Key Readings

   - Overview: Defines a number of methods for measuring advocacy.

   - Overview: A review of the evidence of disrespect and abuse in facility-based childbirth. This includes the review of published and gray literature with regard to the definition, scope, contributors, and impact of disrespect and abuse in childbirth, promising intervention approaches, and the identification of gaps in the evidence.

Further Readings on Policy Advocacy

   - Overview: Reviews the emerging literature in the field, noting the points of convergence and divergence. The author also suggests limitations on the available frameworks for evaluating advocacy and identifies opportunities for effective evaluation that meet the needs of interest groups.

   - Overview: This provides background on RMC as well as methods and tools for advocates to work towards institutionalization of RMC as a core value of the maternal care system. This includes the Respectful Maternity Care Charter: Universal Rights of Childbearing Women.

   - Overview: This paper examines the trend of reproductive health civil society organizations in developing countries that are engaging in advocacy for improved reproductive rights at the service delivery level. First, the rationale and requirements for reproductive health service delivery advocacy is introduced. Next, challenges and current practices are explored in monitoring and evaluating these efforts. Lastly, the paper presents a number of strategies to consider when developing a monitoring and evaluation approach for service delivery advocacy.

   - Overview: Provides a qualitative approach to measuring impact of policy change.
   - Overview: The article introduces the growing field of advocacy evaluation by describing its typical features, which include using prospective evaluation designs, emphasizing real-time data collection and use, monitoring and responding to changing environmental conditions, and assessing both individual and organizational capacity building. A number of freely available resources for learning more about advocacy evaluation’s key concepts and methods are highlighted.

   - Overview: Reviews two different evaluation efforts of NGOs undertaking advocacy and policy work in developing countries.

   - Overview: Highlights several challenges advocacy evaluators are currently facing and provides new resources for addressing them.


Further Readings on Respectful Maternity Care

   - Overview: The article compares the delivery and childbirth situation in five municipalities in the Brazilian State of Ceara, before and after an intervention which integrates humanization of childbirth elements into health care provider training.

   - Overview: This article analyzes research from the past decade on abuse by doctors and nurses. Four forms of abuse are discussed: neglect, verbal, physical, and sexual abuse.

• Overview: This mixed methods study looks at reasons why women prefer to deliver at home despite low-cost options being available at health care facilities. In addition to several other deterrents, women do report that poor quality of care and previous negative experiences with health facilities influence decisions on where to seek maternity care.


• Overview: This article outlines a quasi-experimental study aimed at designing, testing, and evaluating an approach to significantly reduce disrespectful and abusive (D&A) care of women during labor and delivery in facilities. Specifically the study aims to: (i) determine the manifestations, types and prevalence of D&A in childbirth (ii) develop and validate tools for assessing D&A (iii) identify and explore the potential drivers of D&A (iv) design, implement, monitor and evaluate the impact of one or more interventions to reduce D&A and (v) document and assess the dynamics of implementing interventions to reduce D&A and generate lessons for replication at scale.


• Overview: Using a strategic assessment process, this study seeks to understand why the Dominican Republic continues to report high maternal mortality rates while nearly all women utilize formal facilities for childbirth. Findings suggest that poor quality of care, including a lack of respect for reproductive and overall women’s rights, can be attributed to the higher rates of maternal mortality.


• Overview: This paper is a commentary on the childbirth situation portrayed in the Miller et al article, “Quality of care in institutional deliveries: the paradox of the Dominican Republic”. The paper uses this situation to discuss the importance of recognizing that high quality delivery services are a human right and that these rights should be upheld through ‘constructive accountability’. The author posits that the setting of appropriate norms for maternal care and key stakeholder, including government, participation is necessary for improved quality of care.

7. Accessing the “Caring” Behaviors of Skilled Maternity Care Providers During Labor and Delivery: Experience From Kenya And Bangladesh. CHANGE Project (2005).

