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FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH PROLONGED LABOUR AMONG WOMEN AGED 32-45 YEARS IN ETCHE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF RIVERS STATE.

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ABSTRACT

This study investigated the factors associated with Prolonged Labour among Women aged 32-45 years in Etche Local Government Area. The descriptive survey design was used in conducting this study. Four research questionsand four hypotheses were used to carry out the study. The sample size for this study was 400 women selected using Taro Yamene for large population. A two stage (multistage) were used to select the sample for this study. The instrument for data collection was a structured questionnaire titled Factors Associated with Prolonged Labour Questionnaire (FAPLQ) .The questionnaire consisted of two parts, the first part seek for information on demographic data of the respondents while the second part contained the items statement responded to using yes or no options. The face and content validity was done. The instrument for data collection was pre-tested for reliability, familiarity related to questionnaire. The questionnaire and tools for measurement were pre-tested among 5%(20) of the sample size 400 in Etche Local government area of Rivers State. Mean and standard deviation were used to analyze the research questions The results of the study shows that there was a significant relationship between level of education and Prolonged Labour among women aged 32 – 45 years (F=5.558, df=3, p<.05),There is no significant relationship between socio-economic status and Prolonged Labour among women aged 32 – 45 years (F=0.698, df=2, p>.05) and there is no significant relationship between occupation and prolonged labour among women aged 32 – 45 years ($F_{2, 397}$=0.420, p>.05) and there is no significant relationship between proximity to health care facility and prevalence of prolonged labour among women aged 32 – 45 years in Etche Local Government Area of Rivers State F1, 398=0.278, p>.05). And thus it was recommended among all that: The government should build a well-equipped comprehensive health centers in all the communities in Etche Local Government Area of Rivers State.The government should post resident doctors and trained health personnel to each of the health centers in Etche Local Government Area of Rivers State. There should be regular antenatal check-up and treatment among pregnant women. Mid-wives should enlighten pregnant mothers on the benefits of relaxation, exercise and routine drugs taking as they may help to prevent prolonged labour.

Keywords: Prolonged Labour, Childbirth, Associated Factors, Childbirth, Women, Age

Introduction

Prolonged Labour is a problem that many women face when giving birth. It can cause a number of problems but with the right care from doctors and nurses, there do not have to be any lasting complication unfortunately for some children, this difficult labour will result in complication that cause brain damage and ultimately cerebral palsy. Astrid & Hildingsson (2014) Prolonged Labour very often causes suffering from difficulties that may have lifelong implication, this study aimed to explore the prevalence and treatment of Prolonged Labour and to compare birth outcome and women's experience of prolonged and normal Labour. World health organization WHO (2011), Prolonged is an important causes of maternal and perinatal mortality and morbidity. Thus failure of Labour to progress has become one of the leading indications from primary caesarean section, particularly in first time mothers. There is growing concern that caesarean section is performed too soon in many cases without exploring less invasive intervention that could lead to vaginal birth. Prolonged labour is the inability of a woman to proceed with childbirth upon going into Labour. Prolonged Labour typically last over 20 hour for the first time mothers and over 14 hour for women that have already had children. According to Lowe (2007), Prolonged Labour is a common birth complication and constitutes the major indication of instrument deliveries and delivery by emergency caesarean section. Prolonged labour is associated with an increased risk of complicated deliveries and intervention such as operative delivery, postpartum hemorrhage, anal sphincter injury, chorioamnion it is and transfer to a neonatal intensive care unit. It refers to Labour that goes on for about 18 to 24 hours after regular contraction begin. For twins a Labour that goes on for 16 hour is considered prolonged. Mothers having their first baby are expected to be in Labour for a longer period of time so prolonged labour may not be declared until 22 to 24 hours whereas for second or third time mothers labour may be considered prolonged after 16 to 18 hours. Prolonged labour put at risk for developing cerebral palsy. Exactly why this is true is not completely understood or may not be known in every cases but there are several likely possibilities. If labour is prolonged but the baby is already in the birth canal the doctor may use instruments to pull the baby out the use of forceps or a vacuum extractor can cause damage to a baby skill. Literally by crushing it with too much force this can easily lead to brain damage that causes cerebral palsy.

Age is one the variables that determine the factors that are associated with Prolonged Labour among women. Women that are less than 20 years old can adversely affect the health of the mother as well as the growth and development of the fetus because the reproductive organs are still immature for pregnancy. Adolescent pregnancy complication (<20 years) is higher than during healthy reproductive period (20-35 years). This situation will be difficult when coupled with psychological, social, and economic stress. Mothers with health over 35 years of age, the function of their reproductive organs have begun to decline and many other diseases can make the mother's condition week, thereby

disrupting the mother's blood circulation to the fetus.

Parity is one of the variables that show the number of children a woman has ever born. Parity is an important factor in determining the fate of the mother and fetus both during pregnancy and childbirth. High parity will be more at risk of experiencing sagging in the uterine wall so that it will be more susceptible to having a long Labour. A parity number of 1 or more than 3 has been shown to increase the incidence of Prolonged Labour compared to mothers with parity of 2-3. Mothers with parity 1 or> 3 tended to experience complete opening longer than mothers with parity 2-3.5The logistic regression test results showed a significance value (p = 0.015), it means that there was an influence between maternal parity and the incidence of Prolonged Labour. The parity coefficient (-0.660) showed the direction of the negative influence between maternal parity and the incidence of Prolonged Labour. The value of Exp (B) showed that mothers with parity at risk had a 1.9 times chance of experiencing Prolongeded Labour. This is in line with research where in his research, there was a significant relationship (p = 0.042) between parity and Prolonged Labour

Statement of Problem

Prolonged labour accounts for high rate of morbidity and mortality among women age 32 to 45 years of age. It is apparent that some people are either aware or ignorant of the damaging effect on their health due to prolonged labour. Prolonged labour presents a picture of mental anguish and physical morbidity which often leads to surgical intervention and may produce a permanent revulsion to childbirth, expressed by the mother as voluntary infertility; it constitutes a danger to the survival and subsequent neurological development of the infant. The harrowing experience is shared by relatives, and by doctors and nurses to the extent that few complications tarnish the image of obstetrics. Prolonged Labour has an impact on both the mother and the fetus. The impact on the mother is to increase the incidence of life-threatening postpartum hemorrhage, whereas in the fetus it can increase the incidence of asphyxia or lack of oxygen, consequently increasing the risk of death. Therefore, this research study is aimed at investing the factors associated with Prolonged Labour among women age 32-45 years in Etche Local Government Area of Rivers State.

Research Questions

The following research questions was used in the study.

1. How does level of education affect the Prolonged Labour among Women aged 32-45 years in Etche Local Government Area?
2. How does socio-economic status lead to the Prolonged Labour among Women Aged32-45 years in Etche Local Government Area?
3. How does occupation leads to Prolonged Labour among Women aged 32-45 years in Etche Local Government Area?
4. What are the effect of the hospital based prevalence of obstructed Labour among Women aged 32-45 years in Etche Local Government Area?

Hypotheses

The following hypotheses guided the study.

1. There is no significant difference between occupation and Prolonged Labour among Women age 32-45 years in Etche Local Government Area.
2. There is no significant difference between the level of education and Prolonged Labour among women age 32-45 years in Etche Local Government Area.
3. There is no significant difference between socio- economic status and Prolonged Labour among women age 32-45 in Etche Local Government Area.
4. There is no significant difference between hospital based prevalence of obstructed Labour among women age 32-45 years in Etche Local Government Area.

Research Method

The study design was a descriptive survey design which aimed at describing the factors associated with Prolonged Labour among women age 33-45 in Etche Local Government Area Rivers State.

The target population for this study consists of women living in Etche. The 2006 National population commission estimated the total number of women aged 32-45 years living in Etche to be approximately 149,513. Therefore the target population is to be 149,513 people. The sample size of this study is 400 women using Taro Yamene for large population. A two stage (multistage) were used to select the sample for this study which presented below:

The instrument for data collection was a structured questionnaire titled the Factors Associated with Prolonged Labour (FAWPL).The questionnaire consists of two parts, the first part seek for information on demographic data of the respondents while the second part contains the items statement responded to using yes or no options. To ensure face and content validity was done. The instrument for data collection was pre-tested for reliability, familiarity related to questionnaire. The questionnaire and tools for measurement was pre-tested among 5 %(20) of the sample size 400 in Etche Local government area of Rivers State. The questionnaire was self – administered and to four hundred (400) residents of the selected areas in Etche with the help of four (4) research assistance.

Presentation of Results

Research Question 1: What is the hospital based prevalence of obstructed labour among women aged 32 – 45 years in Etche Local Government Area of Rivers State?

Table 1: Mean and standard deviation on the hospital based prevalence of obstructed labour among women aged 32 – 45 years in Etche Local Government Area of Rivers State N=400, Criterion Mean=2.50

S/N	Prevalence of Prolonged Labour	SA	A	D	SD	Mean	SD	Remark
1.	Hospital lack equipment for management of pregnancy and delayed my giving birth process	190	150	42	18	**3.22**	0.95	High
2.	I have experienced abnormal presentation of baby	78	134	122	66	2.42	1.12	Low
3.	I have experienced women mistreated and delayed by midwives and birth attendants	154	164	28	54	3.11	0.89	High
4.	Multiple pregnancy can lead to Prolonged labour	88	150	98	64	2.57	1.09	High
5.	I experienced Prolonged labour due to poor antenatal visits	132	118	78	72	2.76	1.11	High
6.	I have experienced cephalopelvic disproportion when giving birth	94	142	88	76	2.61	1.07	High
7.	I have experienced difficulty during child birth due to the position of the baby	136	120	72	72	2.80	1.10	High
8.	I have experienced obstructed labour due to ignorance	112	134	78	76	2.70	1.08	High
	Grand Mean					**2.77**	**1.05**	**High**

Table 1 shows the mean and standard deviation on the hospital based prevalence of obstructed labour among women aged 32 – 45 years in Etche Local Government Area of Rivers State. The table showed that there is high hospital based prevalence of obstructed labour among women aged 32 – 45 years in Etche Local Government Area of Rivers State (Mean=2.77, SD=1.05). The table also showed that the hospitals lack equipment for management of pregnancy and delaysthe giving birth process to the highest extent (Mean=3.22, SD=0.95).

Research Question 2: How does level of education affect the Prolonged Labour among women aged 32 – 45 years in Etche Local Government Area of Rivers State?

Table 2: Mean and standard deviation on how level of education affects the Prolonged labour among women aged 32 – 45 years in Etche Local Government Area of Rivers State
N=400, Criterion Mean=2.50

S/N	Prevalence of Prolonged Labour	N=74 Informal		N=6 Primary		N=72 Secondary		N=248 Tertiary	
		Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD

1.	Hospital lack equipment for management of pregnancy and delayed my giving birth process	3.05	1.12	4.00	0.00	3.00	1.19	3.31	0.79
2.	I have experienced abnormal presentation of baby	2.54	0.95	2.67	1.37	2.17	1.05	2.45	1.17
3.	I have experienced women mistreated and delayed by midwives and birth attendants	2.78	0.85	2.33	1.37	2.53	1.05	3.40	0.69
4.	Multiple pregnancy can lead to Prolonged labour	2.65	1.00	2.00	1.55	2.58	0.96	2.56	1.13
5.	I experienced Prolonged labour due to poor antenatal visits	2.84	0.98	4.00	0.00	2.42	1.04	2.81	1.15
6.	I have experienced cephalopelvic disproportion when giving birth	2.81	0.96	3.67	0.52	2.33	0.92	2.60	1.13
7.	I have experienced difficulty during child birth due to the position of the baby	3.08	0.92	3.00	0.89	2.42	0.96	2.82	1.16
8.	I have experienced obstructed labour due to ignorance	2.89	0.90	3.00	1.55	2.44	0.93	2.71	1.14
	Grand Mean	**2.83**	**0.96**	**3.08**	**0.91**	**2.49**	**1.01**	**2.83**	**1.05**

Table 2 shows the mean and standard deviation on the level of education on the Prolonged Labour among women aged 32 – 45 years in Etche Local Government Area of Rivers State. The table showed that the women with informal education have high prolonged labour (Mean=2.83, SD=0.96), the women with primary education have high prolonged labour (Mean=3.08, SD=0.91), the women with secondary education have high prolonged labour (Mean=2.49, SD=1.01), the women with tertiary education also have high Prolonged Labour (Mean=2.83, SD=1.05).

Research Question 3: How does socio-economic status leads to prolonged labour among women aged 32 – 45 years in Etche Local Government Area of Rivers State?

Table 3: Mean and standard deviation on how socio-economic status leads to prolonged labour among women aged 32 – 45 years in Etche Local Government Area of Rivers State
N=400, Criterion Mean=2.50

S/N	Prevalence of prolonged Labour	N=160 High		N=160 Middle		N=80 Low	
		Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
1.	Hospital lack equipment for	3.26	0.95	3.20	0.93	3.18	0.98

	management of pregnancy and delayed my giving birth process						
2.	I have experienced abnormal presentation of baby	2.43	1.07	2.48	1.19	2.30	1.06
3.	I have experienced women mistreated and delayed by midwives and birth attendants	3.03	0.94	3.19	0.87	3.13	0.82
4.	Multiple pregnancy can lead to prolonged labour	2.54	1.06	2.63	1.13	2.53	1.06
5.	I experienced prolonged labour due to poor antenatal visits	2.74	1.08	2.83	1.10	2.68	1.20
6.	I have experienced cephalopelvic disproportion when giving birth	2.56	1.04	2.61	1.06	2.68	1.18
7.	I have experienced difficulty during child birth due to the position of the baby	2.65	0.98	2.88	1.20	2.95	1.08
8.	I have experienced obstructed labour due to ignorance	2.61	1.07	2.74	1.07	2.80	1.11
	Grand Mean	**2.73**	**1.02**	**2.82**	**1.07**	**2.78**	**1.06**

Table 3 shows the mean and standard deviation on socio-economic status and the prolonged labour among women aged 32 – 45 years in Etche Local Government Area of Rivers State. The table showed that the women with high socio-economic status have high Prolonged Labour (Mean=2.73, SD=1.02), the women with middle socio-economic status have high prolonged labour (Mean=2.82, SD=1.07), the women with low socio-economic status also have high prolonged labour (Mean=2.78, SD=1.06).

Research Question 4: How does occupation leads to prolonged labour among women aged 32 – 45 years in Etche Local Government Area of Rivers State?

Table 4: Mean and standard deviation on how occupation leads to prolonged labour among women aged 32 – 45 years in Etche Local Government Area of Rivers State N=400, Criterion Mean=2.50

S/N	Prevalence of prolonged Labour	N=160 Employed		N=160 Self-Employed		N=80 Unemployed	
		Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
1.	Hospital lack equipment for management of pregnancy and delayed my giving birth process	3.20	0.92	3.18	1.01	3.35	0.86
2.	I have experienced abnormal	2.56	1.09	2.35	1.13	2.28	1.12

	presentation of baby						
3.	I have experienced women mistreated and delayed by midwives and birth attendants	2.99	0.93	3.18	0.88	3.23	0.80
4.	Multiple pregnancy can lead to prolonged labour	2.60	1.08	2.59	1.16	2.48	0.93
5.	I experienced prolonged labour due to poor antenatal visits	2.66	1.01	2.79	1.18	2.90	1.14
6.	I have experienced cephalopelvic disproportion when giving birth	2.68	1.03	2.63	1.14	2.43	1.03
7.	I have experienced difficulty during child birth due to the position of the baby	2.61	1.02	2.95	1.10	2.88	1.19
8.	I have experienced obstructed labour due to ignorance	2.61	1.08	2.83	1.07	2.63	1.07
	Grand Mean	**2.74**	**1.02**	**2.81**	**1.09**	**2.77**	**1.02**

Table 4 shows the mean and standard deviation on occupation and the prolonged labour among women aged 32 – 45 years in Etche Local Government Area of Rivers State. The table showed that the employed women have high prolonged labour (Mean=2.74, SD=1.02), the self-employed women have high prolonged labour (Mean=2.81, SD=1.09), the unemployed women also have high Prolonged Labour (Mean=2.77, SD=1.02).

Research Question 5: What is the proximity to health care facility of pregnant women aged 32 – 45 years in Etche Local Government Area of Rivers State?

Table 5: Mean and standard deviation on the proximity to health care facility of pregnant women aged 32 – 45 years in Etche Local Government Area of Rivers State N=400, Criterion Mean=2.50

S/N	Proximity to Healthcare Facility	SA	A	D	SD	Mean	SD	Remark
1.	Residence far from a health facility (distance from home to health facility) contributes to prolonged labour	154	190	16	40	3.21	0.78	High
2.	Restricted health care facilities from pregnant women, prolonged labour is due to lack of health facilities around	150	206	28	16	3.20	0.81	High
3.	The roads makes it difficult	132	176	40	52	3.00	0.93	High

	for pregnant women to access health facilities easily during labour							
4.	Pregnant women in labour are always at health facilities due to lack of transportation	142	122	70	66	2.84	1.09	High
5.	Delay in seeking health care during pregnancy is a cause of prolonged labour	168	160	26	46	3.18	0.88	High
6.	The absence of health professional can lead to delay in the delivery process of pregnant mothers	176	158	14	52	**3.24**	0.81	High
7.	Accessibility of health care facilities is difficult and result in obstructed labour	148	182	26	44	3.13	0.85	High
	Grand Mean					**3.11**	**0.88**	**High**

Table 5 shows the mean and standard deviation on the proximity to health care facility of pregnant women aged 32 – 45 years in Etche Local Government Area of Rivers State. The table showed that there is high proximity to health care facility of pregnant women aged 32 – 45 years in Etche Local Government Area of Rivers State (Mean=3.11, SD=0.88).

H_{01}: There is no significant relationship between level of education and prolonged labour among women aged 32 – 45 years in Etche Local Government Area of Rivers State.

Table 6: Summary of One-Way ANOVA on the relationship between level of education and prolonged labour among women aged 32 – 45 years in Etche Local Government Area of Rivers State

ANOVA
Prevalence

	Sum of Squares	**Df**	**Mean Square**	**F**	**p-value**	**Remark**
Between Groups	486.823	3	162.274	5.558	.001	Significant
Within Groups	11561.487	396	29.196			
Total	12048.310	399				

The data in table 6 above showed the relationship between level of education and prolonged labour among women aged 32 – 45 years in Etche Local Government Area of Rivers State. The F-statistic shows that there is significant relationship between level of education and prolonged labour among women aged 32 – 45 years in Etche Local Government Area of

Rivers State (F=5.558, df=3, p<.05. Therefore, the null hypothesis one was rejected at 0.05 alpha level.

H_{02}: There is no significant relationship between socio-economic status and Prolonged Labour among women aged 32 – 45 years in Etche Local Government Area of Rivers State.

Table 7: Summary of One-Way ANOVA on the relationship between socio-economic status and Prolonged Labour among women aged 32 – 45 years in Etche Local Government Area of Rivers State

ANOVA
Prevalence

	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	p-value
Between Groups	42.210	2	21.105	.698	.498
Within Groups	12006.100	397	30.242		
Total	12048.310	399			

The data in table 7 above showed the relationship between socio-economic status and prolonged labour among women aged 32 – 45 years in Etche Local Government Area of Rivers State. The F-statistic shows that there is no significant relationship between socio-economic status and prolonged labour among women aged 32 – 45 years in Etche Local Government Area of Rivers State (F=0.698, df=2, p>.05). Therefore, the null hypothesis two was not rejected at 0.05 alpha level.

H_{03}: There is no significant relationship between occupation and Prolonged Labour among women aged 32 – 45 years in Etche Local Government Area of Rivers State.

Table 8: Summary of One-Way ANOVA on the relationship between occupation and prolonged labour among women aged 32 – 45 years in Etche Local Government Area of Rivers State

ANOVA
Prevalence

	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	p-value
Between Groups	25.435	2	12.718	.420	.657
Within Groups	12022.875	397	30.284		
Total	12048.310	399			

The data in table 8 above showed the relationship between occupation and Prolonged Labour among women aged 32 – 45 years in Etche Local Government Area of Rivers State. The F-statistic shows that there is no significant relationship between occupation and prolonged labour among women aged 32 – 45 years in Etche Local Government Area of Rivers State$F_{2, 397}$=0.420, p>.05. Therefore, the null hypothesis three was not rejected at 0.05 alpha level.

H_{04}: There is no significant relationship between proximity to health care facility and prevalence of prolonged labour among women aged 32 – 45 years in Etche Local Government Area of Rivers State.

Table 9: Summary of regression analysis of the relationship between proximity to health care facility and prevalence of Prolonged Labour among women aged 32 – 45 years in Etche Local Government Area of Rivers State

A: Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.026[a]	.001	.002	5.50009

a. Predictors: (Constant), Proximity

B: Coefficients[a]

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.	95.0% Confidence Interval for B	
		B	Std. Error	Beta			Lower Bound	Upper Bound
1	(Constant)	23.101	1.758		13.137	.000	19.644	26.558
	Proximity	.042	.080	.026	.527	.598	-.199	.115

a. Dependent Variable: Prevalence

C: ANOVA[a]

Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	p-value
1	Regression	8.412	1	8.412	.278	.598[b]
	Residual	12039.898	398	30.251		
	Total	12048.310	399			

a. Dependent Variable: Prevalence
b. Predictors: (Constant), Proximity

Table 9 shows that the summary of regression analysis of the relationship between proximity to health care facility and prevalence of prolonged labour among women aged 32 – 45 years in Etche Local Government Area of Rivers State might be described as weak and positive

(Beta=.026). The R-square value of .001 in part A shows 0.1% contribution of proximity to health care facility to prevalence of Prolonged Labour among women. The regression equation y=23.101+.042x shows that an increase in proximity to health care facility might lead to an increase in the prevalence of Prolonged labour among women. The result of the F-statistic shows that there is no significant relationship between proximity to health care facility and prevalence of prolonged labour among women aged 32 – 45 years in Etche Local Government Area of Rivers State F1, 398=0.278, p>.05). Therefore, the null hypothesis five was rejected at 0.05 alpha level.

Summary of findings

1. There is a significant relationship between level of education and Prolonged Labour among women aged 32 – 45 years in Etche Local Government Area of Rivers State (F=5.558, df=3, p<.05). The null hypothesis one was rejected at 0.05 alpha level.
2. There is no significant relationship between socio-economic status and Prolonged Labour among women aged 32 – 45 years in Etche Local Government Area of Rivers State (F=0.698, df=2, p>.05). The null hypothesis two was not rejected at 0.05 alpha level.
3. There is no significant relationship between proximity to health care facility and prevalence ofprolongedlabour among women aged 32 – 45 years in Etche Local Government Area of Rivers State F1, 398=0.278, p>.05). The null hypothesis five was rejected at 0.05 alpha level.

Discussion of Findings

The mean and standard deviation on the hospital based prevalence of obstructed labour among women aged 32 – 45 years in Etche Local Government Area of Rivers State. The results showed that there is high hospital based prevalence of obstructed labour among women aged 32 – 45 years in Etche Local Government Area of Rivers State (Mean=2.77, SD=1.05). The finding of this study is in line with Nystedt et al (2014) which reports that Women with a prolonged labour had a negative birth experience more often (13%) than did women who had a normal labour (3%) (P<0.00). The results are in consonance with that of Hildingsson et al (2014) which reports that 75% of women had experience prolonged labour. Nystedt et al (2014) also reported that every Every fifth woman experienced a prolonged labour. This study disagrees with that of Garang et al (2020) where it was recorded that 78% of women's have experience prolonged labour. This similarity might be due to the closeness in the sample sizes used, as the sample size for the two students are within a very close range.

The results show that there is no significant relationship between level of education and prolonged labour among women aged 32 – 45 years in Etche Local Government Area of Rivers State. The

data showed the relationship between level of education and prolonged labour among women aged 32 – 45 years in Etche Local Government Area of Rivers State. The F-statistic shows that there is a significant relationship between level of education and prolonged labour among women aged 32 – 45 years in Etche Local Government Area of Rivers State (F=5.558, df=3, p<.05. Therefore, the null hypothesis one was rejected at 0.05 alpha level. The results are in keeping with that of Bhowmik et al (2020) which reported a relationship between level of Education and prolonged labour. The findings of this study are also in line with that of Alves et al (2016) who noted that there is no significant difference in the views of the women's on the level ofeducation. Also Rios-Gonzalez (2020) carried out similar research in Paraguayans and findings were in line with the adopted hypothesis state above. Also the finding is in line with the study of Hezima et al (2020) who noted that educational level does not predict prolonged labour. The difference in result may be due to the difference in study population.

The result shows that there is no significant relationship between proximity to health care facility and prevalence of prolonged labour among women aged 32 – 45 years in Etche Local Government Area of Rivers State. This shows that the summary of regression analysis of the relationship between proximity to health care facility and prevalence of prolonged labour among women aged 32 – 45 years in Etche Local Government Area of Rivers State might be described as weak and positive (Beta=.026). The R-square value of .001 in part A shows 0.1% contribution of proximity to health care facility to prevalence of prolonged labour among women. The regression equation y=23.101+.042x shows that an increase in proximity to health care facility might lead to an increase in the prevalence of prolonged labour among women. The result of the F-statistic shows that there is no significant relationship between proximity to health care facility and prevalence of prolonged labour among women aged 32 – 45 years in Etche Local Government Area of Rivers State F1, 398=0.278, p>.05). Therefore, the null hypothesis five was rejected at 0.05 alpha level. The findings of this study are in line with that of Mehta et al (2022) that evaluated whether community distance from a primary healthcare facility was associated with decreased healthcare utilization of services. The fact that the two studies were carried out in an academic environment could be implicated for the similarities or agreement found in the two studies.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study, it was concluded that prolonged labour thus exists among women's and that certain factors such as age, gender, level of education, occupation, social-economic status, proximity of health care facility, and hospital based prevalence significantly related to prolonged labour.

Recommendation

The following were recommended:

1. In order to decrease magnitude of obstructed labor, lessen delayed arrival to hospital and Proper ANC follow-up by health workers and

responsible bodies need to exert efforts to improve functioning of health centers and the referral systems.

2. The government should build a well-equipped comprehensive health centers in all the communities in Etche Local Government Area of Rivers State.

3. The government should post resident doctors and trained health personnel to each of the health centers in Etche Local Government Area of Rivers State.

4. There should be regular antenatal check-up and treatment among pregnant women in Etche Local Government Area of Rivers State.
5. Mid-wives during ante-natal should enlighten pregnant mothers on the benefits of relaxation, exercise and routine drugs taking as they may help to prevent prolong labor.

6. The government should post out trained health extension workers to all the rural communities in Etche LGA and mobilize them to educate pregnant women on the need to take a balance and nutritional diet.

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