

Female Genital Fistula: Policy Implications of the changing landscape in Bangladesh

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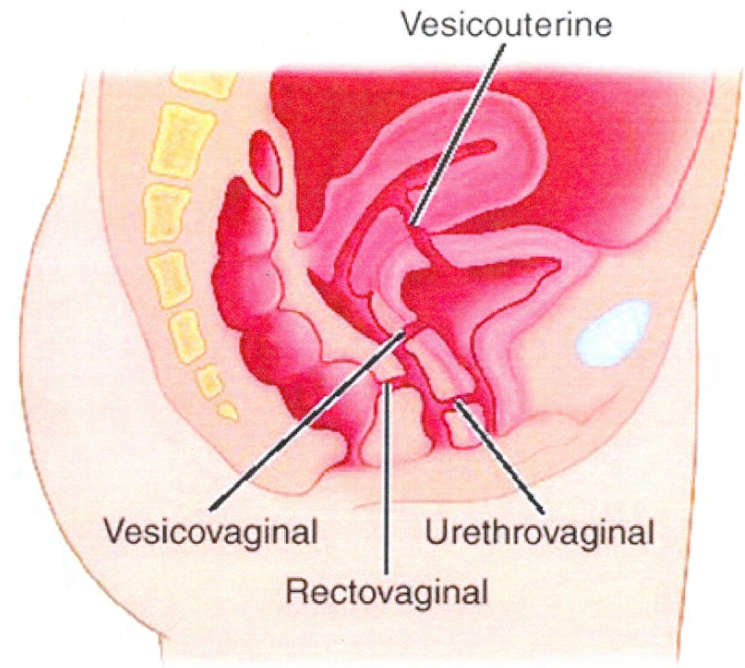


We have no conflict of interest to declare

Female Genital Fistula

- **Anatomic defect**
 - Urinary tract and/or Colorectal tract with genital tract
- **Obstructed labor**
- **Iatrogenic**
- **Pelvic or genital trauma**
- **Infection**

Four Common Types of Obstetric Fistula



Fistula Burden

- **Globally 1-2 million women are living with fistula**
- **50,000 to 100, 000 are added every year**
- **In Bangladesh**
 - **71, 000 cases were estimated in 2003**
 - **Approximately 2000 new cases are added every year**

Objective

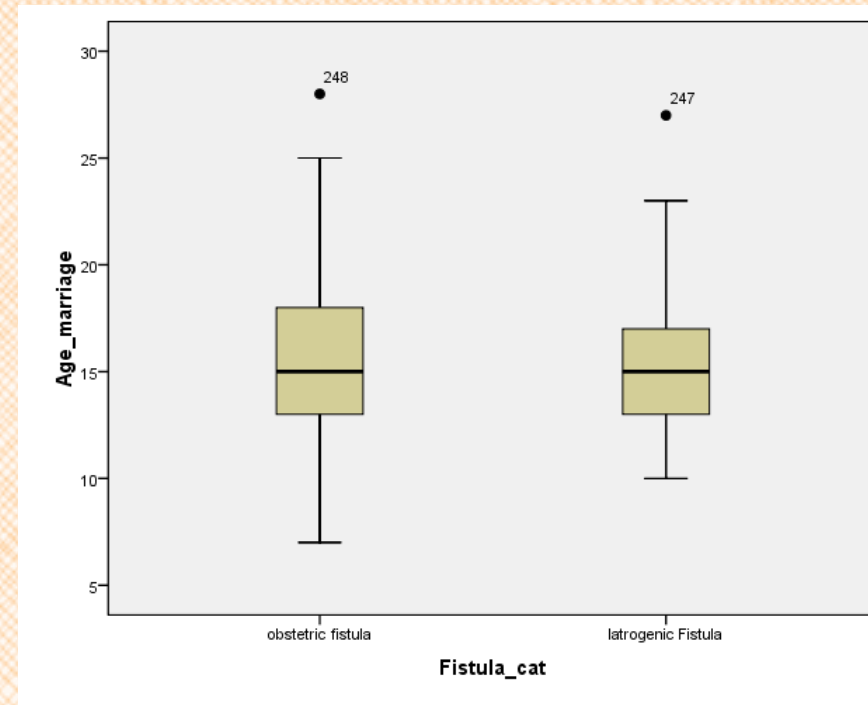
- **To explore the demographic profile of fistula cases**
- **To explore the direct causes of female genital fistula**
- **To explore the policy implications of preventing the occurrence of fistula**

Methods

- **Fistula cases who had repair surgery during 2012 to 2014 at National Fistula Center and three other major hospitals**
- **Data from clinical history sheet were analyzed**
- **Fistula was classified according to the decisions of the principal surgeon as recorded in the history sheet**

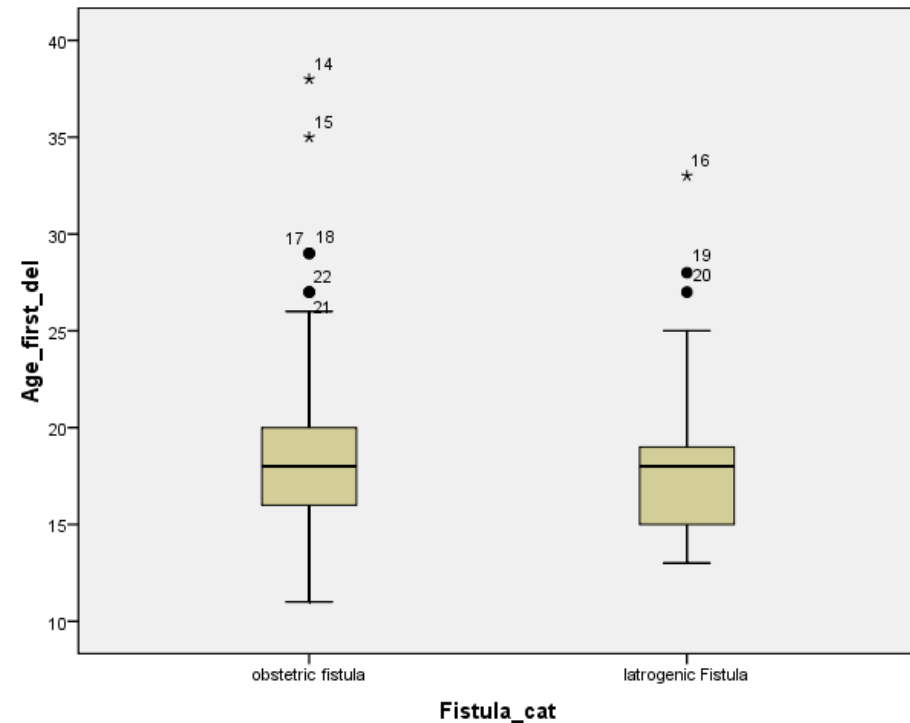
Results: Age at Marriage

- **Over all mean: 15.4 yrs**
–95% CI: 15-15.8 yrs
- **Obstetric Fistula: 15.5 yrs**
–95% CI: 14.9-16.2 years
- **Iatrogenic Fistula: 15.1 yrs**
–95% CI: 14.5-15.6 yrs



Age at delivery

- **Over all mean: 18.1 yrs**
–95% CI: 17.6-18.6 yrs
- **Obstetric Fistula at incident delivery: 18.4 yrs**
–95% CI: 17.6-19.2 years
- **Iatrogenic Fistula at first delivery: 17.8 yrs**
–95% CI: 17.1-18.4yrs



ANC Utilization:

- **Some ANC utilization: 28%**
 - 4 or more visits 12%
 - <4 visit 16%
- **No ANC utilization: 72%**
- **No significant difference**
 - Obstetric fistula vs. Iatrogenic fistula $p= 0.7$

Institutional Delivery: Incident delivery for Obstetric Fistula and first delivery for the Iatrogenic fistula

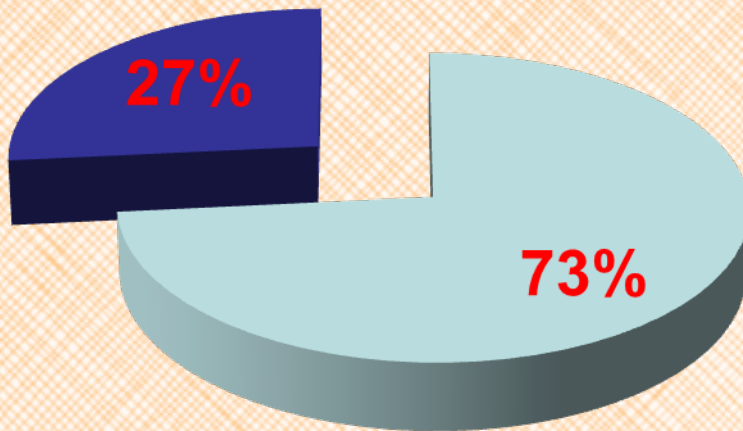
| Type of Fistula | Home delivery (%) | Hospital delivery (%) |
|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Obstetric Fistula | 45% | 55% |
| Iatrogenic Fistula | 53% | 47% |
| Over all | 47% | 53% |

- No significant difference: Obstetric vs Iatrogenic $p = 0.4$
- Obstetric trend: transport to hospital often delayed

Results: VVF (89%)

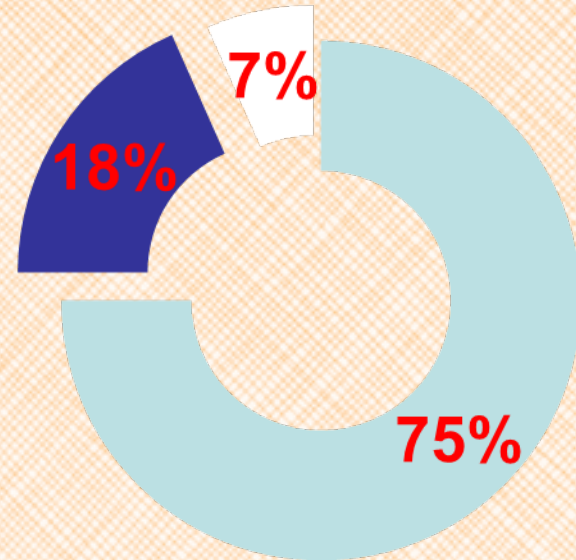
RVF (11%)

Type of Fistula



- Obstetric Fistula
- Iatrogenic Fistula

Iatrogenic Fistula



- Post Gyn Hysterectomy
- Post CS
- Instrumental Delivery

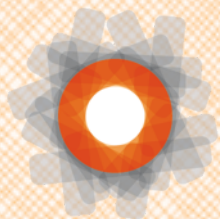
Conclusions

- **Age of marriage and age of delivery not causal factor for fistula**
- **More than 25% of all fistula cases were iatrogenic**
- **Gyn hysterectomy most common source of iatrogenic fistula**
- **Timely referral an evident gap in women laboring at home coming late for facility delivery**
- **Timely adequate obstetric care at facility**
- **Safe gynecological surgery only when required**

Future plans

- **More investigations required for understanding the changing dynamic between obstetric and iatrogenic fistula**
 - **Data for decision making**
 - **Prevention strategies**
 - **Quality assurance and quality improvement**

Thank You



Maternal Health **Task Force**

