
ABSTRACT

Smoking is one of the most preventable factors associated with several perinatal diseases, such as low weight at birth, very preterm birth and perinatal death. We set an epidemiological retrospective study to investigate the social and cultural factors that have been related to the habit of smoking of 313 pregnant women. We found a significant correlation between this habit and the exposure to passive smoking. The study also showed that prevalence of smokers has a significant decrease during pregnancy, but we didn't find a significant correlation between this reduction and factors like educational qualification, birthplace and information given about the effects of smoking in pregnancy.

We think that preventive and educational programs should be implemented in all maternity care settings to promote smoking cessation and that midwife has a very important role in giving pregnant woman correct information and in helping them to stop smoking.