



**THE NETWORK**  
TOWARDS UNITY FOR HEALTH



Facultad de Medicina



THE NETWORK: TOWARDS UNITY  
FOR HEALTH & FACULTAD DE MEDICINA,  
UNAM, PRESENT

# TUFH2020 MEXICO

**VIRTUAL CONFERENCE**

"PRIMARY HEALTH CARE: A PATH  
TOWARDS SOCIAL JUSTICE"

SYSTEMS AND COMMUNITY BASED  
RESPONSES TO COVID-19

SEPTEMBER 23-25, 2020

#TUFH2020  
TUFH2020.COM



## TUFH 2020 Abstracts

<b>Title</b>	<b>Communication gap: A barrier for non-literate women in accessing maternal health care in rural Tanzania</b>
<b>Type</b>	Oral Presentation <i>Working with Underserved Populations towards Community Empowerment</i>
<b>Presenting Author</b>	Victoria Yohani
<b>Co-Authors</b>	Dismas Matovelo , Pendo Ndaki , Rose Laisser
<b>Country</b>	Tanzania
<b>Abstract N°</b>	TUFH370

### Content

Globally it is 303,000 die every year during and following child birth. One of the key elements in reduction of high maternal mortality rate is early and at least four antenatal visits. Non-literate women have less access to maternal health services. The aim of this study was to explore barriers to non-literate women in accessing Antenatal care, delivery and post natal services. Methods: Qualitative approach explored perspectives on peri-natal care-seeking from a purposefully selected sample in Tanzania. We conducted 13in-depth interviews, eight focus group discussions and 11key informant interviews, transcribed to Swahili and translated into English. NVIVO-12 assisted in thematic analysis. Findings: Four themes emerged barriers for non-literate women in accessing health care: Language barrier between women and health workers (lack of self-expression), no reading skills (can't understand the messages in the posters, miss clinic appointment and expected date of delivery) as well as dependency and fear to access services at higher level facility. Conclusion: Non-literate women face challenges in accessing maternal health care. To minimize this gap, health education at the facility should be provided in the local dialects for easy understanding and the use of Community Health Workers.