ABSTRACT

No.1

Course	MPH	Name	Djan Daniel Kwadwo
Thesis Title	Socio-cultural determinants of high maternal mortality ratio and neonatal mortality rate in Ghana: A population-based study using data from Ghana's Demographic and Maternal Health Surveys.		

Background: Globally, 5.3million children died before reaching their fifth birthday in 2018 with 2.5million of these deaths occurring during the neonatal period and 295,000 maternal deaths were estimated annually in 2017 worldwide. Ghana is among the countries with high maternal morality ratio and neonatal mortality rate in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Maternal and neonatal deaths have been recognized as major problems hindering population development globally. They have been given extensive attention in the public health literature by both academics and health professionals over the past two decades.

Many researchers have focused on identifying why the death of a neonate and that of a mother during pregnancy, delivery or post childbirth are still high in SSA (Sub-Saharan Africa) irrespective of the interventions that have been implemented by international organizations and governments in the region.

Maternal and neonatal mortality may occur from a combination of several factors including social and cultural dimensions which have not been well explored in Ghana. To implement evidenced-based interventions to reduce maternal and neonatal deaths, it is crucial to investigate and identify socio-cultural factors associated with maternal and neonatal mortality.

Objective : To determine the socio-cultural factors associated with high maternal and neonatal mortalities in Ghana and to inform policy decision in addressing these challenges for the improvement of neonatal and maternal health.

Method : Data were drawn from the Ghana's 2014 Demographic Health Survey (GDHS) and 2017 Maternal Health Survey (GMHS). All singleton live births were selected from the DHS data as well as maternal mortality variables from the MHS data for analysis. Descriptive statistics and Chi-square test were performed. All statistical tests were set at 5% level of significant with a 95% confident interval

* The abstract, containing the objective, method, result and conclusion should not exceed 300-500 words.

ABSTRACT

No.2

Course	MPH	Name	Djan Daniel Kwadwo

Logistic regression model was used to analyze the socio-cultural determinants of maternal and neonatal mortality from the two data sets separately and a multivariate logistic regression was done using backward elimination procedure to examine the associated factors.

Result : The results showed that maternal and neonatal deaths are influenced by socio-cultural factors. Young maternal age of 15-19years [AOR=7.86; 95% CI 2.55 – 24.20; P-value <0.001], being married [AOR=2.63; 95% CI 1.58 – 4.39; P-value <0.001], and women who reported to the health facility [AOR=2.81; 95% CI 1.43 – 5.49 P-value <0.003] were significantly associated with maternal mortality.

High parity of five or more deliveries [(Adjusted odds ratio (AOR)=5.43; 95% CI 2.28 - 12.93; P-value <0.001)], health facility delivery [AOR=1.62; 95% CI 1.07 – 2.47; P-value <0.023] were significantly associate with neonatal deaths. Neonates with adequate birth spacing of more than 3years [AOR=0.23; 95% CI 0.07 – 0.78 P-value <0.018], higher birth order [AOR=0.20; 95% CI 0.08 – 0.46; P-value <0.001] reduced the likelihood of mortality during the first 28 days of birth.

Conclusion : Social and cultural factors should be taken into consideration when addressing maternal and child health issues. Interventions such as women empowerment through education, poverty alleviation programs, family planning together with other interventions such as health care infrastructure development as well as enhancing the quality of health care will help improve maternal health and neonatal survival.

* The abstract, containing the objective, method, result and conclusion should not exceed 300-500 words.