

**DISSERTATION TITLE:**

**DELAY TO ANTENATAL BOOKING AMONG PREGNANT WOMEN IN  
NORTH "A" DISTRICT- ZANZIBAR**

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**ABSTRACT**

Delay to antenatal booking among pregnant women is a crucial problem in Zanzibar in which North A District is not excluded. Despite of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare emphasis on antenatal booking not later than 16 weeks of gestation.

The main objective of the study was to determine the possible factors contributing to delay to antenatal booking in North A District Zanzibar.

A descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted in seven health facilities of North A district, with sample size of 150 pregnant women for interview administered questionnaires, 15 RCH service providers who were subjected to self administered questionnaires and 12 pregnant women for FGD. The study was carried out from January to May 2009. Result of the study revealed that, majority of the pregnant women 21(51%) had low level of knowledge on importance of early booking. Like wise 10 (67%) of health providers had moderate knowledge on ANC booking. Moreover, there are cultural beliefs existing in the community as majority of the pregnant women 78(52.00%) agreed that, there were cultural beliefs associated with ANC booking. Furthermore the study findings revealed that, majority of the respondents 94(70%) were multigravida and booked late. Also it revealed that all unmarried women were booked late. On other hand more than half of the respondents who live more than five kilometers delayed to ANC booking. These findings indicate that, the problem of delay ANC booking is exist in the study area, Therefore, there is a need to impart knowledge in the community in relation to ANC booking. . DHMT should design health education program and conduct health education to the community to scale up community awareness in relation to early booking. BASNEF model is an appropriate health education model for intervention on improving early ANC booking to pregnant women of North A district.