



# Mamta Ghar-Birth Waiting Home: Gujarat Experience

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## 1. Background

Motherhood is often a positive and fulfilling experience, whereas for too many women it is associated with suffering, ill-health and even death.

In a year in Gujarat, 1.2 million women experience delivery and estimated 1,500 maternal deaths and 52,000 newborn deaths. Thus, pregnancy-related mortality and morbidity continues to have a huge impact on the lives of women and their newborns.

One of the major determinants in some areas of the State is the ability to bring the necessary technical skills – economic, geographical, and operational – to the women in need of help. Access to a continuum of care, including appropriate management of pregnancy, delivery, post partum care and access to life-saving obstetric care when complications arise are crucial to Safe Motherhood.

## 2. Purpose of Mamta Ghar

The purpose of Mamta Ghar is to provide a setting where high-risk women or women from remote areas can be accommodated during the last 7-10 days of pregnancy or even more if needed near a hospital where Obstetric and Newborn care facilities are available.

The purpose of Mamta Ghar is not only to decrease maternal mortality but also to improve maternal and neonatal outcomes.

Mamta Ghar is the key element to ***'bridge the geographical gap'*** in obstetric care between rural areas, with poor access to facilities. In these Mamta Ghar additional emphasis is put on education and counseling regarding pregnancy, delivery and care of the newborn infant and family.

## 3. Crucial element of a Mamta Ghar

Mamta Ghar is residential facility, located near or in the health facility, where in women identified as *'high risk'*, including those expecting their first delivery, women with 3+ previous births, very young women, older women and those identified as having problems such as high blood pressure during pregnancy, pregnant women from remote habitat can await their delivery and promptly get Skilled Birth Attendant Care at the time of delivery. Mamta Ghar is place where women can be accommodated for last 7-10 days of pregnancy or even more if needed.

## 4. The objectives of building Mamta Ghar

- ❑ Increase the utilization of the hospital by women for delivery and care.
- ❑ Enable poor women at risk from pregnancy and child birth living in remote areas greater access to medical care.
- ❑ Increase percentage of women delivered a baby with trained providers at health facility.
- ❑ Promote early and exclusive breast feeding.
- ❑ Promote minimum 48 hours of Post Partum Stay in the Institutions.

## 5. Establishing of a Mamta Ghar

53 Mamta Ghar locations are identified on the basis of availability and accessibility to quality Obstetric care especially Basic and Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric and New born Care within the province, means of transportation, referral system, financial and human resources, availability and sustainability (utilization rate).

## 6. Type of services offered in Mamta Ghar

Pregnant women are encouraged to come to the Mamta Ghar 7-10 days prior to the expected date of delivery , where she will get range of services:

### Health services

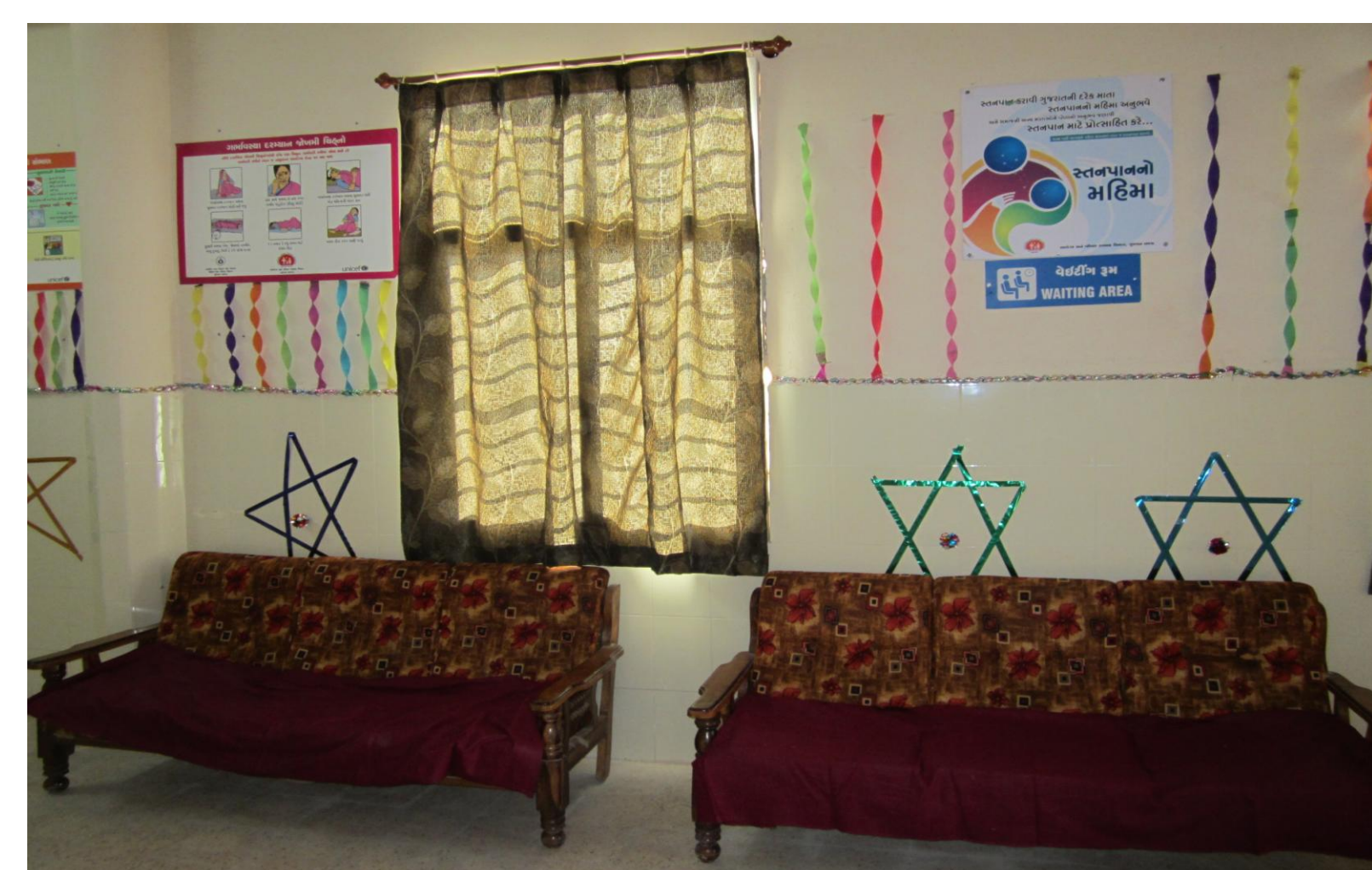
- ❑ Routine Antenatal Examination
- ❑ Nearby 24hr on call availability of Skilled Birth Attendant

### Health Education

- ❑ On childbirth and post-natal care
- ❑ Birth spacing and family planning
- ❑ Newborn care
- ❑ Kangaroo mother care for preterm or low birth weight babies
- ❑ Early and exclusive breast feeding
- ❑ Vaccination
- ❑ Nutrition

### Other related services

- ❑ Food facilities: To beneficiary and one attendant
- ❑ Child care
- ❑ Ambulance service



## 7. Liaison with community and the health system

Community members informed by the Health Department, of the importance of Mamta Ghar. VHSNC members and focal persons for women and children are encouraged to work closely with health personnel in identifying and helping women to utilize the Mamta Ghars well before the expected date of delivery.

## 8. Administration and Staffing

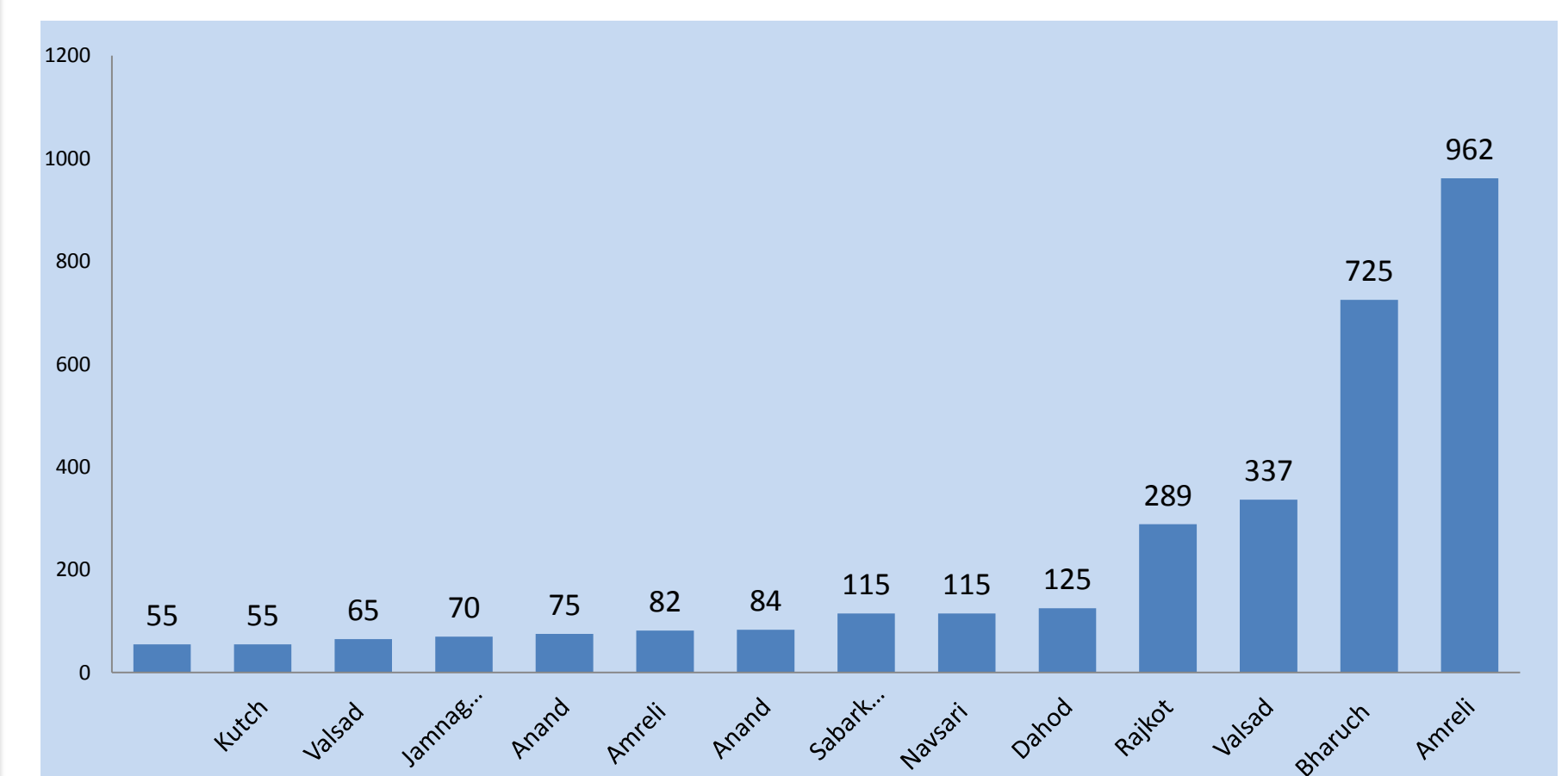
- ❑ Each Mamta Ghar is to be managed and administered by the Facility Incharge.
- ❑ To facilitate beneficiaries in the Mamta Ghar, total 3 Caretakers, one Sweeper and one Security person are sanctioned for each Mamta Ghar.

## 9. Utilization

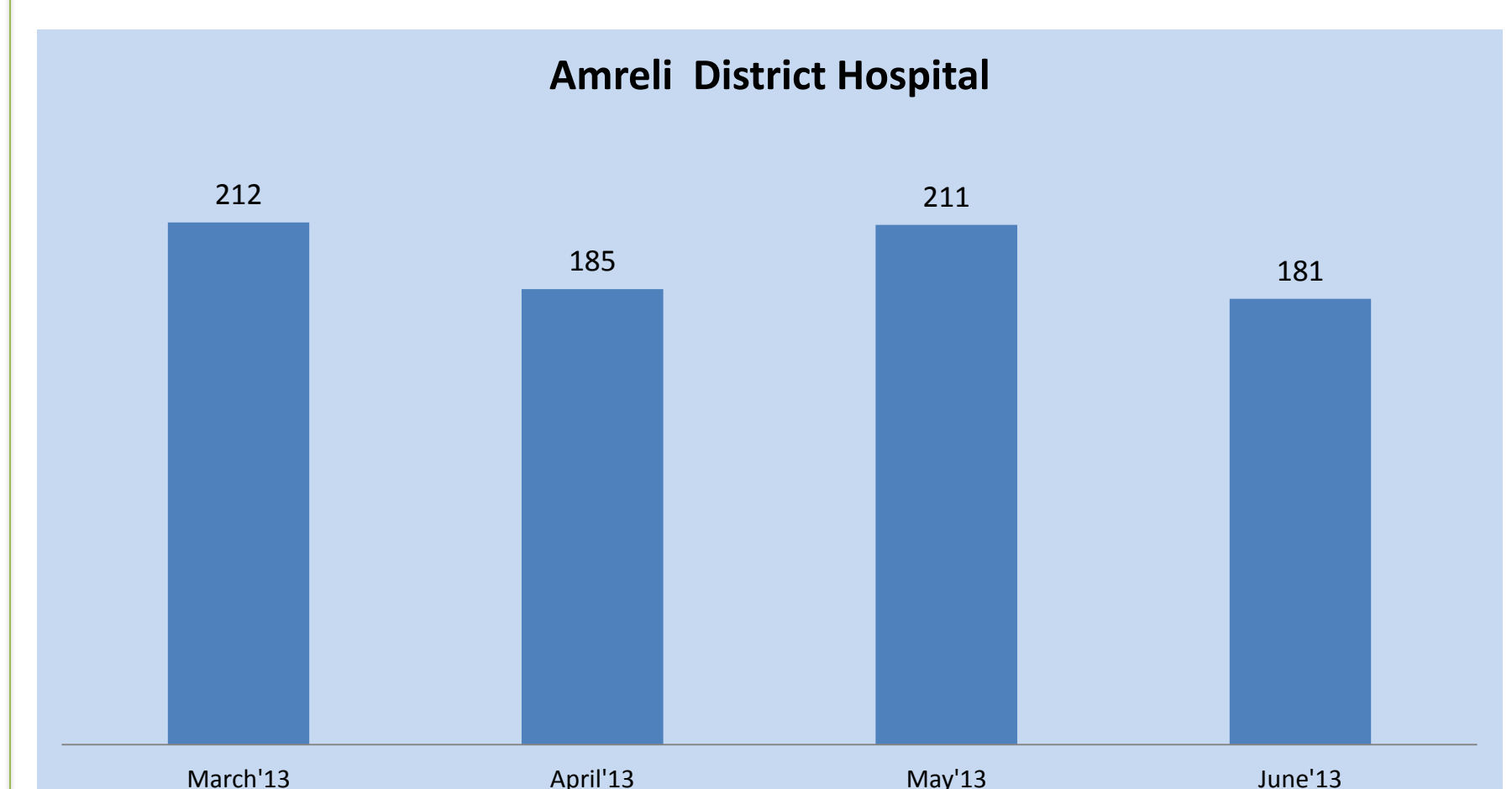
Mamta Ghar utilization was estimated using pregnant women days method. This method calculates number of women staying in Mamta Ghar over a month multiplied by number of days stayed. This measure is robust analysis for reviewing performance of Mamta Ghar.

Pregnant women days = no. of pregnant mothers X  
no. of days stayed

Based on above formula all Mamta Ghars with pregnant women days more than 30 were identified and 28% of Mamta Ghar were found have utilization of more than 30 pregnant women days. Detailed utilization of respective Mamta Ghar is displayed in figure 1.



Amreli District hospital had best performance in pregnant mother days. So to understand utilization pattern and sustainability of these model monthly analysis was carried out for Amreli district hospital. Monthly analysis of Amreli hospital is presented in figure 2. It is evident from the figure 2 that there is continuous use of Mamta Ghar across the months.



## 10. Conclusion:

It is evident from the present research that Mamta Ghar provides essential care to mothers before her delivery. Continuous utilization of service is also encouraging and further effort is required to make further progress in remaining Mamta Ghar.

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