ABSTRACT

A cross-sectional study was conducted to identify the situation of utilization of antenatal care services and the related factors among pregnant women in rural areas in Quangngai Province, Vietnam. One hundred and sixty five pregnant women in last month of pregnancy who came to commune health stations and the obstetric department of Quangngai General Hospital were purposively selected. This study found that 79.4% of all pregnant women did not follow the prescribed schedule, while 20.6% did utilize the full ANC service.

The independent variables consisted of 5 parts, socio-demographic, psychosocial and maternal health factors, and sources of ANC information and quality, accessibility of ANC service. The findings revealed that the age group of 25-29 years was the largest with 39.4%. Pregnant women who were at secondary school level were 69.1% and 71.5% of them were farmers. Regarding the educational level of the husbands, 59.4% of them had studied at secondary school and 55.2% were farmers. In addition, family incomes of the low group and the average group were 48.5% and 40.6%, respectively. Pregnant women who had 1 to 2 children were 58.2% and with 38.2% and 41.8% of first and second pregnancy, respectively. Concerning maternal health, 100% of pregnant women in this study did not have chronic diseases and 51.5% of them had had morning sickness during pregnancy. A majority of pregnant women had moderate knowledge (53.4%) and low knowledge (34.5%) and only 12.1% of them had high knowledge on ANC. Pregnant women who had high attitude towards ANC services were 48.5% and low attitude (51.5%). Regarding social support from the husbands, 66.7% of husbands provided full support. The majority of pregnant women received ANC information from mass media and health personnel (93.9%) and most of them resided between 1-4 kilometer distance from the nearest ANC service.

Regarding the relationship between utilization and the related factors, it was found that there was significant relationship between utilization of ANC service and socio-demographic factors such as educational levels (p-value=0.001), occupation (p-value=0.001), and family incomes (p-value=0.011). The findings also found that there was significant relationship between utilization of ANC service and maternal health factors (p-value=0.009), psychosocial factors such as knowledge (p-value=0.035), attitude (p-value<0.001), and social support (p-value=0.012).

Recommendations of this study are that the health education should be added to the mass media for motivating the pregnant women to ANC service, improving their knowledge and attitude on ANC. Health personnel should make home care visits for pregnant women living far from health centers. Community base, cohort or case control studies should be conducted in the future to identify the outcomes of
utilization of ANC service.