Greener Journal of Biomedical and Health Sciences
Vol. 9(1), pp. 226-236, 2026
ISSN: 2672-4529
Copyright ©2026, Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International.
https://gjournals.org/GJBHS
DOI: https://doi.org/10.15580/gjbhs.2026.1.111626185

Information Needs and Information Seeking Behaviour of Antenatal Patients in Hospitals of Jos Metropolis, Plateau State, Nigeria.

Christiana Eleojo Musa[1]; Prof. Anothony A Igbashal[2]; Prof. Solomon Uganneyya[2]

[1]Federal University of Agriculture, Makurdi, Benue state, Nigeria.
[2]Joseph Sarwuan Takar University, Makurdi, Benue State

ARTICLE'S INFO

Article No.: *111626185*
Type**:** *Research*
Full Text: *PDF, PHP, HTML, EPUB, MP3*
DOI: ***10.15580/gjbhs.2026.1.111626185***

Accepted: *18/11/2026*
Published: *26/11/2026*

Keywords: *Information needs, information-seeking behaviour, antenatal patients, information sources, hospitals, Jos Metropolis.*

Corresponding Author

Christiana Musa

E-mail: *unyenelee@gmail.com*

Article's QR code

ABSTRACT

This study investigated the information needs and information-seeking behaviour of antenatal patients in hospitals of Jos Metropolis, Plateau State, Nigeria. The study was guided by three research questions, which focused on the information needs of antenatal patients, their sources of information, and the purposes for which they seek information. The study adopted a descriptive research design. The population comprised 5,132 registered antenatal patients in ten public hospitals in Jos Metropolis, Plateau State, from which a sample of 372 respondents was selected using Taro Yamane's sample size determination formula. A self-developed structured questionnaire titled Information Needs and Information Seeking Behaviour of Antenatal Patients Questionnaire (INISBAPQ) was used for data collection. The instrument was structured into four clusters with Yes and No response options. Data collected were analysed using frequency counts and percentages, with a 50% benchmark for decision-making. The findings revealed that antenatal patients needed information on pregnancy-related symptoms, emotional support, labour, safe delivery, family planning, newborn care, immunisation, nutrition, breastfeeding, prevention and management of vesico-vaginal fistula, vaccination and healthy lifestyles during pregnancy. The findings further showed that the major sources of information included doctors, nurses, radio, television, friends, family members, other antenatal patients, non-governmental organisations and chemist stores. However, books, hospital libraries, magazines, newspapers, social media, pamphlets and antenatal health education classes were not commonly identified as information sources. The study also revealed that antenatal patients sought information to promote foetal wellbeing, reduce pregnancy complications, improve their psychological and physiological conditions, adhere to medical treatment, cope effectively with pregnancy and understand available healthcare services. The study concluded that antenatal patients have diverse information needs and depend largely on accessible sources to obtain information necessary for their wellbeing and that of their unborn babies. It was recommended, among others, that hospital libraries provide relevant pregnancy-related information materials in local languages, organise health information education programmes and create awareness of available information resources to improve antenatal patients' access to reliable health information.

INTRODUCTION

Pregnancy, particularly first pregnancy, is a major transition in every woman‘s life. This is particularly so as a pregnant woman (antenatal patient) finds herself in a unique and relatively new context, in which she undergoes major physical, psychological, and social transformations. During pregnancy, a woman may experience doubts and uncertainties about her new identity as a potential mother and her lifestyle may in turn trigger her to rethink and reconsider a lot of things about herself. Pregnancy is not only a period of physical changes but also a period in a woman‘s life when health related behaviours are most vital as decisions taken in pregnancy could affect the life of a mother and her unborn fetus.

Complications from pregnancy constitute number one cause of death among women of reproductive age. About 287,000 women die of pregnancy-related complications each year (World Health Organization, 2015). In Nigeria, 36,000 women experience childbirth related death per year, accounting for about 13 percent of the global maternal death rates (Demographic Health Survey, 2015). As a result, several pregnant women are experiencing pregnancy related fears, concern, and uncertainty. Annually, thousands of women are faced with pregnancy-related complications, most of which are attributed to haemorrhage, puerperal sepsis, obstructed labour, hypertensive disorders, and unsafe abortions (Olatunji & Sule-Odu as cited in Akeju, Oladapo, Vidler, Akinmade, Sawchuck, Qureshi, Solarin, Adetoro & von Dadelszen, 2016). Transition to parenthood along with the new experience of being pregnant is a very stressful situation for many women, especially first-time mothers. It is not easily manageable if their pregnancy comes with the side effects such as nausea, back pain, malnutrition, abnormal cramps and ache, abnormal vaginal discharge and sleeping problems among others. For pregnant women to adequately live healthy life and ensure the safe delivery of their babies, they need to search and acquire information necessary for healthy living.

Information generally connotes data that have been collected about events in a given society processed into messages for the purpose of consumption and dissemination. It is an indispensable tool in all aspects of human day-to-day existence and wellbeing. Ugbonna (2010) stated that information is a major resource that is needed in every sphere of life endeavour especially in health matters. It is an essential resource for an individual’s growth and survival. There is often the need for individuals to obtain timely and relevant information. Corragio (2011) avers that lack of information is the denial of choices and opportunities for living better life. No wonder Section 38 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria recognises information and

access to it as a "fundamental human right". It is the duty of any responsible government or constituted authority to ensure that none of her subjects suffers from any form of information deprivation. Information assists in reducing the degree of uncertainty and ignorance in the operating environment (Ariyo in Ebijuwa, Ogunmodede & Oyetola, 2013).

Information is seen as one of the crucial elements of human wellbeing. Access to information is regarded as a vital resource if any individual is to function effectively in the society. Antenatal patients, just like any other category of people in the society, require the same accessibility to information if they are to function effectively. Having a baby is a major life event, and for many women, particularly those having a first baby, it is a time when they seek information to help them during the transition to parenthood (Shieh, Broome & Stump 2010).Information is very important to antenatal patients in the sense that when information is adequately passed across at the right time inform of enlightenment, it helps in saving the lives of others and the unborn babies. Communication of medical information is an important factor in the delivery of quality medical care thereby reducing the morbidity and mortality rates of antenatal patients (Williams and Jellif (2013).Information is considered as a major ingredient in enhancing the wellbeing of an individual and as such needed in time of pregnancy. The availability, access to and utilization of health information would, no doubt, translate to a safe delivery and healthy lifestyle for a woman during pregnancy thereby reducing maternal mortality. According to Ojewole and Oludipe (2017), women are prone to seek out information necessary to meet the demand posed during pregnancy.

The search for information by pregnant women starts with the identification of a gap in knowledge, for which she makes an effort to bridge. As noted by Allen in Unuoha and Amuda (2013), information need occurs whenever an individual's knowledge fails. Dervin Unuoha and Amuda (2013) also point out that information need results from the effort of making sense which thus results in bridging of gap in an individual's knowledge. Similarly, Ozoiko (2007) stated that information needs arises from an imbalance existing between what a person knows and what the person is supposed to know. In order words, there is a gap existing between the present situation and the more desirable situation. However, information needs of various groups of people including antenatal patients may depend on the nature of the environment they find themselves. When a need is felt for something, more often than not, people take action in order to satisfy the need and different strategies or modes of actions are resorted to.

Antenatal patients need information for their wellbeing during pregnancy. Notable amongst information needed by pregnant women are information on nutrition especially those that are available locally and affordable, their nutritional values and the effects of deficiencies in such food, information on exercise and rest, coping with pregnancy stress like dizziness, spitting and mood change among others. Saleh and Lasisi (2011) identified the most paramount health information needs of pregnant women as antenatal and post-natal care, immunizations especially on the six killer diseases, how to prevent and manage Vascular Virginal Fistula VVF, and how to safely deliver pregnancy. This is particularly so as pregnant women often express concern over antenatal and post-natal care. During pregnancy, antenatal patients seek information to cope with the challenges along their transition to parenthood. The strategies used by people just like antenatal patients or pregnant women in order to satisfy their need for information is known as information seeking behaviour.

Information Seeking Behaviour entails the search for information that might contribute to understanding and meaning required in order to meet a need. To satisfy that particular need the user may need to consult either formal or informal sources (Kulthau, 2011).Healthcare information seeking behavior is an activity undertaken by individuals who perceive they have a health problem or are ill for the purpose of finding an appropriate remedy (Uzochukwu & Onwujekwe, in Okoronkwo, Odira, Nwaneri, Okpala & Okafor 2016). The choice of where to seek healthcare depends on many factors which include availability of a skilled provider within the community, type of facility, the cost of treatment, and arrangement for payment (Chuma, Gilson, & Molyneux, 2007).Evidence shows that antenatal patients just like every other person seeking information will not rely on only one source due to different source characteristics (Sanginan, 2018). According to the author, there are some sources that provide less credible information but are easily accessible, while other sources with credible information are not readily accessible. Therefore, the information seeker goes through various sources in order to confirm the credibility of the information found earlier. Wilson (2010) notes that in the course of seeking information, an individual may interact with manual information in the form of newspaper or a library or with computer–based systems such as the web. Information can, therefore, be derived from a variety of sources, including books, journals, the Internet, friends/relatives, persons at the workplace or professional advisors.

The importance of exploring information needs of pregnant women cannot be over-emphasized as it has attracted the attention of governments and many researchers (Hämeen-Anttila Jyrkkä, Enlund, Nordeng, Lupattelli,& Kokki2013; Malata & Chirwa, 2011; Ogunmodede et al., 2013). Identifying and considering women needs, especially antenatal patients in the development of educational plans enables women to function more effectively in their responsibilities which is the drive of this study. As the availability of information has significantly increased during the last decade, accessing the right information from the right source has become a debatable issue. Hence, identifying pregnant women's information needs and the information sources they frequently seek, can help with mapping a guideline

for healthcare professionals in order to assist them in the best way possible.

In Nigeria, and particularly Plateau State, information seeking behavior of antenatal patients remains poor and poses one of the greatest challenges to maternal mortality reduction in the country as observed by the researcher. The researcher also observed that many pregnant women avoid seeking antenatal care until they go into labour. This scenario seems to be detrimental to the wellbeing of the mothers and their babies. It is against this backdrop that this study seeks to unravel the information needs and information seeking behaviour of antenatal patients in hospitals ofJos Metropolis, Plateau State, Nigeria.

Statement of the Problem

Having a baby is a major life event, and for many women, particularly those having a first baby. It is a time when they seek information to help them during the transition to parenthood. Information has been recognized over the world as an important tool for making decisions and reducing uncertainty. Health information is an important component of antenatal care as it provides opportunity for discussion between pregnant women and health care providers about health behaviour during pregnancy and about recognizing complications that may arise during pregnancy. In the recent years, health promotion programmes worldwide have been premised on the idea that providing reliable and quality information about causes of ill health, choices and health care available. This had gone a long way towards promoting a change in antenatal patients' behaviours towards more beneficial health information seeking behaviours.

However, despite the abundance of information resources in a variety of sources, literature still reveals that mortality rate among pregnant women is still high especially in Nigeria and other developing countries. Where such situation continues to exist, more women would likely die from preventable pregnancy related causes. Could this be that the antenatal patients do not have information needs or finds it difficult to go about searching for information they need? This question bothers the researcher which warranted her investigation. It is in the light of this that the study sought to investigate the information needs and information seeking behaviour of antenatal patients in hospitals of Jos Metropolis, Plateau State, Nigeria.

Objectives of the Study

The purpose of this study was to investigate the information needs and information seeking behaviour of antenatal patients in hospitals of Jos Metropolis, Plateau State, Nigeria. Specifically, the study sought to achieve the following objectives:

1. Ascertain the information needs of antenatal patients in Jos Metropolis, Plateau State, Nigeria
2. Determine the information sources of antenatal patients in Jos Metropolis, Plateau State, Nigeria
3. Ascertain the purpose to which antenatal patients seek information in hospitals of Jos Metropolis, Plateau State Nigeria

Research Questions

The following research questions were raised to guide the study:

1. What are the information needs of antenatal patients in hospitals of Jos metropolis, Plateau State, Nigeria?
2. What are the information sources of antenatal patients in Jos metropolis, Plateau State, Nigeria?
3. Of what purpose do antenatal patients seek information in hospitals of Jos metropolis, Plateau State, Nigeria?

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Information Needs of Antenatal Patients

The information need (or need for information) is a factual situation in which, there exists an inseparable interconnection with "information" and "need". Information needs can therefore be said to be the amount of positive information an individual or group of users need to have for their work, recreation and many other like satisfaction (Nwobasi, Uwa & Ossai-Onah 2013). Thus, information need arise wherever individuals find themselves in a situation requiring knowledge to deal with the situation as they see fit. In other words, lack of information needed to accomplish a task results in information need. Information needs are diverse and constantly changing and not amenable to generalisation. Information needs can be social, economical, political, cultural or educational. However, information need is characterised mostly by the information seeking behavior of the person in need of information.

According to Ehikhamen or in Emmanuel and Jegede (2011), information need could be referred to as the extent to which information is required to solve problems, as well as the degree of expressed satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the information. Chin-Chih and Hernon in Emmanuel and Jegede (2011), posited that information need arises whenever individuals find themselves in a situation requiring knowledge to deal with the situation as they deem fit. Wilson in Emmanuel and Jegede (2011) opined that information needs are influenced by a variety of factors such as the range of information sources available, the uses to which the information will be put, the background, motivation, professional orientation and individual characteristics of the user.

The search for information by antenatal patients begins with the identification of a gap in knowledge, for which she makes an effort to bridge. As noted by Allen in Unuoha and Amuda (2013) information need occurs

whenever an individual's knowledge fails. Dervin Unuoha and Amuda (2013) also point out that information need results from the effort of making sense which thus results in bridging of gap in an individual's knowledge. Similarly, Ozoiko (2007) stated that information needs arises from an imbalance existing between what a person knows and what the person is supposed to know. In order words, there is a gap existing between the present situation and the more desirable situation. However, information needs of various groups of people including antenatal patients may depend on the nature of the environment they find themselves. When a need is felt for something, more often than not, people take action in order to satisfy the need and different strategies or modes of actions are resorted to.

Antenatal patients need information for their wellbeing during pregnancy. Notable amongst information needed by pregnant women are information on nutrition especially those that are available locally and affordable, their nutritional values and the effects of deficiencies in such food, information on exercise and rest, coping with pregnancy stress like dizziness, spitting, mood change, etc. (Williams and Jellif 2013). Ebijuwa, Ogunmodede and Oyetola (2013) reported that pregnant women need information on maternity, delivery, breastfeeding, pregnancy period, post-natal care, immunisation and family planning. In a related study Saleh and Lasisi (2011) identified the most paramount health information needs of pregnant women as antenatal and post-natal care, immunisations especially on the six killer diseases, how to prevent and manage Vascular Virginal Fistula VVF, and how to safely deliver pregnancy. Giugliani; Caiaffe; Vogelhut; Witter and Perman in Onuoha and Amuda (2013) on the other hand, identified information relating to baby feeding as an information need of pregnant women. According to the authors, this is particularly so as women often express concern over breastfeeding and formula feeding. Kamali, Ahmadian, Khajouei and Bahaadinbeigy (2017) identified the information needs of antenatal patients to include symptoms of pregnancy, pregnancy complications, effects of pregnancy on mother's body, development and growth of the fetus, care of fetus, vaccination in pregnancy, special tests during pregnancy, nutrition in pregnancy, taking medicines in pregnancy, consumption of tobacco and alcohol, exercise in pregnancy, effect of pregnancy on work, control of physical and psychological problems, personal hygiene, sexual activity in pregnancy, identification of healthcare centers, choosing a care provider, prenatal classes and methods of delivery. Others according to the authors are labour pain and its relief methods, infant feeding, newborn care, postpartum care, physical and psychological complications after delivery and family planning

Information Seeking Behaviour of Antenatal Patients

Information Seeking Behaviour entails the search for information that might contribute to understanding and meaning required in order to meet a need. It is described as an individual's way and manner of gathering and obtaining information for personal use, knowledge, updating and development. It is a broad term, which involves a set of actions that an individual, such as antenatal patient, takes to express information needs, seek information, evaluate and select information and finally uses this information to satisfy her information needs (Fatima and Ahmad, 2008). In other words, information seeking behaviour involves active or purposeful information as a result of the need (Nwobasi, Uwa & Ossai-Onah, 2013).

Information seeking behaviour is the purposive seeking for information by individuals as a consequence of a need to satisfy goals (Wilson, 2008). The concept of "information seeking behaviour" was coined in the late 1990s, but it traces its roots to the concept of "information needs and uses" that arose inthe 1960s (Khan and Shafique, 2011). In the course of seeking, the individual may interact with manual information systems such as a journals or a library, or with computer-based systems such as the World Wide Web.

Singh and Satija (2008) see information seeking behaviour as a human process that requires adaptive and reflective control over the afferent and efferent actions of the information seeker in which information seeking behaviour results from the recognition of some needs, perceived by the user, who as a consequence makes demand upon a formal system such as libraries and information centres or some other person in order to satisfy the perceived information need. Singh and Satija (2008) pointed out that information seeking behaviour essentially refers to actions to locate discrete knowledge elements concerned with the three basic resources namely, people, information and system.

Information is needed in all stages of human development but information seeking can often be an expensive and time-consuming process. Time could be spent in sifting through irrelevant items to locate the required piece of information (Oketunji & Oketunji, 2016). Thus the information seeking behaviour is used here to include all activities comparing information seeking, information gathering, retrieving and communication activities performed in the library. It deals with behaviour and actions exhibited by human beings in their search for information to satisfy diverse information needs (Abubakar, 2010).Thus, information seeking is a kind of communication behaviour, which may be influenced by many factors, person's working environment; his/her wish to resolve the abnormality (Bhattacharjee, Sinha & Bhattacharjee, 2014). According to the authors, it involves personal reasons for seeking information, the kinds of information which are being sought, and the way sand sources with which needed information is being sought.

Purpose of Information Seeking by Antenatal Patients

The aim of health education during antenatal is to provide advice, education, reassurance and support, to address and treat the minor problems of pregnancy, and to provide effective screening during the pregnancy. Exploring current practices in this regard revealed the need for more organized educational activities to ensure high quality and clients satisfaction. Antenatal patients seek information for different purposes. Getting medical and health information about pregnancy improves individuals' knowledge, reduces uncertainty and stress in dealing with medical problems, and increases their interaction with the doctor. On the other hand, gaining health information during pregnancy can lead to self-care, awareness raising and the best results of pregnancy (Shieh, McDaniel & Ke 2009)

Information exchange during pregnancy is a tool that facilitates women's decision making process regarding prenatal and postnatal care as well as the care of their newborn infants, so that they can better manage their pregnancy (Mander in Das, 2013). Information provided to pregnant women ought to enable women to identify pregnancy-related problems when they occur, as well as engaging in preventive health practices that would lead to the safe delivery of their child. Das (2013) states that pregnant women seek information in order to learn about their pregnancy, childbirth, and parenting; and to have any potential health problems diagnosed and treated at the earliest possible stage. The goal of providing information is to prepare antenatal patients for their treatment, to improve their adherence to therapy, to help them cope with their illness and to promote their recovery (van der Meulen, Jansen, van Dulmen, Bensing, & van Weert, 2008). Providing timely and accurate information is required (Wasike & Tenya, 2013) to reduce patients' distress, anxiety and dissatisfaction, which may negatively affect patients' health and quality of life. In the view of the authors, pregnant women seek information during pregnancy to prepare themselves for their maternal responsibilities. Al-Ateeq and Al-Rusaiess (2015) submitted that antenatal patients seek information to get advice, education, reassurance and support, to address and treat the minor problems of pregnancy, and to obtain effective screening during the pregnancy.

METHODOLOGY

The study adopted a descriptive research design. Descriptive research design is one which is aimed at collecting data and describing in a systematic manner the characteristics, features, or facts about a given population. The design interested in describing certain variables in relation to the population. In this design, hypotheses are not tested since it is concerned with a description of events as they are. It is used to describe characteristics of a population or phenomenon being studied. The design is considered suitable for this study because data on the information needs and seeking behavior of antenatal patients in Jos metropolis, Plateau State will be collected in order to describe their information needs, sources of their information, the purpose which they seek for information and the barriers affecting their information seeking.

The population for the study comprises 5132 registered antenatal patients in 10 public hospitals in Jos Metropolis of Plateau State which include: Specialist Hospital, Bingham University Teaching Hospital, Jos University Teaching Hospital, Cocin Hospital, Federal Low Cost Clinic and Maternity, Dadin Kowa Comprehensive Health Center, Primary Health Center Bukuru, Primary Health Center Angware, Quintessential Health Center, Jos and Oasis Medical Center, Jos (Plateau State Hospital Management Board, PSHMB 2019). This population was obtained as at 3rd April, 2019.

The sample size for the study comprises 372 registered antenatal patients in the 10 public hospitals of Jos Metropolis, Plateau State. The sample size was determined using Taro Yamane (1969) sample size determination formula

The instrument for data collection for this study was self-developed structured questionnaire titled "Information Needs and Information Seeking Behaviour of Antenatal Patients Questionnaire" (INISBAPQ). The questionnaire is divided into four (4) Clusters: A, B, C and D with response options of Yes and No for each cluster. The researcher believes that this response option were much easier for both literate and illiterate antenatal patients to make their choices known.

Data collected was analyzed using descriptive statistics of frequency counts, percentages to answer the research question. For the percentages, a benchmark of 50% was used. Hence a research question with a grand percentage of 50% and above was considered tenable to agree while 50% below was disagreed.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section is concerned with data presentation, analysis, interpretation and discussion of findings. The presentation follows the sequence of the research questions answered and hypotheses tested.

Research Question 1

What are the information needs of antenatal patients in hospitals of Jos Metropolis, Plateau State, Nigeria?
To answer this research question, data on the information needs of antenatal patients in hospitals of Jos Metropolis, Plateau State, Nigeria were collected and analyzed as presented on Table 1.

Table 1: Frequency Counts and Percentages of Responses on the Information Needs of antenatal patients in hospitals of Jos Metropolis, Plateau State, Nigeria

SN	Info Needs	FREQUENCY		PERCENTAGE (%)		
		YES	NO	YES	NO	DECISION
1	Coping with dizziness in pregnancy	338	34	90.9	9.1	YES
2	Coping with spitting	318	54	85.5	14.5	YES
3	Coping with pregnancy related mood change	220	152	59.1	40.9	YES
4	Emotional support	235	137	63.2	36.8	YES
5	Labour	322	50	86.6	13.4	YES
6	Safe delivery	326	46	87.6	12.4	YES
7	Family planning	314	84	84.4	15.6	YES
8	Newborn baby care	350	22	94.1	5.9	YES
9	Immunization	372	0	100	0.00	YES
10	Nutrition/diet	300	72	80.6	19.4	YES
11	Breastfeeding	310	62	83.3	16.7	YES
12	How to prevent and manage vesico-vaginal fistula (VVF)	340	32	91.4	8.6	YES
13	Sex during pregnancy	311	61	83.6	16.4	YES
14	Vaccination in pregnancy	325	47	87.4	12.6	YES
15	Lifestyle during pregnancy	312	60	83.9	16.1	YES

Table 1 shows the information needs of antenatal patients in hospitals of Jos Metropolis, Plateau State, Nigeria in Frequencies and Percentages. As revealed on the table, all items (1-24) have their percentage values above the benchmark of 50% and are considered the information needs of antenatal patients in hospitals of Jos Metropolis, Plateau State, Nigeria.

Research Question 2

What are the information sources of antenatal patients in Jos Metropolis, Plateau State, Nigeria?

To answer this research question, data on the information sources of antenatal patients in Jos Metropolis, Plateau State, Nigeria were collected and analyzed as presented on Table 2.

Table 2: Frequency Counts and Percentages of Responses on the Information Sources of antenatal patients in Jos Metropolis, Plateau State, Nigeria

S/NO	Sources	FREQUENCY		PERCENTAGE (%)		DECISION
		YES	NO	YES	NO	
25	Books	70	302	18.8	81.2	NO
26	Hospital libraries	52	320	14.0	86.0	NO
27	Magazines	72	300	19.4	80.6	NO
28	Newspaper	82	290	22.1	77.9	NO
29	Radio	295	77	79.3	20.7	YES
30	Television	300	72	80.6	19.4	YES
31	Social Media Sites	75	297	20.2	79.8	NO
32	Friends	290	82	77.9	22.1	YES
33	Family Members	287	85	77.2	22.8	YES
34	Traditional Healers	130	242	34.9	65.1	NO
35	Doctors	372	00	100	0.00	YES
36	Nurses	325	47	87.4	12.6	YES
37	Bulletins/Newsletters	74	298	19.9	80.1	NO
38	Pamphlets	105	267	28.2	71.8	NO
39	Other antenatal patients	300	72	80.6	19.4	YES
40	Pre-natal health care education classes	18	354	4.8	95.2	NO
41	Non-governmental organizations (NGOs).	279	93	75.0	25.0	YES
42	Chemists stores	315	57	84.8	15.2	YES
43	Physicians	28	344	7.5	92.5	NO

Table 2 shows the information sources of antenatal patients in hospitals of Jos metropolis, Plateau State, Nigeria in Frequencies and Percentages. As revealed on the table, items 25, 26, 27, 28, 31, 34, 37, 38, 40 and 43 have 'percentage yes' values less than the benchmark of 50%. Other items (29, 30, 32, 33, 35, 36, 39, 41 and 42) have their 'percentage yes' values above the benchmark of 50% and are considered the information sources of antenatal patients in hospitals of Jos metropolis, Plateau State, Nigeria.

Research Question 3

Of what purpose do antenatal patients seek information in hospitals of Jos metropolis, Plateau State, Nigeria?
To answer this research question, data on the purpose to which antenatal patients seek information in hospitals of Jos metropolis, Plateau State, Nigeria were collected and analyzed as presented on Table 3.

Table 3: Frequency Counts and Percentages of Responses on the purpose to which antenatal patients seek information in hospitals of Jos metropolis, Plateau State, Nigeria

S/no	ITEMS	FREQUENCY		PERCENTAGE (%)		DECISION
		YES	NO	YES	NO	
1	Wellbeing of the foetus	321	51	86.3	13.7	YES
2	To reduce pregnancy complications	354	18	95.2	4.8	YES
3	To improve psychological or physiological status	349	23	93.8	6.2	YES
4	To adhere to treatment	360	12	96.7	3.3	YES
5	To improve the level of coping with pregnancy	336	36	90.3	9.7	YES
6	To improve understanding on types of services provided during pregnancy	324	48	87.1	12.9	YES

Table 3 shows the purpose to which antenatal patients seek information in hospitals of Jos metropolis, Plateau State, Nigeria in Frequencies and Percentages. As revealed on the table, all items (44- 49) have their 'percentage yes' values above the benchmark of 50% and are considered as the purpose to which antenatal patients seek information in hospitals of Jos metropolis, Plateau State, Nigeria

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

With regards to the findings of the study, the following discussions were made. The first finding of the study revealed that the information needs of antenatal patients in hospitals of Jos Metropolis, Plateau State, Nigeria include information on: coping with dizziness in pregnancy, coping with spitting, coping with pregnancy related mood change, emotional support, labour, safe delivery, family planning, newborn baby care, immunization, nutrition/diet and breastfeeding. Others include information on how to prevent and manage vesico-vaginal fistula (VVF), sex during pregnancy, vaccination in pregnancy, lifestyle during pregnancy, symptoms of pregnancy, pregnancy complications, effects of pregnancy on mother's body, development and growth of the foetus, care of the foetus, special tests during pregnancy, taking medicines during pregnancy, exercise during pregnancy and effect of pregnancy on work. This finding corroborate with that of Ogunmodede, Ebijuwa and Oyetola (2013) who examined health information needs and information sources of pregnant women in Ogbomoso Metropolis, Oyo State, Nigeria and reported the information needs of pregnant women to include information on maternity, information on delivery and information on breast feeding among others. Similarly, the finding agrees with that of Kamali, Ahmadian, Khajouei and Bahaadinbeigy (2017); Onuoha and Amuda (2013) and Ojewole and Oludipe (2017) who in separate studies, reported the information needs of antenatal patients to include: symptoms of pregnancy, pregnancy complications, effects of pregnancy on mother's body, development and growth of the fetus, care of fetus, vaccination in pregnancy, special tests during pregnancy, nutrition in pregnancy, taking medicines in pregnancy, consumption of tobacco and alcohol, exercise in pregnancy and effect of pregnancy on work. This finding as observed could be that antenatal patients in Jos Metropolis have a plethora of information needs that they seek to meet for their wellbeing and that of their unborn babies.

The second finding of the study revealed the information sources of antenatal patients in hospitals of Jos metropolis, Plateau State, Nigeria to include: radio, televisions, friends, family members, doctors, nurses, other antenatal patients, Non-Governmental Organizations and chemist stores. Sources such as books, hospital libraries, magazines, newspapers, traditional healers, social media sites, newsletter/bulletins, Physicians and pamphlets were not

considered their information sources. This finding agrees with that of Ogunmodede, Ebijuwa and Oyetola (2013) who reported the sources of information of pregnant women to include, maternity health center, local chemists and primary health. The finding also corroborate with that of Ojewole and Oludipe (2017) whose study on pregnancy-related information need and information-seeking pattern among pregnant women attending antenatal clinic at Ikorodu General Hospital, Lagos State, Nigeria reported that pregnant women depend on their doctors, mother-in-laws for their information needs. The finding however disagree with that of Egbuniwe, Egboka and Nwankwo (2016) whose study to determine the health seeking behaviour of pregnant women attending antenatal clinic in primary health care centres in Nnewi North Local Government area of Anambra State reported that herbalists and traditional birth attendants are among the information sources of pregnant women. The finding also disagree with that of Kamali, Ahmadian, Khajouei and Bahaadinbeigy (2017); Sanginan (2018) who reported printed sources, mass media, internet, mobile applications, books, brochures and physicians as amongst information sources of antenatal patients. Further, the finding disagree with that of Onuoha and Amuda (2013) who investigated the information seeking behaviour of pregnant women in selected hospitals of Ibadan Metropolis and reported pre-natal health education classes, books, newspaper/magazines, pamphlets and internet as among the information sources of pregnant women. This finding as observed could be that antenatal patients in Jos metropolis seek information mostly from sources that are easily accessible to them in order to meet their information needs.

The third finding of the study revealed that, the purposes to which antenatal patients seek information in hospitals of Jos metropolis, Plateau State, Nigeria include: wellbeing of the foetus, reducing pregnancy complications, improving psychological or physiological status, adhering to treatment, improving the level of coping with pregnancy and improving understanding on types of services provided during pregnancy. This finding corroborate with that of Kamali, Ahmadian, Khajouei and Bahaadinbeigy (2017) who reported that pregnant women look for information when they are suffering from a disease or pregnancy complications. The finding also agrees with the submission of Al-Ateeq and Al-Rusaiess (2015) that antenatal patients seek information to get advice, education, reassurance and support, to address and treat the minor problems of pregnancy, and to obtain effective screening during the pregnancy. Similarly, this finding agrees with the assertion of van der Meulen, Jansen, van Dulmen, Bensing and van Weert (2008) that the goal of seeking for information is to get prepared for their treatment, to improve their adherence to therapy, to help them cope with their illness and to promote recovery (van der Meulen, Jansen, van Dulmen, Bensing, & van Weert, 2008). This finding as observed could be that antenatal patients in Jos Metropolis need extensive information to be able to take care of themselves and their babies.

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of the study, the researcher concluded that antenatal patients in Jos Metropolis just like any another category of human beings have different information needs regarding their pregnancies particularly for their wellbeing and that of their unborn babies. They obtain the information from the most available and accessible sources to them. The antenatal patients also have varying purposes to which they seek for information and they are all tailored towards improving their wellbeing and that of the foetus. There are however, a plethora of challenges that affect the antenatal patients in seeking for their needed information which needs to be surmounted.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations were made:

1. Hospital libraries through their collection development policies should acquire and provide relevant information materials in local languages for the antenatal patients that can cater for their needs.
2. Hospital libraries should endeavor to provide health education for antenatal patients that can acquaint them with knowledge on how to use hospital library catalogue to address their information needs.
3. Librarians in hospital libraries should embark on awareness creation of pregnancy related information resources that are available in their catalogues to the public through channels like posters, local conferences and town meetings. This can improve the awareness of antenatal patients on the available information resources that they can use to meet their information needs.

REFERENCES

Abubakar, A. B. (2010). A Snapshot of Information-Seeking Behavior Literature in Health Sciences: a Bibliometric Approach. *Library Philosophy and Practice,* 2010.

Aforo, A. A. & Lamptey, R. B. (2012). Information needs and the information seeking behaviour of Law Lecturers in Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana. *International Research Journal of Arts and Social Sciences* (ISSN: 2251-0028) 1(4), 75-80

Akeju, D. O., Oladapo, O. T., Vidler, M., Akinmade, A. A., Sawchuck, D., Qureshi, R., Solarin, M. Adetoro, O. O & von Dadelszen, P. (2016).

Determinants of health care seeking behaviour during pregnancy in Ogun State, Nigeria. *Reproductive Health*, 13(1), 32.

Al-Ateeq, M. A. and Al-Rusaiess, A. A. ,(2015). Health education during antenatal care: the need for more. *International Journal of Women's Health*, 7 239–242.

Bernhardt, J. M., & Felter E. M. (2014). Online Pediatric Information seeking among mothers of young children: Results from a Qualitative studying using focus group. *Journal of Medical Internet Resources* 6(1), 302-317.

Bhattacharjee, S., Sinha, M. K. & Bhattacharjee, S. (2014). Information Needs and Information Seeking Behaviour of College Library Users of Cachar District, Assam: A Case Study. *International Journal of Emerging Trends in Library and Information Society,* ISSN: 2320-5040, 2(1) 11-24

Chuma J, Gilson, L., Molyneux, C. (2007) Treatment-seeking behaviour, cost burdens and coping strategies among rural and urban households in Coastal Kenya: An equity analysis. *Trop Med Int Health,* 12:673-86.

Corragio, F. (2011).Information needs of women in developing countries. Accessed at http://www.slideshare.net/fcorragio on 8th November, 2018.

Dairo, M. D. & Owoyokun, K. E. (2010). Factors affecting the utilization of antenatal care services in College Of Medicine Ibadan,Nigeria. *Benin Journal of Postgraduate Medicine*, 12(1), 1-12

Das, A. (2013). Information-Seeking among Pregnant Women: A Mixed Method Approach. Electronic Theses, Treatises and Dissertations: Paper 7348. Retrieve fromhttp://diginole.lib.fsu.edu/etd

Demographic Health Services (2015). Demographic and health surveys 2015. Retrieved from http:dhsprogram.com/

Department of Health Victoria. Victorian Maternity Record. Department of Health, Melbourne; 2009

Du, H.-S., Ma, J.-J., & Li, M. (2016). High-quality health information provision for stroke patients. *Chinese Medical Journal*, 129, 2115. https://doi.org/10.4103/0366-6999.189065

Egbuniwe M. C., Egboka, O L. & Nwankwo U. (2016). Health seeking behaviour amongst pregnant women attending antenatal clinic in primary health care centres in rural communities of Nnewi North L.G.A Anambra State. *Journal of Research in Nursing and Midwifery (JRNM)* (ISSN: 2315-568), 5(1) 001-010,

Emmanuel. O. S. & Jegede, O. R. (2011). Information Needs and Information Seeking Behaviour and Use of Information Resources by MBA Students at a Nigerian University. *An International Multidisciplinary Journal, Ethiopia* 5 (4), 250-264

Fatima, N. and Ahamed, N. (2008) Information seeking behaviour of the students at Ajmal Khan Tibbiya, Aligarh Muslim University: a survey. *Annals of Library and Information Studies*, 55, 141-144

Federal Republic of Nigeria : *2006 Population Census"(PDF)*. Web.archive.org. Archived from *the original(PDF)* on March 5, 2012*. Retrieved 22 November 2018*.

Grimes, H.A., Forster, D.A., & Newton, M.S. (2014). Sources of information used by women during pregnancy to meet their information needs. *Midwifery*, 30, e26–e33. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.midw.2013.10.007.

Grimes, H.A., Forster, D.A., Newton, M.S. (2014). Sources of information used by women during pregnancy to meet their information needs. *Midwifery* 30, e26–e33

Hämeen-Anttila, K., Jyrkkä, J., Enlund, H., Nordeng, H., Lupattelli, A., & Kokki, E. (2013). Medicines information needs during pregnancy: A multinational comparison. *British Medical Journal Open*, 3, e002594. https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjopen-2013-002594

Heesen, C., Köpke, S., Kasper, J., Poettgen, J., Tallner, A., Mohr, D.C., & Gold, S. M. (2012). Behavioral interventions in multiple sclerosis: A biopsychosocial perspective. *Expert Review of Neurotherapeutics*, 12, 1089–1100. https://doi.org/10.1586/ern.12.103

Heesen, C., Solari, A., Giordano, A., Kasper, J., & Köpke, S. (2011). Decisions on multiple sclerosis immunotherapy: New treatment complexities urge patient engagement. *Journal of the Neurological Sciences*, 306, 192–197. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jns.2010.09.012.

Hsieh, Y. &Brennan, P. F. (2005). What Are Pregnant Women's Information Needs and Information Seeking Behaviors Prior to Their Prenatal Genetic Counseling? *AMIA Annual Symposium Proceedings Archive*, 355–359

Husson, O., Mols, F., & Van de Poll-Franse, L. V. (2011). The relation between information provision and health-related quality of life, anxiety and depression among cancer survivors: A systematic review. *Annals of Oncology*, 22, 761–772. https://doi.org/10.1093/annonc/mdq413

Kabir, R. & Khan, H. T. A (2013). Utilization of Antenatal care among pregnant women of Urban Slums of Dhaka City, Bangladesh. *IOSR Journal of Nursing and Health Science***,** 2(2), 15-19

Kamali, S., Ahmadian, L., Khajouei, R. &Bahaadinbeigy, K. (2017). Health information needs of pregnant women: information sources, motives and barriers. *Health Information and Libraries Journal*, 35(3), 24-37. Retrieved from https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/hir.12200

Malata, A., & Chirwa, E. (2011). Childbirth information needs for first time Malawian mothers who attended antenatal clinics. *Malawi Medical Journal*, 23, 43–47. https://doi.org/10.4314/mmj.v23i2.70747.

Nwobasi, R. N., Uwa, E. O.&Ossai-Onah, O. V.(2013). Information Needs and Seeking Behaviour of Students in Two Universities in Imo State, Nigeria**.** *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal).* Paper (59). http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/

Ogunmodede, T. A., Ebijuwa, A. S., & Oyetola, S.O. (2013). Health information need and information sources of pregnant women in Ogbomoso Metropolis, Oyo State, Nigeria. *Library Philosophy and Practice*, 1.

Oketunji, S. F. & Oketunji, I. (2016). Information Needs and Information Seeking Behaviour of the Physically Challenged: A Survey of Modupe Cole Memorial Child Care & Treatment Home School Akoka, Lagos. *European Scientific Journal*, 12(13), 400-416

Okoronkwo, I. L., Odira, C. C., Nwaneri, A. C., Okpala, P. U. & Okafor, C. N. (2016). Patterns of Antenatal Care Seeking Behavior in South East Nigeria: Exploring Relationship with Age, Education, and Socioeconomic Status. *Journal of Basic and Clinical Reproductive Sciences*, 5(1), 40-45

Onuoha, U. D. & Amuda, A. A. (2013). Information Seeking Behaviour of Pregnant Women in Selected Hospitals of Ibadan Metropolis. *Journal of Information and Knowledge Management*, 4(1), 76-91

Saleh, A. D. & Lasisi, F. I. (2011).Information Needs and Information Seeking Behavior of Rural Women in Borno State, Nigeria. Retrieved from https://www.researchgate.net/publication/235758533_Information_Needs_and_Information_Seeking_Behavior_of_Rural_Women_in_Borno_State_Nigeria

Sanginan, T. (2018). Information needs during pregnancy from women's perspective With regards to cultural differences. Master's thesis in Telemedicine and E-health (TLM-3902), Department of Clinical Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences, The Arctic University of Norway. Retrieved from https://munin.uit.no/bitstream/handle/10037/13104/thesis.pdf?sequence=2

Sharma, M., & Sharma, S. (2012). Knowledge, attitude and beliefs of pregnant women towards safe motherhood in a rural Indian setting. *Social Sciences Directory*, 1(1).

Shieh, C., Broome, M.E., & Stump, T.E. (2010). Factors associated with health information-seeking in low-income pregnant women. *Women Health*, 50, 426–442. Retrieved from https://doi.org/10.1080/03630242.2010.506152

Shieh, C., McDaniel, A., Ke, I., 2009. Information–Seeking and its Predictors in Low-Income Pregnant Women. *Journal of midwifery women's Health*. 54, 364–372

Singh, K. P. & Satija, M. P. (2006) A review of research on information seeking of agricultural scientists: International perspectives. *DESIDOC Bulletin of Information Technology*, 26(2): 25-36

Tahir, M; Mahmood, K; & Shafique, F, (2008) "Information Needs and Information-Seeking Behavior of Arts and Humanities Teachers: A Survey of the University of the Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan" (2008). *Library Philosophy and Practice* (e-journal).227

Ugboma, B. (2010). Provision and use of legal information among civil rights groups in the oil producing communities of Nigeria. *Library Philosophy and Practice*, 2010.

Van der Meulen, N., Jansen, J., van Dulmen, S., Bensing, J., & van Weert, J. (2008). Interventions to improve recall of medical information in cancer patients: A systematic review of the literature. *Psycho-Oncology*, 17, 857–868. https://doi.org/10.1002/pon.1290.

Wasike, J.M., & Tenya, A. (2013). Provision of consumer health information: A case of Kenya Medical Training College and Provincial General Hospital, Nakuru County, Kenya. *International Journal of Library and Information Science*, 5, 140–146.

Cite this Article: Musa, CE; Igbashal, AA; Uganneyya, S (2026). Information Needs and Information Seeking Behaviour of Antenatal Patients in Hospitals of Jos Metropolis, Plateau State, Nigeria. *Greener Journal of Biomedical and Health Sciences*, 9(1): 226-236, https://doi.org/10.15580/gjbhs.2026.1.111626185**.**