

Research Proposal Form

MSc Public Health and Social Care in Practice Dissertation (CHS7004)

Fill in this form after discussions with your tutor.

The information will be formally submitted to your supervisor for approval.

Student Name	Student ID
Aashiya Soebbhahi Vhora	2236984

**Please adapt the text boxes accordingly*

Proposed Research Topic:

Assessing the Perception of women toward pregnancy at Advance age and the risks associated with pregnancy at advance maternal age.

Research question:

What are the underlying reasons for advance maternal age and how do women see the risk associated with pregnancy at advance maternal age?

Research methodology: This research will adopt a quantitative method.

- **Quantitative method:** A quantitative research method involves the collection and analysis of numerical data to answer research questions and test hypotheses. It is characterized by the use of structured research instruments, statistical analysis, and a focus on measuring variables to establish patterns, relationships, or causal connections
As the name suggests, a sample is a smaller representation extracted from a larger entirety (Pandey, and Pandey, 2021). (Cramer, 2003)
To make the research more manageable, researchers often focus on a subset of the target population, creating a sample (Pace, 2021)
- **Sample:** A subset of individuals or elements selected from a larger population to conduct research. The characteristics and behaviours of the sample are analysed

to make inferences or generalizations about the entire population. In this research, sample size will be 10.

Study population (non-probability sampling)

The study will on pregnant women aged 35-39 as the primary population.

A brief overview (14-20 sentences, including 5 references)

Please provide a **brief overview** of the topic you intend to research in a lay public language, that is for a non-scientific audience:

- Childbearing in a woman over 35 is the standard definition of advanced maternal age. Pregnancies among women older than the average biological reproductive age are becoming more common due to a combination of cultural, societal, and economic shifts as well as reproductive technology like egg donation (Montori et al, 2021).

RATIONALE OF STUDY

✓ **Increased prevalence:**

- Over the last four decades in Europe, there has been a consistent upward trend in the average age of women during pregnancy. In 2009, more than one million births in Europe were to mothers aged 35 or older (Kurtovic-Kozaric et al ,2016)
- The period from 1982 to 2012 witnessed a significant increase in the number of live births to women over 40 in the UK, with this demographic shift more than four-fold.

✓ **Impact of AMA on fertility:**

- Fertility undergoes a gradual decline as women age, with this decline becoming noticeable from around the age of 32. This decline is primarily attributed to a reduction in both the quality and quantity of oocytes (egg cells) available for reproduction. As a result, demand for Assisted reproductive Technology (ART) arises (Attali and Yogev, 2021).
- pling (Mills and Lavender 2014)
- In England and Wales, the mean childbearing age increased from 27.7 years in 1990 to 30.5 years in 2017, and the percentage of women with advanced maternal age who delivered live infants increased from 8.7% to 22.7% over the same period (Cao, et al, 2022).

✓ **Impact of AMA on fertility:**

Fertility undergoes a gradual decline as women age, with this decline becoming noticeable from around the age of 32 This decline is primarily attributed to a reduction in both the quality and quantity of oocytes (egg cells) available for reproduction. As a result, demand for Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) arises (Attali and Yogev, 2021).\ **Complications**

associated with AMA

- **Pregnancy-induced hypertension:** Older women may have an increased risk of developing hypertension during pregnancy.
- **DM:** advanced maternal age is associated with a higher risk of gestational diabetes.
- **Maternal near miss:** The risk of maternal near miss events may be higher in older women due to potential underlying health conditions.
- **Increased CD:** older mothers may have an increased likelihood of undergoing a caesarean section, possibly due to various factors such as decreased uterine muscle tone.
- **Malpresentation:** older women may experience a higher incidence of malpresentation, where the baby is not in the optimal position for delivery.
- **Maternal death:** while the overall risk is low, advanced maternal age is associated with a slightly higher risk of maternal mortality.
- **Low Apgar score:** There may be a slightly increased risk of a lower Apgar score in infants born to older mothers.
- **pre-term delivery:** Advanced maternal age is associated with a slightly increased risk of pre-term birth.
- **Low birth weight:** Babies born to older mothers may have a slightly higher risk of being born with low birth weight.
- **Birth defects:** The risk of certain chromosomal abnormalities and birth defects increases with maternal age.
- **Chromosomal abnormalities:** There is an increased risk of chromosomal abnormalities, such as Down syndrome, in pregnancies of older women.
- **Perinatal mortality:** the risk of perinatal mortality, including stillbirth and early neonatal death, may be slightly higher in pregnancies of older women.

Factors contributing AMA

several factors contribute to women experiencing Advanced Maternal Age (AMA), generally defined as pregnancy occurring in women who are 35 years old or older. Here's a breakdown of how the listed factors contribute to AMA

- **Delay marriage:** Women who delay marriage until later in life are more likely to experience pregnancy at an advanced age.
- **Education and carer development:** Pursuing higher education and career development often leads to delayed childbearing as women focus on their professional and educational goals.
- **Personal goal:** Women may prioritize personal goals, such as travel, financial stability, or personal development, which can contribute to delaying pregnancy until later in life.
- **Use of contraception:** The use of contraception can delay childbearing by preventing unintended pregnancies.
- **Not using contraception correctly or consistently:** In some cases, women may not use contraception correctly or consistently, leading to unintended pregnancies later in life.

(Cooke and Davidge, 2019)

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Aim (a broad statement capturing the overall purpose of this research)

Please provide the aim of the topic you intend to research:

This study on pregnant women aged between 35-39, will investigate the factors contributing to pregnancy at advance age and women's perception of the risk associated with pregnancy at advance maternal age.

Objectives (outline 3-5 using bullet points)

Please provide the objectives of the intended research: .

- To assess the risk factors linked to the maternal age of pregnant women and their infants.
- To understand women's perception of risks associated with advanced maternal age.
- To offer guidance and recommendations for expectant mothers to minimize the risk of complications

Ethical considerations (indicate ethical issues that are relevant to your research)

Collecting primary data from human participants requires you to address these issues.

Using primary data sources still requires how you will address these issues.

I will submit my research proposal and the UWTSD ethics form to my supervisor to receive ethical approval.

Yes

I will develop a research information letter and consent form to be handed to each participant.

Yes

Voluntary informed Consent will be asked of each participant:

Yes

I will ensure participants will not be subjected to coercion, intimidation, and undue influence to participate in this research.

Yes

I will ensure participants will be informed they have the right to withdraw and their data from this research.



I will ensure to store the obtained signed consent forms securely and anonymously.	Yes
I will ensure the collected data will be protected and stored securely and deleted after ending this study program.	Yes
I confirm that I have discussed and agreed every section of this form with my supervisor and will only conduct my research in line with what has been agreed in this document	Yes
Signature...A.s. vhora..... Date:.....4/1/2024.....	
<u>Supervisor:</u>	
Signature..... Date:.....	
<u>Appendix:</u>	
A Participant research information form	
B Consent form	
C List of Questions / Interview schedule	

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Assessment of risks and complications in pregnancy in advance maternal age

[research period – 16 weeks]

Use this template to help you explain your primary research.

Aim

Describe the aim for this research.

This study on pregnant women aged between 35-39, will investigate the factors contributing to pregnancy at advance age and women's perception of the risk associated with pregnancy at advance maternal age.

Objectives

Describe the identified objectives for this research.

To assess the risk factors linked to the maternal age of pregnant women.
To understand women's perception of risks associated with advanced maternal age.
To offer guidance and recommendations for expectant mothers to minimize the risk of complications.

Research question

Provide the central research question in sentence format, and then break up the question according to the PICO framework (or other frameworks as appropriate).

What are the underlying reasons for advance maternal age and how do women see the risk associated with pregnancy at advance maternal age?

Population	Pregnant women age 35-39
Intervention	n/a
Comparison	N/a
Outcome	Offer guidance and recommendations to expectant mother

Collection of data

List your methods

- Quantitative research method
- Questionnaire

Present which setting

Write about how and where you will recruit participants, how many and in which setting.

My sample size would be 10 which means, 10 pregnant women are going to be my participants. I will recruit them from community-based center in Leicester.

Identifying other useful sources

Outline any other ways you will find useful sources, such as hand searching contents lists of key journals, looking at relevant websites, looking at references and citations for relevant articles.

Analysis of the data

Give detail about which analysing techniques you will use on your collected data.

Quantitative

- Descriptive analysis
-

Qualitative

-
-

Additional sources

Which key terms will you use to find relevant literature to support your primary data

Advanced maternal age, risk factors,....

Data extraction & synthesis

Outline the procedures you intend to use to analyse and summarise the study results. How will you extract the data and how will it be analysed and summarised (statistical or narrative)?

I will save and store my all data to university cloud. I will use descriptive analysis technique to analyse my data.



Adapted from the University of Reading's version from a [Review Protocol Template by Sarah Visintini](#) which is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License](#).

Reference List add here below

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Participation Consent Form



Participant
Identification
Number:

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PARTICIPATION CONSENT FORM

(for researcher to fill)

Project Title: study on pregnant women at advance age.

Name of Researcher:

Aashiya soebbhahi vhora

Name of Supervisor: Olusegun Awolaran

Email of Researcher: 2236984@student.uwtsd.ac.uk

Aim of Research: This study on pregnant women aged between 35-39, will investigate the factors contributing to pregnancy at advance age and women's perception of the risk associated with pregnancy at advance maternal age.

(for participant to fill)

(for participant to fill)		YES	NO
1	I confirm that I have read and understood the information sheet dated _____ for the above study.		
2	I understand there are no material benefits for participating.		
2	I have had the opportunity to consider the information, ask questions		

	and have had these answered satisfactorily.		
3	I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I am free to withdraw at any time, without giving any reason.		
4	I understand that any information given by me may be used in future reports, articles or presentations by the researcher.		
5	I consent for my name and title to be used within this study.		
	Where applicable, I understand that my details will not be anonymous.		
6	I agree to be recorded (audio and/or audio-visual video).		
7	I agree to take part in the above study.		
Researcher's Name (Print)	Aashiya vhora	Signature	A.vhora
Participant's Name (Print)		Signature	

You may decline to participate in this study. You may end your participation in this study at any time. All data generated from this or any interview will remain confidential. For more information, please view the university's [Research and Data Management Policy](#).

When completed please email a copy to the below address to be kept on the file of the researcher and retain a copy for yourself.

Subject Title: **[NAME OF PARTICIPANT] – Participant Consent Form**

Email: 2236984@student.uwtsd.ac.uk

Participant Information Sheet

University of Wales Trinity Saint David (London Campus)
Winchester House, 11 Cranmer Rd,
London SW9 6EJ
Tel: 020 7127 7400



Participant Identification Number:

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

Project Title: study on pregnant women at advance age

Name of Researcher: Aashiya vhora

Name of Supervisor: Olusegun Awolaran

Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is ____Aashiya____ and I am a postgraduate student in the University of Wales Trinity Saint David, United Kingdom (London campus). Currently, I am conducting research entitled ____study on pregnant women at advance age____.

The purpose of this research is to:

The purpose of this study is to understand why women between the ages 35-39 choose to become pregnant and assess how they perceive the risks associated with having a baby at an older age. By investigating this, I aim to provide valuable insights that can help improve support and information for women in this age. Moreover, to offer support to younger mothers ensuring they make informed decisions about their health and the well-being of their babies.

I would like to invite you to participate in my research project by completing the questionnaire.

Please complete the accompanying consent form.

Please note that the questionnaire should not take more than 25-30 minutes to complete but, there is no time constraint. Your participation in the questionnaire will be voluntary. You will not receive any remuneration or reward from the researcher. As a participant, you may decide to stop the questionnaire at any point of time without any explanation and/or reason.

All data generated from this or any interview will remain confidential. For more information, please view the university's Research and Data Management Policy.

I thank you in advance for your time and participation. If any questions do arise, feel free to contact me at your convenience.



University of Wales
Trinity Saint David
LONDON

Name of Researcher: Aashiya vhora	Signature of Researcher: A.vhora
Email of Researcher: 2236984@student.uwtsd.ac.uk	



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