveries in a health facility?

Questions to ask:

5. What do TBAs do to help women during delivery?

How do TBAs help them feel more comfortable? Do they offer any traditional medicines? What? Why?

6. In your opinion, where do women in your community prefer to give birth?

Why? Do women, men, and elder females hold different preferences? Why?

7. How would you describe the women in your community who deliver with TBAs?

Are they at all different from the women who deliver in health facilities (if there are no complications)? How so? What do you think women like most about delivering with TBAs? What do they like most about delivering at a health facility?

SKILLED CARE FOR OBSTETRIC EMERGENCIES

Notes for the Interviewer

Key ideas to explore:

- What do TBAs know about obstetric complications?
- How do TBAs handle obstetric emergencies?
- What is the TBA perspective on factors influencing timely receipt of quality obstetric care at the facility?

Say: Some women experience complications in late pregnancy, childbirth and the first weeks after delivery. It would be helpful to hear more about these problems.

Questions to ask:

8. Around here, what types of complications can women have?

Complications during late pregnancy? During childbirth? During the first few weeks?

9. Out of all these problems, which do you think are the most serious?

For each problem ask:

- a) Do you know what causes that problem?
- b) What can happen to the woman who has this problem?
- c) How do TBAs usually manage problems like that occur?

10. Do TBAs ever refer women to health facilities?

If yes: Under what circumstances does a TBA decide to refer a woman? To which facilities do TBAs make referrals? Why? Do TBAs accompany women to (this facility/ these facilities)? Do they help families make arrangements to get there? How so? Have any of you ever experienced a situation where you referred a woman to a facility because she had a complication, but she did not manage to reach the facility in time? What happened?

If no: Why not? Do any of you ever refer women to other places or providers? Where? Why?

11. What happens when a woman with complications arrives at a health facility?

How long does she have to wait to be seen? Is the staff friendly to her, her family, and the TBA or anyone else who is with her? In your view, how prepared to assist women with complications during delivery?

12. If a TBA accompanies a woman experiencing a problem to a health facility, how does the staff there treat her?

Do they treat her with respect? Do they say anything to her? What?

EARLY POSTPARTUM CARE

Notes for the Interviewer

Key ideas to explore:

- What are current TBA practices during the first and second weeks after birth?
- Is there a perceived need for routine early postpartum care after perceived normal birth, if no problems are detected in new mother or newborn? What kind of care?
- What are TBA perspectives on and roles in increasing use of skilled postpartum care at home in the community or in a facility?

Say: We talked about preparing for birth, and about giving birth. Now I would like to ask you a few questions about the time right after birth.

Questions to ask:

13. Do TBAs follow up with women whom they have assisted during childbirth?

How long after the delivery do TBAs see them again? How often? What do you do during these visits? For the woman? For the newborn? Why?

14. In your opinion, if a woman has a normal delivery and a healthy baby and feels well, should she go for a check-up at a health facility?

If yes: Why? Do TBAs encourage them to go? How could more women be encouraged to go to a health facility for a check-up?

If no: Why not? Should she get a check-up with anyone else, like a TBA?

SOCIAL NETWORKS/ COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

Notes for the Interviewer

Key ideas to explore:

- What are social networks of TBAs?

Questions to ask:

15. Do TBAs in this community ever get together in a group with other TBAs?

Why/why not? If there are these kinds of meetings, what happens during them?

16. Does anyone from a health facility visit TBAs around here?

If yes: Who? How often? What is the content/ purpose of these visits? Is there any additional support or information you wish that they would give you?

If no: What would help TBAs do a better job and feel more supported?

17. Does anyone in your community register births?

If yes: Are any of you involved in this? Do you have any ideas of how could we improve this?

If no: Have they ever before? If so, what happened? Is this an activity that you would support?

Say: Thank you for answering all our questions about giving birth. Your answers have been helpful. Maybe you have thought of something that we have left out. Is there anything else that you'd like to tell me/ us about your experience?

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR TAKING THE TIME TO TALK TO ME/US.