Title: pregnant women's perceived control of birth outcome

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Abstract: Abstract

Introduction:
Improving the health of women during or before pregnancy is an important strategy for reducing adverse pregnancy outcomes for mother and child. An internal control is a belief about whether the outcomes of our actions are contingent on what we do or on events outside our personal control.

Objective:
To investigate pregnant women's perceived control of birth outcome in Iran.

Methods:
In descriptive study women's perceived internal control of birth outcomes were estimated using of self-designed questionnaire containing demographic characteristics (5 questions), internal control status (5 question). Reliability of questionnaire was determined by measuring Alpha Chronbakh (0/65).

Results:
The mean ages of women were 26.62 5.54 years old. Most of them were housewives and they had more than 8 year's education. The mean of gestational age was 24.26  10.60 week. About 65(18%) of participants had a low-level of internal control, 234(64.8%) persons had an average internal control, and 62(17.2%) persons had a good level of internal control. There was significant relation with internal control and their education status and parity in way women with education higher than 8 years or nuliparous had good internal control than other ones. (p=0/0001).

Conclusion:
In this study most of women had an average to good internal control of birth outcomes. It could be a predisposing factor for improving health-related behaviors in pregnant women that they can control adverse outcomes of their pregnancy or use of prenatal care.

Key words:
Pregnancy; internal control; birth outcomes

Presentation: Poster