

DISSERTATION TITLE:
**STUDY ON FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO LOW COVERAGE OF SYPHILIS
SCREENING AMONG PREGNANT WOMEN ATTENDING ANTENATAL
CARE CLINICS IN RUANGWA DISTRICT**
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ABSTRACT

Syphilis in pregnancy is one of the major health problems of public health importance in the world. Its importance is based on the fact that if syphilis in pregnancy will not be detected early and treated effectively it can end up with severe adverse consequences. (W.H.O, 2003).

Ruangwa District Council has low coverage of syphilis screening of 40.5% among pregnant women attending Antenatal Clinic as compared to the National target of 90%. A descriptive cross-section study was conducted comprising of a proportionate stratified selected sample of 270 pregnant women attending antenatal care clinics, 18 health care providers conveniently selected and 12 simple randomly selected health facilities were included in this study. Information was collected to find out factors contributing to low coverage of syphilis screening among pregnant women attending at antenatal care clinics at their first visits.

The study finding revealed that, 67% of pregnant women were not aware of syphilis screening in pregnancy. 83% of pregnant women had low knowledge on mode of transmission of syphilis infection. 70% of pregnant women had low knowledge on ways of prevention while 74% of pregnant women had low knowledge on of adverse consequences of untreated syphilis in pregnancy and its impact in newborn and surviving infants. 87% of pregnant women were willing to be screened, Perceived that syphilis is a disease of prostitutes, 56% health care providers had moderate knowledge on consequences outcome of syphilis in pregnancy, 65% of health care providers had unsatisfactorily applied counseling skills, 75% of health facilities had experienced out of stocks of RPR test kits and 75% of HCPs had not received supportive supervision over six months from CHMT consecutively.

Sensitization campaigns to pregnant women and supportive supervision to health care providers are crucial to raise screening coverage. Health Behavior Model will be used to address syphilis screening problem.