

## Socio-Economic Characteristics and Pregnancy Induced Hypertension in the Women of Western Region of India

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### ABSTRACT

The aim of this study was to describe socio-economic characteristics and pregnancy induced hypertension in the women and compared with normotensive pregnant women. During years October 2007–June 2010, 150 pregnant subjects were interviewed after admission in Gynecology ward with a questionnaire. We recorded socio-economic data for each patient. The cases were again sub grouped as normotensive controls, preeclampsia and eclampsia. The parameters for measurement of socioeconomic status were taken according to updated Kuppuswamy's socioeconomic status scale. The proportion of women with pregnancy-induced hypertensive was higher among urban women, among women with lower educational level and among unemployed subjects in comparison with normotensive pregnant subjects. It is, therefore, concluded that higher incidence of eclampsia was in Indian women belonging to lower socioeconomic status.

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In the developing countries pregnancy induced hypertension (PIH) is the single most important preventable risk factor for disease and death. PIH is a form of hypertensive disorder of pregnancy. Its general prevalence is between 2-8% of pregnancies (Duley, 2000). It is a common cause of both maternal and perinatal morbidity and mortality in both developed and developing countries (Robson, 1999).

Assessment of socioeconomic status Kuppuswamy's scale is an important tool not only in hospital but also community based research in India (Kuppuswamy, 1981). This scale takes under consideration of education, occupation and income of the family to classify study groups in to high, middle and low socioeconomic status (Mishra and Singh, 2003). This revised prices scale for different socioeconomic status has shortcomings as educational and occupational factors also need to be revised by large scale survey and was updated Kuppuswamy's scale (Kumar *et al.*, 2007).

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study was carried out at Department of Biochemistry, Grant Medical College and

Sir J.J. Group of Government Hospitals, Mumbai over the period of October 2007 to June 2010. All participants completed a medical history form and provided informed consent. The Institutional Ethical Committee at the Grant Medical College and Sir J.J. Group of Government Hospitals, Mumbai, India, approved the study.

One hundred and fifty (150) pregnant subjects were interviewed after admission in Gynecology ward with a questionnaire. We recorded socio-economic data for each patient. The cases were again sub grouped as normotensive controls, preeclampsia and eclampsia. The parameters for measurement of socioeconomic status were taken according to updated Kuppuswamy's socioeconomic status scale.

Numerical variables were reported in terms of number and percentage of subject in each subgroup. Statistical analysis of results was done by normal distribution ' $\chi^2$ ' test. In this analysis, variables showing 'p' value less than 0.05 and 0.001 were considered to be statistically significant and highly significant, respectively.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

One fifty pregnant subjects taken under

### Key words :

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