

CHAPTER 3: SCOPE OF INVESTIGATION

There is a widespread deficiency of vitamin D in pregnant women which has an adverse impact on neonatal health. The National Guidelines on Calcium and Vitamin D supplementation, 2014 envisaged universal calcium and vitamin D supplementation to all pregnant women in order to combat vitamin D deficiency in pregnancy. The programme envisages implementation in hospital antenatal clinics (primary, secondary, tertiary) and community settings.

There is very little published data on the ongoing programme of calcium and vitamin D supplementation in pregnant women and its impact in any of the settings.

Hypothesis

- Regular supply of calcium and vitamin D supplements to pregnant women, along with appropriate nutrition education, will improve acceptance and compliance with calcium and vitamin D supplementation in pregnancy.
- Irregular or inadequate supply of calcium and vitamin D supplements, to pregnant women, will reduce both coverage and continuation rates with calcium and vitamin D supplementation in pregnancy.

Therefore, the present study entitled “**Calcium and vitamin D supplementation in pregnancy in three different settings**” was taken up to obtain the data on the coverage, acceptance, compliance.

Objectives

To assess the availability of supplements, coverage, acceptance, compliance rates of ongoing Calcium and Vitamin D supplementation in three settings-

- Primary health care institution (PHCI) as part of the research study ensuring continuous supply and careful monitoring of the intake along with nutrition education
- Primary health care institution (PHCI) providing antenatal care under existing service conditions
- Urban community setting under existing conditions