

Utilization of Maternity Services and Associated Factors among Women Living in Addis Ababa Ethiopia Nifas Silk Lafto Sub-city, Woreda 1

Finot Woldemariam (✉ finotaddma@gmail.com)

Ethiopian Catholic University of La Salle

Ayalew Desta

Ethiopian Catholic University of La Salle

Getachew Nadew

Ethiopian Catholic University of La Salle

Research Article

Keywords: Maternity service, utilization practice, mothers of < five children

Posted Date: January 18th, 2021

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.21203/rs.3.rs-121749/v1>

License:  This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License.

[Read Full License](#)

1 **Utilization of Maternity Services and Associated Factors among Women**
2 **Living in Addis Ababa Ethiopia Nifas Silk Lafto Sub-city, Woreda 1**

3 Finot Admassu Woldemariam¹ , Ayalew Mengesha Desta² ,

4 Getachew Alemayehu Nadew³

5 **Authors**

6 ¹Social and public health, Ethiopian Catholic University of La Salle, P.O.Box
7 27757/1000, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Email: finotaddma@gmail.com.

8 ²Social and public health, Ethiopian Catholic University of La Salle, P.O.Box:
9 27757/1000, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Email: tayu.bahiru@gmail.com

10 ³Accademic vice president, Ethiopian Catholic University of La Salle, P.O.Box
11 :27757/1000, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Email: gnadew@yahoo.com

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

1 **Abstract**

2 **Background:** Maternal health service is the health service provided to mothers (women in
3 their child bearing age). In Ethiopia mothers and children make up over 2/3rd of the whole
4 population. Most pregnant women in developing world receive insufficient or no prenatal
5 care and deliver without the help of appropriately trained health care provider. The situation
6 in countries like Ethiopia is worsened by different factors such as poor infrastructure and lack
7 of accessibility to health facilities. Taking this into account this study mainly focuses on the
8 utilization of maternal service and associated factors among women living in selected villages
9 in Nifas silk Lafto, Woreda 1.

10 **Method:** A community based cross-sectional study design was used to assess the utilization
11 of maternal health service utilization and associated factors from January to March 2020.
12 Mothers who gave birth in the past five years were included in the study. A pre tested
13 Interview administered questionnaire was used for data collection; Data was coded, entered
14 and analyzed using SPSS version 23.

15 **Result:** The result showed that there is 38.6% maternal health service utilization practice.
16 Availability of health facility (OR:0.489, 95%CI(0.282,0.847),) and accessibility (OR:3.130,
17 95%CI (1.390,7.048) are found to have significant association with maternal health
18 utilization practice.

19 **Conclusion:** The finding revealed that the majority of the respondents have poor maternal
20 health service utilization practice; it's also indicated the majority of the respondents don't
21 have knowledge regarding danger signs of pregnancy and the risks associated with pregnancy
22 and child birth.

23

24 **Key words:** Maternity service, utilization practice, mothers of \leq five children.

1 **Background**

2 Ethiopia is a landlocked country located in the horn of Africa, according to UN projections with
3 a 2019 population estimate of approximately 112.08 million. The most recent census in 2007
4 found an official population of 73.7 million. This makes Ethiopia the second most populous
5 country of Africa right after Nigeria. And the 14th most populous country in the world with a
6 growth rate of 3.02% per year (1, 2). Addis Ababa which is the capital city of Ethiopia is also the
7 largest city in the country , with a total population closer to 4 million(1).

8 In 2015, 3,200,000 babies were born in Ethiopia, or approximately 8,700 every day(3).Like most
9 other aspects of health care in Ethiopia, maternal and child health services are not well
10 developed. Roads are not well developed which exacerbates the existing transportation problems,
11 especially during the rainy season. The diversity of climate and socio-economic environments
12 have an impact on health conditions and outcomes(4). Among young women (aged 20-24), 22
13 percent gave birth by age 18, nearly 240 babies die each day before reaching their first month;
14 258 stillbirths occur every day(3). The poor health and nutrition of women and the lack of care
15 that contributes to their death in pregnancy and child birth also compromise the health and
16 survival of the infants and children they leave behind(5).

17
18 The link between early and regular attendance of antenatal care and health facility delivery and
19 improved maternal health outcomes has been documented for a considerable time. However, at
20 least half of all births in developing countries occur in the absence of skilled birth attendants.
21 This is largely influenced by socio-cultural factors, lack of understanding on the importance of
22 skilled attendance at birth, financial hardship and physical accessibility to health facilities(6)..

23

1 According to the Ethiopian 2016 demographic and health survey report, the total demand for
2 modern family planning is 58 per cent, while family planning use is 36 per cent. This results in
3 an unmet need of 22 per cent. Additionally, a quarter of women had unplanned pregnancies (8
4 per cent unwanted, 17 per cent mistimed). Among pregnant women, 62 % attended antenatal
5 care (ANC), of which 32 % achieved the WHO recommendation of four ANC visits. Skilled
6 birth attendance was also low with only 26 per cent of pregnant women giving birth in a
7 healthcare facility. Above all, post-natal care was too low around 17 per cent maternity care. (7)

8

9 The health policy of Ethiopia emphasizes universal access for all segments of population, and
10 geographic coverage by health services is estimated to be 89% in 2010(8). Health is vital for
11 everyone and understanding the determinants of a disease, their spreads from person to person
12 and community to community have become increasingly global. As expressed by (Scholten and
13 De Lepper, 1991), “health and ill-health are affected by a variety of life-style and environmental
14 factors, including where people live”(9).

15

16

17

18

19

1 **Method**

2 **Study area and period**

3 The study was conducted in Nifas Silk Lafto sub city, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Nifas silk lafto sub
4 city is among the ten sub cities. It is situated in the South western part of Addis Ababa, bounded
5 from South by Oromia Special Zone, from North West by Kolfe Keranio, from East by Bole and
6 Akaki Kality and from North by Lideta and Kirkos.(30) It has area of 68.3 sq.km.Currently there
7 are 12 woredas within the sub city and a total population of 335,740 which includes 158,126
8 males and 177,614 females. there are different public and private facilities , among the health
9 institutions there are 6 governmental health centers, 18 private higher clinic, 14 private junior
10 clinic, 19 NGO junior clinic, 38 medium clinic and no hospital.(31). Lots of people live in
11 woreda 1 with population number of 39512 which is 13.84% of the sub city population. Even
12 though the number of individuals is relatively high in woreda 1. Due to poor infrastructure and
13 rapid urbanization pregnant women are unable to access health service facilities which make the
14 area more favorable for conducting the study. The study was conducted from January to March
15 2020.



1

2 **Figure 1:** Map of Sub cities in Addis Ababa

3 **Study design**

4 Community based cross-sectional study design was used on mothers of ≤ 5 children who live in
5 three selected villages in Woreda namely Eartu Abo, Dula mariam and Teklehaymanot the
6 stratas were identified based on their geographic location.

7 **Study Population**

8 The study was conducted on women who live in selected villages in woredas 1, Nifas Silk/ Lafto
9 sub city who are mothers of ≤ 5 children.

10

11

12 **Sample size determination**

1 Since there were no researches conducted on similar setting by taking $P=50\%$, $\alpha= 5\%$, $Z_{\alpha/2}=$
2 1.96, margin of error (d) = 5% and applying single population proportion formula. The
3 calculated sample size = 384

4 By applying finite population correction formula, multiplying the calculated sample size by
5 design effect and adding 10% non response rate the final sample size was found to be = **302**

6 Proportional allocation was used and 129 participants were selected from Dulamariam, 86 from
7 Eartu Abo and 87 from Teklehaymanot, the participants from each stratas were selected
8 randomly.

9 **Sampling procedure**

10 Stratified sampling technique was used among the residents in woredal Nifas silk Lafto sub
11 city, Addis Ababa Ethiopia, the stratas were selected by using purposive sampling technique and
12 the stratas were defined by geographic location. The selected stratas are Eartu Abo,
13 Teklehaymanot and Dulamariam and women in a reproductive age group who were pregnant
14 during the time the data collection or who gave birth in the past five years were selected
15 randomly.

16

17 **Inclusion and exclusion criteria**

18 **Inclusion criteria**

- 19 • Inclusion criteria for the research participants was women who are pregnant during
20 the time of the data collection or women who gave birth in the past five years were

1 selected and included in the study after they were fully provided with the
2 information about the objective of the research and after getting verbal consent.

3 **Exclusion criteria**

- 4 • Woman who don't have a child in the past five years or were not pregnant by the time of
5 the data collection, also those pregnant women and women with ≤ 5 children who are not
6 willing to participate after being informed about the objective of the research.

7 **Data collection procedure and quality assurance**

8 **Data collection**

9 Interview-administered questionnaire was prepared in English and translated into Amharic and
10 data collectors who can also communicate in Affan Oromo, the local language of the study area
11 were included. A one day training regarding the data collection was given to the data collectors.
12 The Amharic and the English Versions of the questionnaire was communicated. The inclusion
13 and Exclusion criteria of the study participants was also be described.. Any difficulty in
14 understanding the questions or a language barrier among the study participants was well handled
15 by the data collectors. The questionnaire include questions about socio-demographic
16 characteristics, maternity service utilization practice, quality of care related questions.

17 **Data quality assurance**

18 A pre test was conducted to ensure the quality of the data on a nearby village (Eartu Mojo) on
19 30 mothers or (10%) of the total sample size. And based on the finding of the pre-test slight
20 modification was made on the questionnaire. Data was checked during and after the data entry
21 into SPSS Version 23.

1 **Data management and analysis**

2 Data were coded and entered in to data entry and analysis software SPSS version 23 and was
3 checked for missing values, incompleteness and mistakes during the data entry process. During
4 analysis the variables were defined and frequencies of different variables were calculated. Cross
5 tabulation was used to test the presence of relationship between two or more variables.
6 Descriptive statistics was by using proportion with percentages also bar graphs and pie charts
7 were used. The association between the dependant variable with each of the independent
8 variables was analyzed at 95% CI using bivariate analysis .variables with a p-value of ≤ 0.25
9 were taken to the multivariable analysis model and association of the variables with the
10 independent variable was assessed in the presence of confounders.

11 **Results**

12 **Characteristics of the study area and population**

13 A total of 298 mothers of ≤ 5 children, who live in the selected three villages in woreda 1, Nifas
14 silk lafto sub city, participated in the study giving a response rate of 98.6%. In the study 85
15 participants were included from Eartu abo, 126 from Dula mariam and 87 from Tekle haymanot.
16 The findings showed that majority (43.3%) of the respondents are in the age group of 24-29 with
17 a mean age of 28. More than half of the respondents 159(53%) got married when they were in
18 the age group of 18-22 years. Majority 295(95.6%) of the respondents are married. concerning
19 religion 231(77.5%) are orthodox Christians. On educational status both for the husband and the
20 mothers majority are found to have primary education. There are only 3.7% among the mothers
21 and 7% of the husbands who have completed a higher education level. Employment status
22 showed that majority of the husband and the mother's are not employed and 1.7% of the mother

1 and 11.1% of the fathers are farmers. Household monthly income 199(67.2%) responded average
 2 monthly income is less than 1000ETB only 11 (3.7%) reported they earn greater than 4000 ETB.
 3 The table below show the socio demographic characteristics of the study participants.
 4 **Table 1:** Socio demographic characteristics of mothers of ≤ 5 children in selected three villages
 5 in woreda 1, Nifas silk lafto sub city, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, February 2020.

Variable	Category	Frequency	Percent
Age of respondent	18-23	52	17.4
	24-29	129	43.3
	30-35	88	29.5
	≥ 36	29	9.7
Age of mother's at marriage	≤ 17	58	19.5
	18-22	159	53.4
	23-27	70	23.5
	≥ 28	11	3.7
Age of mother's at first pregnancy	≤ 17	22	7.4
	18-22	140	47
	23-27	113	37.9
	≥ 28	23	7.7
Marital status	Married	285	95.6
	Not married	2	0.7

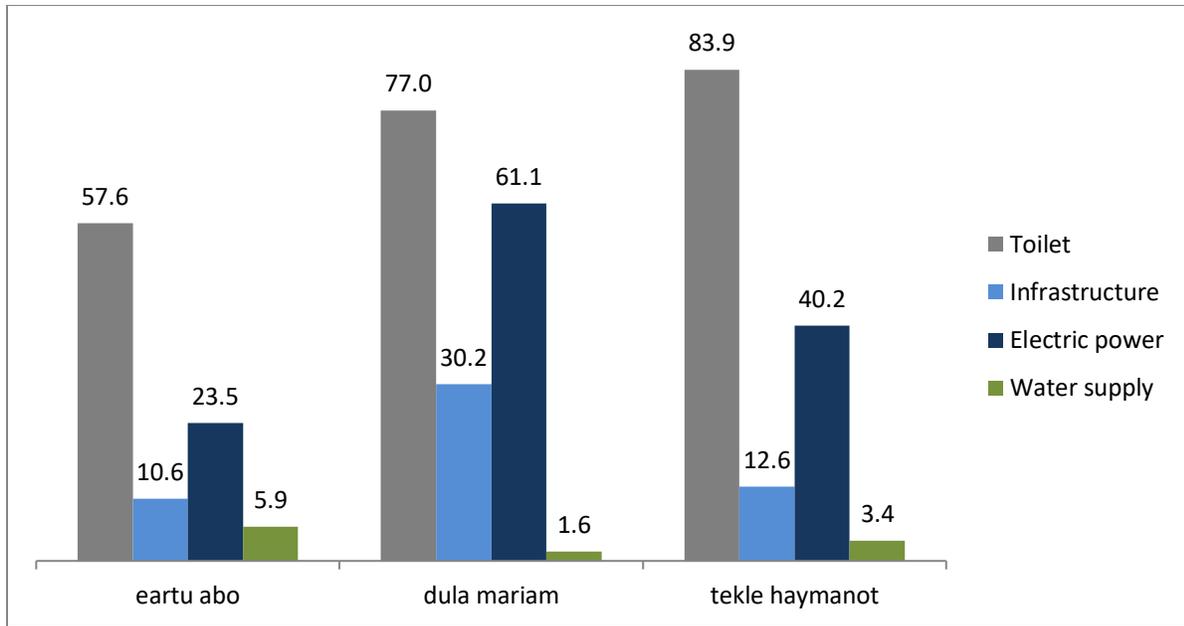
	Widowed	1	0.3
Religion	Orthodox	231	77.5
	Catholic	3	1
	Protestant	30	10.1
	Muslim	27	9.1
	Other religion	7	2.3
Head of house hold	Male	196	65.8
	Female	22	7.4
	Both	80	26.8
Mother's educational status	Illiterate	52	17.4
	primary education	176	59.1
	Higher level	11	3.7
	Secondary	59	19.8
	education		
Husband's educational status	Illiterate	34	11.4
	Primary education	175	58.7
	Higher level	21	7
	Secondary	68	22.8
	education		
Employment status of mother	Employed	9	3

	Not employed	269	90.3
	Farmer	5	1.7
	Other	15	5
Employment status of husband	Employed	56	18.8
	Not employed	119	39.9
	Farmer	33	11.1
	Other	90	30.2
Monthly house hold income in ETB	<1000	199	67.2
	1000-1999	40	13.5
	2000-2999	32	10.8
	3000-3999	14	4.7
	≥ 4000	11	3.7

1

2 **Basic Facilities in the Study Area**

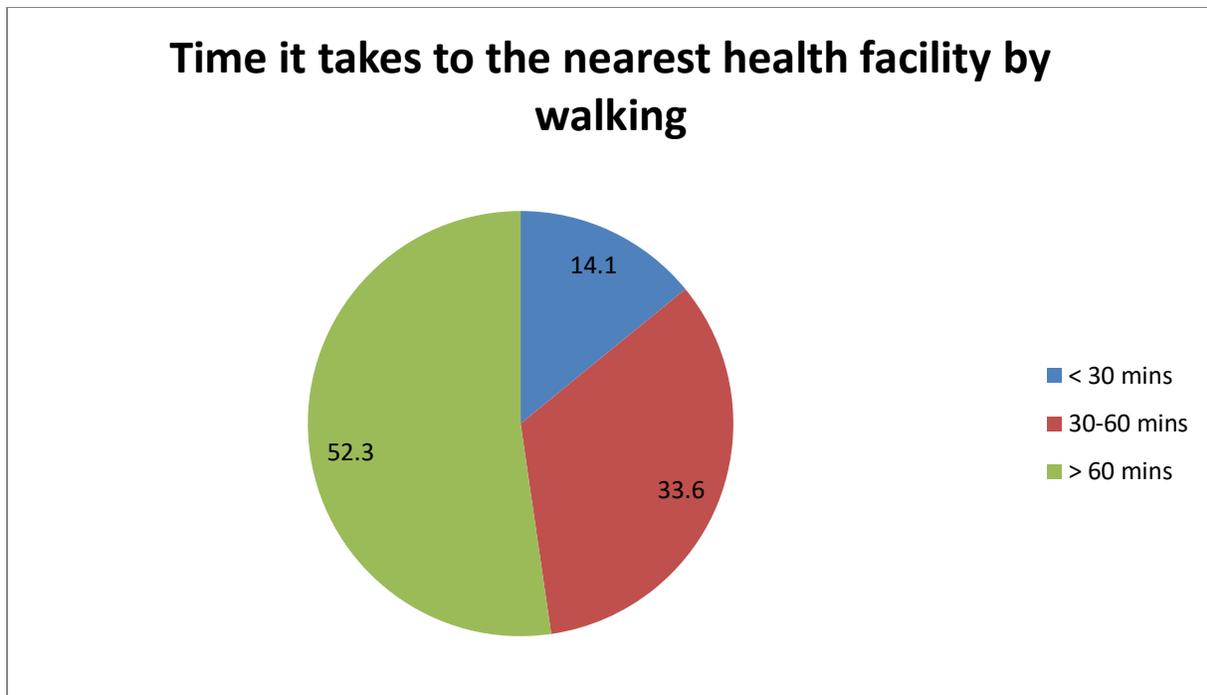
3 The availability of basic services and facilities was assessed and a slight variation was observed
4 among the three villages, where individuals who live in Eartu Abo responded they have the least
5 access to basic facilities relative to the other villages. The responses from Eartu Abo showed that
6 those who answered they have toilet are (57.6%), good infrastructure (10.6%), electric power
7 (23.5%). Apart from this only (3.4%) of respondents from tekle haymanot reported they have
8 access to clean water source which is less than the other two villages.



1

2 **Figure 2:** Bar chart of the presence of public health facilities in woreda 1, Nifas silk lafto sub
 3 city, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, February 2020.

4 Also in the presence of health facilities nearby 49.3% responded they could access health
 5 facilities nearby among this only 1% could access maternity and child health clinics and 42.6%
 6 reported they could access health center or higher clinic. About transportation system to the
 7 nearest MCH 86.6% reported walking is the only way of accessing the health facilities. Time it
 8 takes by walking to the nearest health facility is indicated in the figure below.



1

2 **Figure 3:** Time it takes to the nearest health facility by walking for women living in woreda 1,
 3 Nifas silk lafto sub city, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, February 2020.

4 **Knowledge on maternal health utilization practice**

5 Knowledge based questions on maternal health utilization practice such as importance of ANC
 6 service utilization; awareness related questions on danger signs during and after delivery were
 7 forwarded in order to assess their knowledge when they seek medical attention. The overall
 8 knowledge score showed that 292(98%) have poor knowledge regarding danger signs and the
 9 risk associated with pregnancy and child birth. The table below shows the knowledge on
 10 utilization of maternal health service.

11

1 **Table 2:** knowledge based questions on maternal health service utilization of mothers of
 2 ≤ 5 children in selected three villages in woreda 1, Nifas silk lafto sub city, Addis
 3 Ababa, Ethiopia, February 2020.

Knowledge based questions	Yes	
	Frequency	Percentage
For whom is the ANC check up important for?		
The mother	28	9.4
The baby	28	9.4
Both	242	81.2
Which danger sign of pregnancy are you aware of		
Vaginal bleeding	114	38.3
Severe headache	83	27.9
Blurred vision	61	20.5
Severe abdominal pain	48	16.1
Swollen hand and feet	36	12.1
Weakness	38	12.8
Difficulty breathing	28	9.4
Which post natal danger sign are you aware of		
Active bleeding	91	30.5

4

5

6

1 Maternal health service utilization practice

2 On maternal health service utilization practice questions associated with ANC visit, delivery
 3 service and post natal care were forwarded and the research revealed that 38.6% are found have
 4 good practice the rest 61.4% have poor practice. The table below shows the maternal health
 5 service utilization practice.

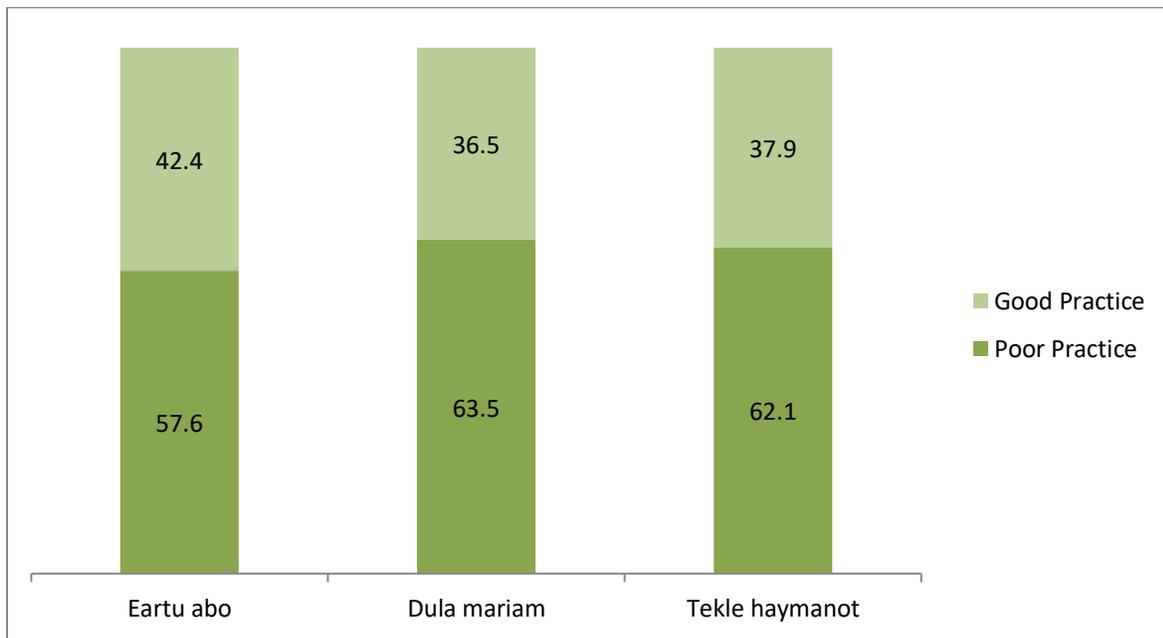
6 **Table 3:** Utilization of maternal services among women in selected three villages in woreda
 7 1, Nifas silk lafto sub city, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, February 2020.

Maternity service utilization based questions	Categories	Yes	
		Frequency	Percent
ANC follow up		284	95.3
How many antenatal (ANC) visits do you have during your pregnancy?	1-3 times	83	27.9
	≥4	215	72.1
How many months were you when you had your first ANC visit?	1-3 months	40	13.4
	4-6 months	134	45
	7-9 months	112	37.6
Did you take vaccine TT during your follow up		271	90.9
Did you take any supplement during your pregnancy?		281	94.3
How was your previous delivery?	SVD	281	94.3
	CS	17	5.7
What did you feed your baby after birth?	Breast milk	288	96.6

	Cow's milk	1	0.3
	Infant's formula	9	3
Did you have post- natal visit?		185	62.1

1

2 The maternal health service utilization practice for the three villages when observed separately is
 3 indicated in the figure below.



4

5 **Figure 4** :Bar chart for utilization of maternal health services in woreda 1, Nifas silk
 6 lafto sub city, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, February 2020.

7

8

9

1 **Factors Associated with Maternal Health Service Utilization**

2 Association between maternal health service utilization practice and contributing factors was
3 assessed. A Bivariate analysis was performed and variables with a (P-value of less than or equal
4 to 0.05) were chosen to enter to the final multivariable analysis model.

5 Bivariate analysis was made on personal factors such as age of the respondents, marital status,
6 mother's age at first pregnancy, mother's age at marriage, head of household, educational status
7 and employment status. Variables such as household head, husband's educational status, were
8 found to have a (P-value ≤ 0.05) and were chosen to enter to multivariable analysis model. In the
9 multivariable analysis however household head and husband's educational status did not have
10 statistically significant association with the variable maternal health utilization practice.

11 Institutional factors such as presence of health facility nearby, transportation to the nearest health
12 facility, previous delivery outcome, payment for delivery service, belief about risk of pregnancy,
13 quality of care, knowledge on maternal health, and house hold income were used and both
14 presence of health facility nearby (AOR: 0.489, and 95% CI (0.282,0.847) and transportation
15 system to the nearest health facility by car (AOR: 3.130, 95% CI (1.390,7.048) were found to
16 have statistically significant association with maternal health service utilization practice.

1

2

3 **Table 4:** Maternal health utilization practice among women in selected three villages in
 4 woreda1, Nifas silk lafto sub city, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, February 2020.

Variable	Categories	Practice		COR(95%CI)	AOR(95%CI)
		Poor	Good		
Age of respondent	18-23	34	18	1.390(0.514,3.758)	
	24-29	74	55	1.951(0.804,4.732)	
	30-35	54	34	1.653(0.658,4.149)	
	≥ 36	21	8		
Mother's age at marriage	≤17	34	24	1.235(0.325,4.694)	
	18-22	99	60	1.061(0.298,3.775)	
	23-27	43	27	1.099(0.294,4.111)	
	≥ 28	7	4		
Mother's age at pregnancy	≤17	13	9	0.635(0.195,2.065)	
	18-22	86	54	0.576(0.237,1.396)	
	23-27	73	40	0.502(0.203,1.241)	
	≥ 28	11	12		
Marital status	Married	117	111	1.489(0.377,5.877)	
	Not married	1	1	2.333(0.107,5.098)	

		Widowed	1	0	0.0001(0.01,0.001)
		Divorced	7	3	1
Household head		Male	108	88	1
		Female	13	9	0.850(0.347,2.080)
		Both	62	18	0.356(0.196,0.646)
Mother's status	educational	Illiterate	29	23	1
		Primary education	128	48	0.473(0.249,0.879)
		Secondary education	22	37	2.207(0.575,8.468)
		Higher level	4	7	2.121(0.992,4.535)
husband's status	educational	Illiterate	17	17	1
		Primary education	127	48	0.378(0.79,0.800)
		Secondary education	30	38	1.333(0.446,3.985)
		Higher level	9	12	1.267(0.555,2.891)
Employment husband	status	Employed	29	27	0.815(0.418,1.589)

	Not employed	90	29	0.282(0.156,,0.508)	
	Farmer	22	11	0.437(0.190, 1.007)	
	Other	42	48	1	
Employment status of mother	Employed	6	3	0.750(0.133,4.224)	
	Not employed	165	104	0.945(0.327,2.734)	
	Farmer	3	2	1.000(0.127,7.893)	
	Other	9	6	1	
Health facility nearby	No	75	76	1	
	Yes	108	39	0.356(0.219,0.579)	0.489(0.282,0.847)
Transportation to the nearest health facility	Walking	168	90	1	
	Car	11	24	4.073(0.051,4.238)	3.130(1.390,7.048)
	Other	4	1	0.467(0.051,4.238)	0.299(0.032,2.841)
Still birth	No	176	112	1	
	Yes	7	3	0.573(0.171,2.659)	
Payment for delivery service	No	168	108	1	
	Yes	15	7	0.726(0.287,1.838)	
Belief about risk of pregnancy	No	96	87	1	

	Yes	72	43	0.659(0.409,1.061)	
Quality of care	No	14	5	1	
	Yes	169	110	1.822(0.638,5.203)	
Knowledge on maternal health	Poor	180	112	1	
	Good	3	3	1.607(0.319,8.102)	
House hold income	0-999	137	62	1	
	1000-1999	20	20	2.210(1.110,4.399)	1.403(0.662,2.971)
	2000-2999	15	17	2.504(1.175,5.335)	1.337(0.578,3.094)
	3000-3999	4	10	5.534(1.668,18.299)	3.330(0.929,11.934)
	4000-10000	5	6	2.652(0.780,9.019)	1.804(0.499,6.525)

1

2 Discussion

3 Maternal health is one of the prior agendas in any development goals this is due to the fact that
4 women comprise more than half of the total population and most of the problems faced during
5 pregnancy and child birth could be prevented by following certain measures. It is also known to
6 have economical implication since it is one way of saving a huge out of pocket money that might
7 be lost due to morbidity and mortality associated with pregnancy and birth.

1 The finding from this research revealed that there is 38.6% maternal health service utilization
2 practice and 61.4% poor practice. The poor practice is found to be associated with accessibility
3 of health facility nearby, transportation system to the nearest health facility

4 On availability of health facility nearby 49.3% reported there is health facility. On accessibility
5 of health facility 258(86.6%) of the respondents travel by walking to the nearest health facility
6 and 156(52.3%) reported it took them more than one hour. The finding indicates that the odds of
7 having good practice among those who reported the availability of health facility nearby is
8 almost as much as those who reported there is no health facility nearby, which indicate that the
9 respondents might not have access to it due to poor infrastructure and lack of transportation. The
10 study also indicates that the odds of having good practice is three times greater for those who
11 travel by car than those who travel by walking

12 Early marriage is found to be prevalent among 58(19.5%) of the respondents. which is illegal as
13 per the revised Ethiopian family code of Article 7 which stated that “Neither a man nor a woman
14 who has not attained the full age of eighteen years shall conclude marriage.”(32) which is shown
15 to have an impact on educational status of the mother’s in which 74% are found to have no
16 formal education or can only read and write .The mean age at marriage is found to be 20 yr with
17 a minimum of 10 year and maximum of 33 years.

18
19 In addition to having early marriage, the mean and median age at first pregnancy was found to be
20 22 years, minimum age of 14 and maximum 34. The majority 140(47%) of the respondents lie in
21 age group of 18-22. Under age pregnancy is found to be 22(7.4%) this finding contrast with the
22 finding in Europe where the median percentage of women having their first babies is 35 years or
23 older is 21%. The percentage also increases in Portugal, Greece, Ireland, Italy, and Spain. In

1 these countries older age and obesity are found to be the risk factors for infant and maternal
2 health complications(20).

3

4 On utilization of ANC service WHO recommends at least four ANC visit as a standard. EDHS
5 report showed that only 20% of women had their ANC during the first trimester, 26% during
6 their fourth to fifth month of pregnancy, and 14% during their sixth to seventh month of
7 pregnancy. Two percent of women did not receive any ANC until the eight month of pregnancy
8 or later(15). Here in this study 72.1% reported they had at least four follow up visits during their
9 pregnancy, 13.4% started when they were 1-3 months, 45% started when they were 4-6 months
10 and 37.6% did not start follow up until they were 7-9months in to their pregnancy. This figure is
11 greater than a study conducted in India where only 38.3% of the mothers had four or more
12 visits(33).and similar with the study conducted in Ghana where 76% of the women have the
13 recommended number of visits educational status of women is found to have an impact on the
14 number of follow up (34)

15

16 Results on facility based delivery showed that 275(93.6%) of the respondents reported they
17 deliver on health care facilities with the help of health professionals. From a total of 298
18 participants 19(6.4%) deliver at home among which 5(1.7%) reported no one assisted their
19 delivery and the rest 14(4.7%) reported they were assisted by traditional birth attendants. Article
20 from west Africa on facility-based delivery showed that only 11.7% of women in one region of
21 Nigeria,63% in northern Ghana and 78% of women in Senegal delivered in facility (24). In a
22 study conducted in Bhubaneswar, India Only 25.3% of respondents gave birth in health
23 institutions for their recent birth with the help of health professionals while majority (74.7%) of

1 respondents gave birth at home without the help of health professionals (35).in contrast home
2 delivery in Netherlands In most cases, took place in the presence of skilled birth attendants and
3 have uncomplicated outcomes.(21)

4
5 Regarding knowledge on danger signs of pregnancy 98% are found to have poor knowledge, in
6 similar study conducted in Debra Birhan town on knowledge of pregnant women about danger
7 signs of pregnancy and associated factors, public health institutions. One hundred thirty seven
8 (38.6%) of the respondents were knowledgeable about danger signs of pregnancy and the
9 knowledge level was found to be associated with educational status and employment status of the
10 women (36).

11
12 Regarding post natal visit 185(62.1%) of the respondents reported they had PNC. The remaining
13 113(37.9%) did not had PNC. Among those who responded they don't have post- natal visit
14 32.9% mother's answered they did not know they had to take the visit, 3.7% mother's answered
15 it's because of cultural reasons and the remaining 1% reported they have other reasons. This is
16 similar with a study conducted in India, Karnataka state in which majority of the mothers
17 reported they seek post natal care service only when the infant seeks help or immunization.(37)

18
19 About quality of maternal health service 94.6% of the respondents who use health facility for
20 pregnancy and child birth related services reported they are satisfied with the health care service
21 they get. This figure is similar with the study conducted at bore, west Gojjam and greater than a
22 study conducted in Gonder teaching hospital. The study conducted in bore west Gojjam showed
23 that the level of satisfaction among delivering mothers were 88% which is closer to the level of

1 satisfaction obtained from this study whereas study in Gonder teaching hospital showed that
2 only 31.3% of the mothers who attended labor and delivery care reported they were satisfied
3 with the service they received(13, 29)

4

5 Birth Spacing which represents the age difference between children of consecutive pregnancies
6 was also assessed and the average spacing was found to have a mean of two years, minimum 1
7 year and maximum of 12 years. Evidence from systematic reviews and meta-analyses indicates
8 that short and long intervals between pregnancies are independently associated with increased
9 risk of adverse maternal, perinatal, infant, and child outcomes Inter pregnancy intervals shorter
10 than 18 months and longer than 59 months are associated with increased risk of adverse prenatal
11 outcomes spacing longer than 59 months is associated with preterm birth, low birth-weight and
12 short intervals are associated with increased risk of premature membrane rupture utero-placental
13 bleeding disorders such as abruption, placenta previa and uterine rupture in women attempting a
14 vaginal birth after previous cesarean delivery(38)

15

16 **Conclusion**

17 The study revealed that there is poor maternal and child health utilization practice among
18 mothers of \leq five children in selected villages (Dula mariam, Eartu Abo and Tekle Haymanot) in
19 woreda 1, Nifas silk Lafto sub city, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The finding also show that the
20 availability of health facility and accessibility of health facility nearby to have statistically
21 significant association with the maternal health service utilization practice,

22

1 **Abbreviation**

2 ANC: Antenatal care; EDHS: Ethiopian Demographic Health Survey; EU: European Union;
3 HIC: High income countries; MCH: Maternity and Child Health; MDG: Millennium
4 Development goal; MMR: Maternal Mortality Ratio; SDG: Sustainable Development goal;
5 SPSS: Statistical Package for Social Science; UN: United Nations; WHO: World health
6 organization

7 **Ethical Approval and consent**

8 Ethical clearance was obtained from the ethical committee of Ethiopian Catholic University of
9 La Salle. The study subjects were registered to participate after they get information about the
10 objective of the study and only after obtaining verbal consent from them.

11 **Consent for publication**

12 Not applicable

13 **Availability of Data and Material for Publication**

14 The data used in the conclusion will be submitted up on request. (In order to get the data
15 used please contact Finot Admassu Woldemariam (e-mail: finotaddma@gmail.com)

16 **Competing Interest**

17 The authors would like to declare there is no competing interest.

18

1 **Funding**

2 This study was undertaken by the grant from Ethiopian Catholic University of La Salle.
3 Funding includes for data collection, data entry, analysis and writing up. Publication fee
4 had not been funded from the university.

5 **Author's contribution**

6 F.A contributed for the conceptualization and design of the study, prepared draft for the
7 research, entered the data, analyze the data, interpreted the result also prepare draft of the
8 manuscript.

9 A.M and G.A contributed for the conceptualization, preparation and reviewing of the
10 research proposal, final report and manuscript. All authors have read and approved the
11 final manuscript.

12 **Acknowledgement**

13 The authors would like to thank Ethiopian Catholic University of La Salle as the research
14 was conducted with the financial and material support from the university. Also we
15 would like to thank the study participants, data collectors, supervisors and everyone who
16 has contributed for the completion of the research.

17

18

1 Reference

- 2 1. review Wp. Ethiopian population. 2019.
- 3 2. Duga AL, TenoTeshite D. Maternal and perinatal health in Ethiopia. Journal of
4 Biotechnology and Biosafety. 2015;3(2).
- 5 3. UNICEF fec. Maternal and Newborn Health Disparities. 2015.
- 6 4. Adugna A. Health institution and services. 2014.
- 7 5. Abdella A. Maternal Mortality Trend in Ethiopia. Ethiopian Journal of Health
8 Development. 2010.
- 9 6. Henry V. Doctor SN-SaMA-A. Health facility delivery in sub-Saharan Africa:
10 successes,challenges, and implications for the 2030 development agenda. BMC Public
11 Health. 2018.
- 12 7. ICF CSACEa. How to improve maternal health service utilisation in Ethiopia. 2018
13 Contract No.: 4.
- 14 8. Aliy J, Mariam DH. Determinants of equity in utilization of maternal health services
15 in Butajira, Southern Ethiopia. Ethiopian Journal of Health Development. 2012.
- 16 9. Andarge A. Health Facilities Distribution Mapping in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Global
17 journal of human-social science. 2016;16(3).
- 18 10. Elmusharaf K, Byrne E, O'Donovan D. Strategies to increase demand for maternal
19 health services in resource-limited settings: challenges to be addressed. BMC Public
20 Health. 2015;15.
- 21 11. Kea AZ, Tulloch O, Datiko DG, Theobald S, Kok MC. Exploring barriers to the use
22 of formal maternal health services and priority areas for action in Sidama zone,
23 southern Ethiopia. BMC pregnancy and child birth. 2018.

- 1 12. Ango Jessica Timane OMO, Kaoje Aminu Umar, Shehu E. Constance and Ismail
2 Abdullateef Raji. Clients' satisfaction with maternal and child health services in
3 primary health care centers in Sokoto metropolis, Nigeria. *Edorium Journal of*
4 *Maternal Child Health*. 2017.
- 5 13. Asres GD. Satisfaction and Associated Factors among Mothers Delivered at Abrade
6 Swede Memorial Primary Hospital, Bore, and West Gojjam, Amharic, Ethiopia: A
7 Cross Sectional Study. *Global Journal of Medical Research: Gynecology and*
8 *Obstetrics*. 2018.
- 9 14. Babalola T, Okafor I. Client satisfaction with maternal and child health care services
10 at a public specialist hospital in a Nigerian Province. *Research gate*. 2016.
- 11 15. Addis Ababa ECaI. Demographic and Health Survey. Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: Central
12 Statistical Agency, 2017.
- 13 16. Bernt Lindtjorn DM, Zillo Zidda, Yaliso Yaya. Reducing Maternal Deaths in
14 Ethiopia: Results of an Intervention Programme in Southwest Ethiopia. *Plos one*.
15 2017.
- 16 17. Woldeamanuel BT. Socioeconomic, Demographic, and Environmental Determinants
17 of Under-5 Mortality in Ethiopia: Evidence from Ethiopian Demographic and
18 Health Survey, 2016. *Hindawi Child Development Research*. 2019.
- 19 18. Yared Mekonnen AM. Utilization of Maternal Health Care Services in Ethiopia. 2002.
- 20 19. Anderson SA, Henrik Axelson . Investing in maternal, newborn and child health. 2008.
- 21 20. Jennifer Zeitlin, Sophie Alexander, Barros H. Core indicators of the health and care of
22 pregnant women and babies in Europe in 2015. 2018.

- 1 21. Davaki K. Access to maternal health and midwifery for vulnerable groups in the EU.
2 Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs. 2019.
- 3 22. Roy S, Sahoo A, Sarangi L. Factors affecting utilization of maternal and health care
4 services in urban area of bhubaneswar, india. Journal of Pharmacy Practice and
5 Community Medicine. 2017;3(3).
- 6 23. Shiekh BE, Kwaak Avd. Factors influencing the utilization of maternal health care
7 services by nomads in Sudan. Research, Policy and Practice. 2015;5(23).
- 8 24. Cheryl A Moyer PD-GARMA. Facility-based delivery and maternal and early
9 neonatal mortality in sub-Saharan Africa: A regional review of the literature.
10 African Journal of Reproductive Health. 2013.
- 11 25. Ayele DZ, Belayihun B, Teji K, Ayana DA. Factors Affecting Utilization of Maternal
12 Health Care Services in Kombolcha District, Eastern Hararghe Zone, Oromia
13 Regional State, Eastern EthiopiaHindawi Publishing Corporation.
- 14 26. Lidoroh SA. Factors associated with utilization of maternal health care services in
15 western province, kenya. 2013.
- 16 27. Gezahegn Tesfaye DL, Catherine Chojenta, Nega Assefa and Roger Smith.
17 Magnitude, trends and causes of maternal mortality among reproductive aged women
18 in Kersa health and demographic surveillance system, eastern Ethiopia. BMC
19 Woman's health. 2018.
- 20 28. Endrias T. Maternal and child health service provision assessment in Tikur Anbessa
21 general specialized hospital. 2005.
- 22 29. Kiros Terefe Gashaye ATT, Getachew Shiferaw, Abebaw Gebeyehu Worku, Solomon
23 Mekonnen Abebe. Client satisfaction with existing labor and delivery care and

- 1 associated factors among mothers who gave birth in university of Gondar teaching
2 hospital; Northwest Ethiopia: Institution based cross-sectional study. Plos one. 2019.
- 3 30. Alamirew F. Impacts of informal settlement on environment (the case of nefas silk
4 lafto sub city) 2016.
- 5 31. AACA. Nifas Silk Lafto sub city administraion 2017.
- 6 32. The revised family code of Ethiopia, (2000).
- 7 33. Sabyasachi Roy AS, Lisa Sarangi. Factors Affecting Utilization of Maternal Health
8 Care Services in Urban area of Bhubneswar, India. Department of Community
9 Medicine, Hi tech Medical College. 2017.
- 10 34. AduI J, Tenkorang E, Banchani E, Allison J, MulayID S. The effects of individual
11 and community-level factors on maternal health outcomes in Ghana. Plos one. 2018.
- 12 35. Mizanur Rahman DPNaMTA. Factors affecting satisfaction on antenatal care services
13 in Sarawak, Malaysia: evidence from a cross sectional study. Springer Plus. 2016.
- 14 36. Abayneh Akililu Solomon, Negash Wakgari Amanta, Chirkose EA, Badi MB.
15 Knowledge About Danger Signs of Pregnancy and Associated Factors Among
16 Pregnant Women in Debra Birhan Town, Central Ethiopia. Science Journal of Public
17 Health. 2015.
- 18 37. Marianne Vidler UR, Umesh Charantimath, Geetanjali Katageri. Utilization of
19 maternal health care services and their determinants in Karnataka State, India BMC
20 2016.
- 21 38. Agustín Conde-Agudelo, Anyeli Rosas-Bermudez, Fabio Castaño, Norton MH Effects
22 of Birth Spacing on Maternal, Perinatal, Infant, and Child Health: A Systematic
23 Review of Causal Mechanisms. StudieS in Family Planning 2012.

Figures



Figure 1

Map of Sub cities in Addis Ababa

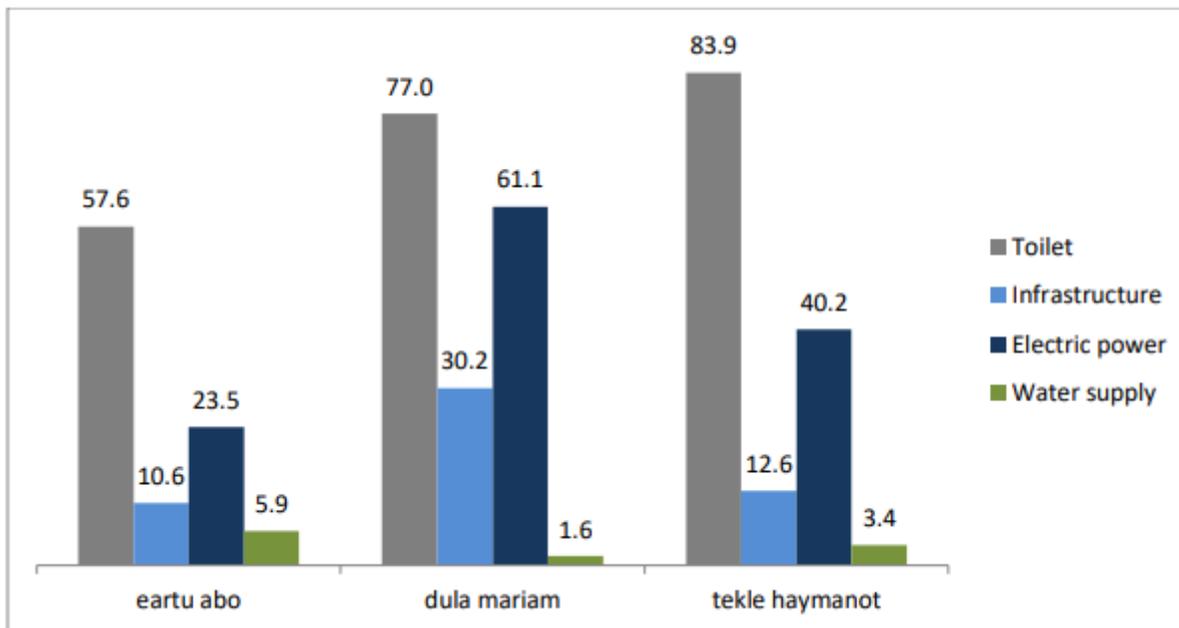


Figure 2

Bar chart of the presence of public health facilities in woreda 1, Nifas silk lafto sub city, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, February 2020.

Time it takes to the nearest health facility by walking

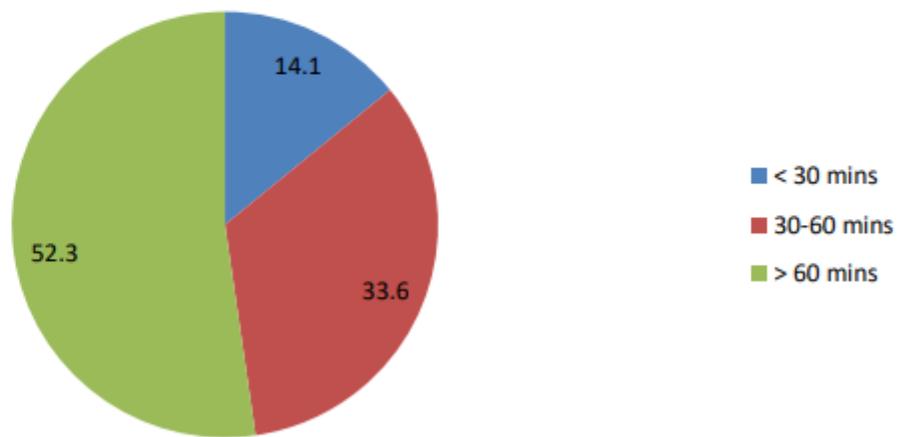


Figure 3

Time it takes to the nearest health facility by walking for women living in woreda 1, Nifas silk lafto sub city, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, February 2020.

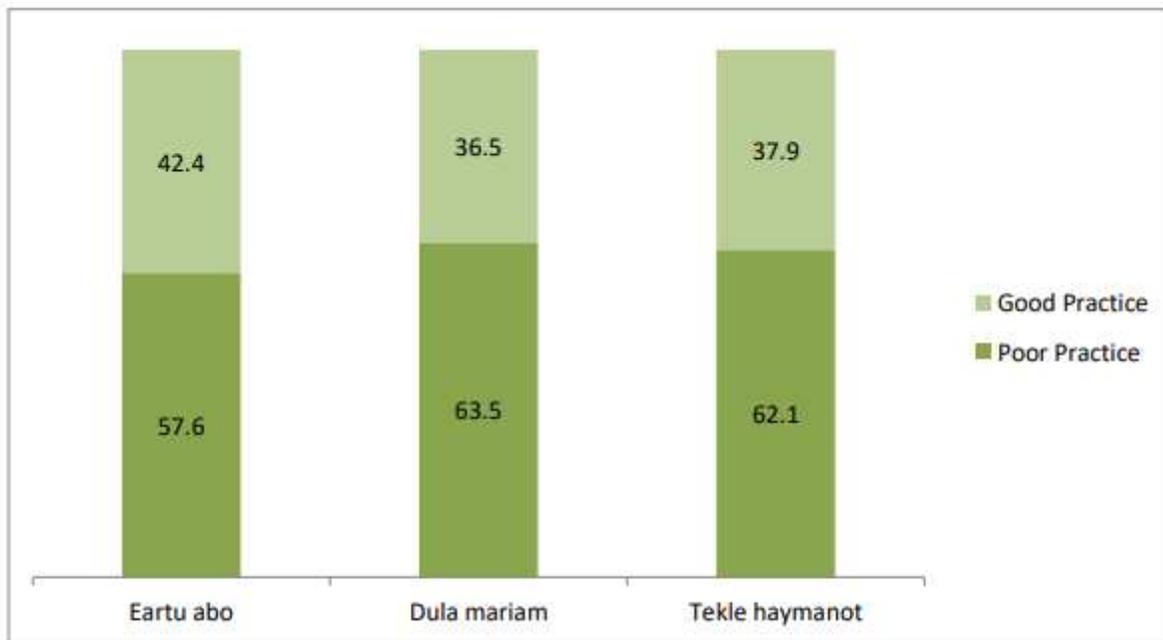


Figure 4

Bar chart for utilization of maternal health services in woreda 1, Nifas silk lafto sub city, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, February 2020.