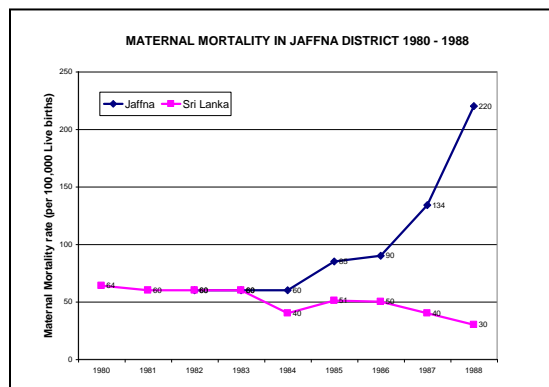


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Report on MATERNAL DEATHS IN JAFFNA DISTRICT in 1988

Dr. N Sivarajah, Department of Community Medicine, University of Jaffna

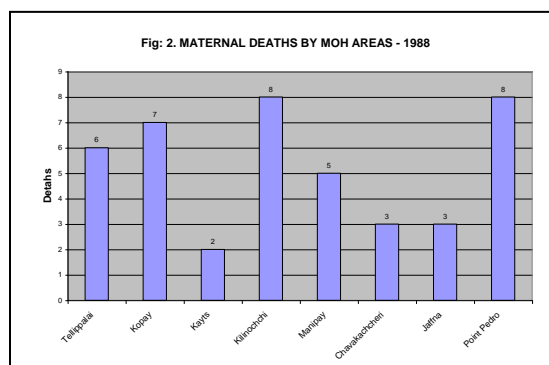
Since the escalation of the ethnic conflict in 1983, the maternal mortality in the Jaffna District had been steadily rising. Up to 1983 the Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) was same as that of Sri Lanka. The MMR for Sri Lanka started dropping since 1984 but the MMR for Jaffna started rising gradually and in 1988 there were 42 maternal deaths giving a MMR of 220 per 100, 000 live births (Fig: 1)



This report analyses the 42 maternal deaths that occurred in the Jaffna District during the period 01.01.1988 to 31.12.1988.

Distribution

The maternal deaths were distributed throughout the district. The distribution of maternal deaths by Medical Officers of Health (MOH) areas is given in Fig: 2. The maternal deaths were almost equally distributed among the different MOH areas except Kayts, Jaffna & Chavakachcheri.



Relationship to period of Gestation

Nearly two thirds (68.3%) of the maternal deaths occurred after delivery of the baby Table 1). They were related to delay in obtaining treatment for postpartum complications due to curfews and restrictions in movement.

Table 1. Maternal deaths in relation to period of gestation

Period of gestation	Number	%
Under 28 weeks	03	7.3
28 w to onset of labor	08	19.5
During labor	02	4.8
Post partum	28	68.3
Unknown	01	
Total	42	

Causes of Maternal Deaths

The causes of maternal death are given in Table: 2.

Most of the deaths were due to preventable causes. But the deaths occurred are related to disruption of the Health services following the IPKF Operation in 1987. Even by the end of 1988 the health infrastructure had not recouped itself. There were breakdowns in the transport, lack of drugs and human resource together with curfews and restriction in movement.

<i>Cause</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>
Septicemia	12	29.3
Hemorrhage	10	24.4
CCF due to anemia	06	14.6
Eclampsia	05	12.2
Septic Abortion	02	4.9
Heart Disease	01	14.6
Von Wille Brand Disease	01	
Pulmonary embolism	01	
Amniotic Fluid embolism	01	
Ectopic Pregnancy	01	
Ruptured Uterus	01	
Lost to study	01	
Total	42	100

Parity and Age

The distribution of deaths by parity and age is given in Table 3.

Table: 3. Maternal deaths in relation to parity & age of mother

Age (in years)	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	Total	%
Under 20	2	0	0	0	0	2	4.8
20 – 24	2	3	0	2	0	7	16.7
25 – 29	3	3	2	1	0	9	21.4
30 – 34	1	5	2	2	3	13	30.9
35 – 40	0	0	2	2	7	11	26.9
Total	8	11	6	7	10	42	100
Percent	19.0	26.2	14.3	16.7	23.8	100.0	

57.8% of the mothers who died were between 30 & 40 years

Recommendations

1. Immediate action has to be taken to reverse this condition
2. Access to Health Care institutions should be improved
3. Transport and Emergency Ambulance Services should be established
4. Training of Public Health midwives and Public Health Nurses should be accelerated and human resource made available to the District