

Relationship between knowledge levels on malaria prevention and self-care actions in  
primigravidae aged 18 to 35 years at Harare Maternity Hospital.

By

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## ABSTRACT

Malaria in pregnancy remains an obstetric, social and medical problem despite national control programmes in Zimbabwe. An increase in the number of episodes of malaria is witnessed year after year in Zimbabwe, particularly at Harare Maternity Hospital (H.M.H). Mudambo and SADC Military Malaria Technical Committee, 2009 reported an import of malaria by military into Malaria Free Zones, south of the Zambezi River, which is a threat to malaria elimination in the SADC region. The purpose of this study was to examine the relationship between malaria prevention self-care knowledge and malaria episodes, among primigravidae at H.M.H. self-care model guided this study as a conceptual framework. A descriptive correlational study design was used. Quantitative Data were collected from a systematic sample of 80 participants using face to face interviews. Three questionnaires were developed by the investigator, namely the Demographic Data Questionnaire (DDQ), Malaria Episodes Questionnaire (MEQ) and Malaria Prevention Self-Care Knowledge Questionnaire (MPSCCKQ) were used as research instruments. Descriptive inferential statistics were used to analyse data, using the statistical package for Social Sciences. Pearson correlation coefficient was used to determine the self-care actions taken by *primigravidae* aged 18 to 35 years, if they were related to their knowledge. The findings revealed a positive borderline relationship between knowledge levels and self care actions, ( $r = .045$ ,  $p = <.693$ ). The findings showed that the higher the knowledge levels the more the *primigravidae* exhibited self-care actions in preventing malaria. The study ended with recommendations to empower *primigravidae* on skills to prevent malaria.

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## DEDICATION

I dedicate this dissertation to my husband Dr. P.K. Muchena for the support he gave me during the difficult times of carrying out this dissertation. Dedication also goes to my two daughters, Andrea & Annette. Lastly my dedication goes to my parents, Mr. T.W. and Mrs K. Jeranyama.

TABLE OF CONTENTS	PAGE
TITLE PAGE .....	i
ABSTRACT.....	ii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	iii
DEDICATION.....	iv
LIST OF TABLES.....	viii
LIST OF FIGURES .....	ix
LIST OF APPENDICES.....	x
CHAPTER 1 BACKGROUND AND ORGANISING FRAMEWORK	
Introduction.....	1
Problem Statement.....	1
Purpose of Study.....	4
Theoretical framework.....	4
Conceptual definition of terms .....	8
Research objectives.....	10
Research questions.....	10
Significance of the study.....	11
Summary.....	11
CHAPTER 2 LITERATURE REVIEW	
Episodes of Malaria (Self-Care Actions).....	14
Susceptibility to infection, knowledge levels on malaria.....	15
Malaria in pregnancy: Double Trouble.....	15
Theoretical model /framework.....	18
Summary.....	20

## CHAPTER 3 METHODOLOGY

Introduction.....	22
Research design.....	22
Sampling plan.....	23
Study site.....	24
Population.....	25
Inclusion criteria.....	25
Exclusion criteria.....	25
Sample size.....	26
Sampling Procedure.....	27
Instruments.....	28
Validity.....	28
Reliability.....	28
Pilot Study.....	29
Conceptual and Operational Definitions .....	30
Data Collection Plan.....	30
Human Rights Considerations.....	31
Data Analysis.....	31

## CHAPTER 4 RESULTS

Introduction.....	33
Demographic characteristics.....	34
Gestation.....	39
Self Care Knowledge levels on malaria prevention.....	41
Self Care Actions on Chemical Methods.....	46

Self-care Actions in preventing malaria.....	49
Knowledge levels on preventing malaria.....	51
Relationships between knowledge levels on malaria prevention and Self care actions.....	53
CHAPTER 5 DISCUSSIONS, IMPLICATIONS, LIMITATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	
Summary.....	55
Discussion.....	56
Sample Demographics.....	56
Theoretical Framework.....	59
Implications to Midwifery.....	60
Recommendations.....	60
Limitations.....	61
Summary.....	61
References.....	63

## LIST OF TABLES

Table 4.1: Demographic Characteristics .....	36
Table 4.2: Demographic Characteristics.....	37
Table 4.3 Demographic Characteristics.....	38
Table 4.4: Gestation .....	40
Table 4.5: Dependent Variables – Self Care Knowledge.....	43
Table 4.6: Dependent Variables – Self Care Knowledge.....	44
Table 4.7: Dependent Variables – Self Care Knowledge.....	45
Table 4.8: Independent variables Self Care Actions on Chemical Methods.....	47
Table 4.9: Independent Variables Self Care Actions on Chemical Methods.....	48
Table 4.10: Independent Variables Self Care Actions in Preventing Malaria .....	50
Table 4.11: Knowledge Levels on Preventing Malaria.....	52
Table 4.12: Pearson Correlation Matrix .....	54



## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Self-care model.....	7
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## LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix A: Informed Consent English.....	71
Appendix B: English Questionnaire.....	73
Appendix C: Informed Consent Shona.....	81
Appendix D: Shona Questionnaire.....	83
Appendix E: Request Letters.....	90