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# Dietary Calcium Intake and Associated Factors Among Pregnant Women in Loma District, South West Ethiopia, 2020

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#### **Abstract**

**Background:** Low dietary calcium intakes could cause harmful effects to the pregnant woman by influencing pregnancy outcome. Adequate intake of dietary calcium during pregnancy reduces the risk of complications and aids in improved birth outcome. Many researchers focus on urban areas to address the issue and our study was focused on rural community. Hence the study is aimed at assessing dietary calcium intake in rural communities.

**Objective:** To assess the dietary calcium intakes and associated factors among pregnant women in Loma, south west Ethiopia from May to July, 2019

Methods: -A community based cross-sectional study was conducted in Loma district, Dawuro zone, southwest Ethiopia. Data were collected from 398 pregnant women after random selection from nine kebeles. Simple random sampling technique was employed to select study subjects. Socio-economic and demographic, and health related data was collected using structured, interviewer administered, and pre tested questionnaire. The 24 hr dietary recall was used for three different days with seven days interval as per the recommendation. When dietary data is collected, often it was converted into nutrients, especially the calcium intake by using Ethiopian food composition table. Collected data was checked for completeness, and entered in to Epi Data version 3.02 for data clearance and exported to SPSS version 20 for analysis. AOR with 95% C.I results of multivariate logistic regression was used to assess the statistical significance of associations between independent and dependent variables. The level of statistical significance was declared at p <0.05.

**Result:** The median calcium intake was 543mg per day. From 398 participants, 265(66.6%) were at risk of inadequate intake of calcium. Greater than half 249 (62.6%) respondents had practiced avoiding calcium rich food during their pregnancy. The finding of this study identified that nutritional counseling have strong statistical association with dietary calcium intake of mothers during pregnancy. The chance of dietary calcium intakes during pregnancy who were received nutritional counseling 2.4 times higher than those who were not received nutritional counseling (AOR=2.432 95% CI: 1.072-5.517).

**Conclusion and recommendation:** From the present study, it can be concluded that, majority of pregnant mothers 265(66.6%) had a poor dietary calcium intakes during their pregnancy. It is recommended that consumption of enough calcium and dairy products should be included and emphasized in the nutrition education component of maternal health programs.

Keywords: Dietary Calcium Intake, Pregnant Women, Loma District.

# Introduction

Inadequate intakes of calcium are one of the most serious public health problem affecting mothers and their children in the world. WHO estimates that at least one woman dies every seven minutes from complications of hypertensive disorders of pregnancy this is may be because of low intakes of dietary calcium [1]. Inadequate intakes of calcium during pregnancy cause hypertensive disorder which is a major health problem leading maternal and perinatal morbidity and mortality. However, an adequate calcium intake during pregnancy might prevent pregnancy in-

duced hypertension, preterm birth, FGR, increasing maternal bone mass, and reduce fracture risks [2-3].

In resource-poor environments across the globe, low quality monotonous diets are the norm. When grain- or tuber-based staple foods dominate and diets lack vegetables, fruits and animal-source foods, risk for a range of micronutrient (calcium) deficiencies is high. Mainly pregnant women is vulnerable group, but there is no sufficient information on micronutrient (calcium) deficiencies on such global public health problem among pregnant women [4].

There is less evidence from developing countries generally and specifically where monotonous diets, relying mostly on a typical few plant-based staple foods confirm this association specifically among pregnant women [5]. Maternal diets during pregnancy need to provide nutrients for the mother as well as for fetal growth and development. Prevention of Hypertensive disorders and preeclampsia are the advantages of dietary calcium intakes during pregnancy[6]. Ensuring that appropriate dietary calcium is consumed is important for preventing pregnancy induced hypertension and helping to reduce the risk of osteoporosis with advancing age [7-8]. So evaluation of dietary calcium intake and associated factors among pregnant women in Loma Woreda, Dawuro, South West Ethiopia is very important.

# Materials and Methods Study Settings and study period

The study was conducted in Loma Woreda from May to July 2019 which is located 512 km away from Addis Ababa, the capital city of Ethiopia, 292 km from Hawassa, the regional town SNNPR. The district structured in to 24 rural and 3 urban kebeles. According to the report of CSA the estimated population of Loma Woreda was 108,965 out of which 53,502 were male & 55,463were female[9]. Maize, enset (false banana), and root

crops are majorly consumed food items [10].

Study Design: Community based cross sectional study design was used.

**Source Population:** All pregnant women who are living at least for six months in Loma Woreda

**Study Population:** Randomly selected pregnant women were participated during the study period.

**Inclusion criteria:** - Pregnant women who are living at least for 6 months in Loma Woreda.

**Exclusion criteria:** Seriously ill pregnant women during the interview were not considered in study.

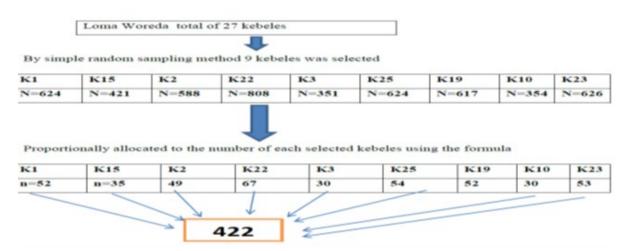
#### Sample size determination

The sample size was determined by using single proportion formula by taking assumptions of the prevalence of dietary calcium intake as 50%, 5% marginal error, 95% CI, a non-response rate of 10%. Therefore, sample size is:  $n=(z\alpha/2)2 p (1-p)/d2 = (P=50\%) (1.96)2*0.5(1-0.5)/(0.05)2n=384$ 

When adding 10% none response rate, the maximum sample size were (384\*10%) = 422.

#### Sampling procedures

From the total of 27 kebeles of Loma Woreda, 9 kebeles was selected by simple random sampling method. A sample frame from selected kebeles was taken from kebele health posts. Sample size for each selected kebeles was allocated proportionally. Study participants were selected by using simple random sampling technique. List of participating households from the selected kebeles was obtained from HEW. After obtaining a list of participant households, we have selected the required sample size by using lottery methods. A pregnant woman in each 9 kebeles and the first household was selected by simple random sampling method.



**Figure 1:** Schematic presentation of sampling procedure for the dietary calcium intakes and associated factors among pregnant women in Loma Woreda.

# **Operational definitions**

**Above RDA:** The amount calcium intake is above 1000 mg per day.

**Below RDA:** The amount of calcium intake is less than 1000 mg per day.

**Adequate Intake:** The amount of calcium intake is equals to 1000 mg per day.

**Positive Attitude:** Pregnant women's score is ≥ the mean score 25 in likert scale

Negative Attitude: Pregnant women's score is < 25 in likert

scale.

**Adequate Knowledge:** Pregnant women score is  $\geq$  the average

**Poor knowledge:** Pregnant women score is < average score 7

# Data collection tools and procedure Recruitment of data collectors

Eight diploma nurses were recruited to collect the data and one BSC nurse and one Health officer were supervising data collection. The data collector and supervisor were trained for two consecutive days on the objective, ethics, method and contents of question.

# Quantified multiple pass 24 hr. Recall

The 24 hour dietary recall includes the type of food and beverages consumed inside and outside of the house along with the quantity of the foods. The 24-hour period starts with the first food eaten by the pregnant women in the morning until the last food item consumed before going to bed. The Quantified 24 hr recall was used for at least three different days which covers at least one week day and one weekend day so as to adequately represent the habitual intake .The FAO (2018) Quick guide to use 24 hr recall was followed.

**Dietary Recall:** Each interview involved, a stepwise series of questions, normal household utensils, food substitutes (play dough, flour, lentils, water) and pictures of most commonly consumed foods in the specific regions to improve the memory of the respondents and assist in completing the questionnaires. 24hr dietary recall was conducted using the multiple-pass technique which include,

- **1. First pass:**-Quick list of all foods, drinks, snacks consumed from midnight of one day until midnight the following day.
- 2. Second pass:-Detailed and more specific descriptions of all the foods and drinks consumed, including cooking methods and brand names (where possible). The interviewer also asked if the respondent has remembered any additional items that were consumed but which were forgotten in the first pass.

# 3. Third pass:-Estimating portion sizes

In order to accurately estimate the portion size of foods and drinks consumed, Calibrated locally available labeled cup, bowl, spoon, serving spoons, food weighing scale. Moreover, the data collectors carried different sizes of locally consumed fruits and vegetables such as bananas, avocado, shallot, tomato, potato, yum to facilitate the recall [21].

**4. Pass four:**-The interviewer reviewed the recall to ensure that all the items have been recorded correctly. Every respondent were probed for snacks, drinks and outdoor consumption of any kind of food after they complete recall.

The interviews were conducted on all seven days of the week to capture changes in intakes across various days of the week. The dietary recall was repeated in randomly selected of the households by interviewer and in a different nonconsecutive day than the first. The recall was repeated to adjust for the day to day variation we were include week day and weekends and to adjust within person variation of nutrient intakes of the study participants we were increased days. All recall days were arranged on non-special occasion days like holidays or feasts.

The calcium intake was calculated by using food composition table of Ethiopia[22]. After calculating the intake of dietary Calcium per day the values was compared with WHO Recommended Dietary Allowances of Calcium for pregnant women as there is a lack of national standards.

#### The standard Questionnaire

Data was collected by using structured questionnaire which is adopted after reviewing literatures of similar studies based on the objective of this study. An interactive, multiple-pass 24hr dietary recall questionnaire adapted and validated for use in developing countries [30] was used to collect data on dietary intake. The knowledge and attitude of pregnant was categorized on two and five-level which includes the responses for given negative and positive statement as correct and incorrect and strongly disagree, disagree, neither agree nor disagree ,strongly agree, agree and (1,2,3,4,5) of likert scale.

#### Data quality assurance

Before data collection, the study questionnaire was checked using a pretest of 5% of invited pregnant women from households. Before estimating portion size we were standardizes measuring tools, and we were observed locally available measuring tools in study area then measure the common foods from 10(ten) household by digital food scale used to measure the gram amount of food consumed and of ingredients used in food preparation and finally took the average amount. Drinking cups glasses, spoons and ladles were labeled in to three categories based on their size (large, medium and small).

The questionnaire was prepared initially in English and then translated into Amharic Language, then retranslated back to English by another person who has good command of English, Amharic language to check for its consistency. The data collectors and supervisors were trained two days particularly in the proper filling of multiple pass 24 hour recalls. Information on 24-hour recall is collected using an open-ended format. Quantitative information on food intake, as described using portion size, allows for the calculation of calcium intakes of a 24-hour recall form. Estimation of portion size is facilitated by the use of measurement aids such as standard household measurement tools [11]. To calculate calcium intakes, the estimated portion size or the amount of food intake was multiplied by the values of nutrient content in foods as found in the Ethiopian food composition tables[22].

### Data management and analysis plan

Data was checked for completeness and consistency, edited manually, coded and then entered in to Epi Data version 3.02 for data clearance and exported into SPSS version 20 for analysis. Descriptive statistics was used to calculate frequencies and percentages of study participants with regard to different variables. Variables with a p-value less than 0.25 in the bi variable logistic regression analysis were candidate for multivariable analysis. AOR with 95% C.I. of p<0.05 in multivariable logistic regression was considered as statistically significant.

Ethical clearance was obtained from Ethical Review Committee

(ERC) of Wolaita Sodo University, department of Human Nutrition and support letter was to Loma Woreda Health office.

#### Result

Socio-demographic and Economic Characteristics of Participants

Three hundred and ninety eight (398) subjects were participat-

ed in the study with response rate of 94%. The median age of study subjects was 30 years. Concerning educational level, 176 (44.2%) of the respondents were illiterate and 365(91.7%) of pregnant women's earned less than 1000 ETB per month monthly income. Two hundred twenty seven (57%) of the respondents had nutritional information during their pregnancy.

Table 1: Socio-demographic and economic factors among pregnant women in Loma woreda, south west, Ethiopia (n= 398)

Characteristics	Numbers (%)			
Age group of subject				
15-24	56(14.1)			
25-34	254(63.8)			
35-44	88(22.1)			
Monthly income in ETB				
<1000ETB	365(91.7)			
1000-2000ETB	17(4.3)			
>2000ETB	16(4)			
Marital Status				
Married	357(89.7)			
Single	2(0.5)			
Divorced	11(2.8)			
Widowed	28(2)			
Occupational status				
Farmer	87(21.9)			
Housewife	281(70.6)			
Civil servant	22(5.5)			
Merchants	8(2.2)			
Household size				
<4	191(48)			
>=4	207(52)			
Education				
Illiterate	176(44.2)			
Primary	106(26.6)			
Secondary & above	116(29.2)			
Market Availability				
Yes	118(29.6)			
No	280(70.4)			

# **Calcium Intakes**

Out of 398 study participants responded for the questions to assess their dietary calcium intakes, 66.6% of them had inadequate calcium intakes in which, greater than half 249 (62.6%) respondents had practiced avoiding calcium rich food during their pregnancy. Out of those who avoided food during their pregnancy, due to it makes the baby big, culture and it makes

delivery difficult. About 44.7% pregnant women of this study were agreed on satisfactory birth out comes can be achieved through nutrition knowledge and practice of pregnant women. The median intake was 543 mg/day. The Proportion of pregnant women with low calcium intakes (less than 1000 mg per day) was 265(66.6%).

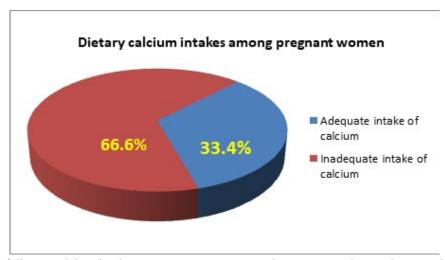
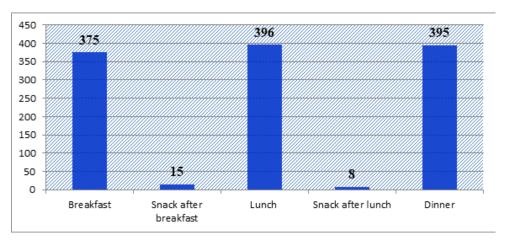


Figure 2: Distribution of dietary calcium intakes among pregnant women in Loma woreda, South west Ethiopia, 2019 (n=398).

# Meal consumption pattern of pregnant women

Three hundred eighty three (96.2%) of the respondents had not practiced the habit of eating snacks between meals during their pregnancy. Majority of the pregnant mothers do not consume their snacks.



**Figure 3:** Meal pattern of pregnant women of Loma, south west Ethiopia, 2019(n=398)

#### Group of Foods consumed by pregnant women

Plant based foods such as cereal, roots and tubers and also green leafy vegetables were the most consumed. Flesh foods and milk products were the least consumed food groups.

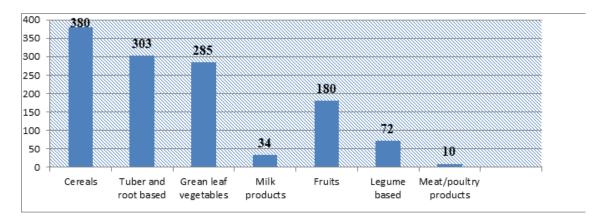


Figure 4: Proportion of food group consumed by pregnant women of Loma district, south west Ethiopia, 2019(n=398)

# **Dietary Diversity Score of pregnant women**

Out of 398 study participants responded for the questions to assess their dietary diversity, 241(61%) of them had inadequate dietary diversities. Different evidence showed that in developed countries, dietary diversity is strongly associated with nutrient adequacy [20].

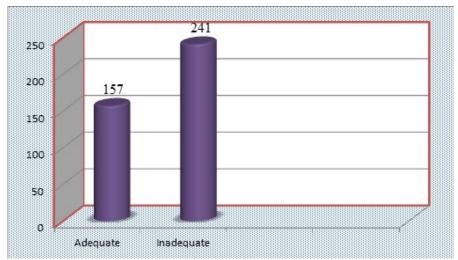


Figure 5: Dietary diversity score of pregnant women of Loma district, southwest Ethiopia, 2019 (n=398)

#### Factors associated with calcium intake

Age, level of education, distance from health facility, occupation, household size, nutritional counseling, regular milk consumption, importance of calcium, culture and facility visit were the factors associated with dietary intake of calcium.

Multivariate analysis showed that there was statistically significant association between occupation and dietary calcium intakes of mothers during pregnancy. Women who were being civil servant (AOR 0.052 95% CI 0.01 - 0.269) were less likely to have calcium intakes than farmers. The chance of dietary calcium

intakes during pregnancy among mothers who were received nutritional counseling 2 times more likely than those who were not received nutritional counseling(AOR=2.432 95% CI: 1.072-5.517).

Relative to the pregnant women who were agreed on calcium importance had significantly 3 times more likely to had good dietary calcium intakes during their pregnancy (AOR=3.256, 95% CI;1.241-8.547) than women who were not agreed on calcium importance.

Table 2: Dietary calcium intake and socio-demographic characteristics in pregnant women in Loma woreda southern Ethiopia 2019 (Bivariate analysis)

Calcium intakes								
< Median value			>= Median value		p-value			
Variables	N	%	N	%				
Age	Age							
15-24	29	7	27	7	0.023			
25-34	125	31	129	32				
35-44	47	12	41	10				
Education	Education							
No education	94	24	82	21	< 0.001			
Primary	67	17	39	10				
Secondary and above	40	10	76	19				
Distance from health facility								
<=10km	94	24	112	28	0.001			
>=11km	107	27	85	21				
Visit to PHCU								
Yes	106	27	163	41	0.001			

	T	T	1	1.	1
No	95	24	34	8	
Nutritional counseli	<del>, `                                     </del>	1	T	1.	T
Yes	78	20	149	37	<0.001
No	123	31	48	12	
	on of milk and milk pro	· · · · · · · ·		,	
Agree	46	12	119	30	<0.001
Disagree	155	39	78	19	
	een leafy vegetables is	good for pregnant we	omen	,	
Agree	74	18	127	32	<0.001
Disagree	127	32	70	18	
Satisfactory birth or	it comes can be achiev	ed through nutrition k	nowledge and practic	e	
Agree	54	13	124	31	< 0.001
Disagree	147	37	73	18	
Calcium is importar	nt for the pregnant wor	nen and growing fetu	s		
Agree	28	7	83	21	< 0.001
Disagree	173	43	114	29	
My culture encoura	ges me to take milk an	d dairy products, gree	n leafy vegetables du	ring pregnancy.	
Agree	64	16	85	21	0.014
Disagree	137	34	112	28	
Awareness on recon	nmended dietary intak	e during pregnancy re	ached rural areas.		
Agree	137	34	104	27	< 0.001
Disagree	64	16	93	23	
Dietary calcium inta	akes during pregnancy	is bad			
Agree	168	42	118	30	< 0.001
Disagree	33	8	79	20	
Kind of services			,	,	
No visit	95	24	34	9	< 0.001
ANC visit	95	24	148	36	
Other visit	11	3	15	4	
Family size		*	,	,	,
<4	90	23	101	25	0.083
>=4	111	28	96	24	
Knowledge on dieta	ary calcium intakes	•	•	•	•
Adequate	101	25	69	17	0.036
Poor	100	25	128	33	
Attitude towards die	etary calcium intakes	•	•	•	•
Positive attitude	103	26	75	19	0.043
Negative Attitude	98	25	122	30	
Dietary diversity score					
Adequate	61	15	96	24	0.105
Inadequate	136	35	105	26	
Market Availability					l
Yes	70	18	48	12	0.303
No	131	33	149	37	

Table 3: Dietary calcium intake and associated factors in pregnant women in Loma woreda, south west Ethiopia, 2019 (multivariate logistic regression).

S/no	Variables	Variables N (%)	Daily dietary	Daily dietary calcium intake ≥ median value			
			OR	95%CI	p-value		
1	Occupation of the r	Occupation of the respondents					
	Civil servants	22(5.5)	1	1			
	Housewives	281(70.4	0.207	0.066-0.654	0.007		
	Farmers	87(21.8)	0.052	0.01-0.269	0.001		
	Merchants	8(2.3)	0.023	0.002-0.279	0.003		
2	Family size						
	>4	207(52.1)	0.285	0.111- 0.733	0.009		
	<=4	191(47.9)	1	1			
3	Attitude towards di	Attitude towards dietary calcium intake					
	Negative atti- tude	201(50.4)	0.003	0.001-0.016	0.001		
	Positive attitude	197(49.6)	1	1			
4	Nutritional counsel	Nutritional counseling received					
	No	171 (43.1)	2.432	1.072-5.517	0.034		
	Yes	227 (56.9)	1	1			
5	Calcium is importa	Calcium is important for the pregnant women and growing fetus					
	Disagree	287(72.2)	3.256	1.241-8.547	0.016		
	Agree	111(27.8)	1	1			
6	Regular consumption	Regular consumption of milk and milk products is good for pregnant women					
	Agree	165(41.4)	1				
	Disagree	233(58.6)	2.806	1.124-7.005	0.027		
7	Age	Age					
	15-24	56(14)	0.876	0.297-2.582			
	25-34	254(63.7)	0.126	0.027-0.581	0.008		
	35-44	88(22.3)	1				

In multivariate logistic regression, occupation AOR=0.052(0.01-0.269), family size, AOR=0.285 (0.111-0.733), attitude towards calcium intakes AOR=0.003 (0.001-0.016), nutritional counseling AOR=2.432 (1.072-5.517), knowledge on calcium AOR 3.256 (1.241-8.547), regular consumption of milk AOR=2.806 (1.124-7.005) and age of respondents AOR = 0.126 (0.027-0.581) are associated factors with dietary calcium intakes among pregnant women.

#### Discussion

The study was inspected the dietary calcium intakes and associated factors among pregnant women. Low dietary Calcium intake was widespread among pregnant women. Findings of this cross-sectional study indicate that a high proportion of pregnant women in study area do not consume enough calcium as well as calcium-rich food products; and meeting adequate intake of this nutrient is not possible through the current dietary patterns in the majority of the studied population. Dietary calcium intake was associated with age, occupation of respondents, family size, nutritional counseling, attitude towards dietary calcium intake

and knowledge on calcium importance and regular consumption of milk.

# **Dietary Calcium Intake**

The study presented that the average calcium intake in pregnant women in our study area was low (543 mg/day) compared to WHO recommendation. This result clearly reflects the low consumption of calcium-rich products and culture of the community. The finding was correlated with survey conducted in china and Iran mean intakes were  $633.2 \pm 492.4$  and  $644 \pm 255$  respectively in 2015[13]. Likewise, low calcium intakes (561 mg/day) were observed in Benin 2014 [14].Researcher's also reported similar finding on the pregnant women in the study conducted in Sidama Zone, Southern Ethiopia. As it was observed with the other micronutrients, calcium intake was also lower than the recommendation in both of the study groups. Its intake was much lower (below half of the requirement) during their pregnancy [15].

In differently, higher dietary calcium intakes 1,256.9 mg/day

were observed in Thailand 2018[16]. Consequently to low average calcium intakes, the occurrence of adequate calcium intake in pregnant women in the current study is low. 33.4% of pregnant women have adequate calcium intake. This result is comparable in Nigeria the prevalence of calcium intake is 40% [10]. In contrast, higher prevalence of adequate calcium intake in America and Canada, and Europe, with their mean daily calcium intake as 1176, and 1141 mg/day respectively [6, 17]. The discrepancy of the two studies may be due to the fact that the differences between the study participants, in that the present study was conducted on rural communities ( pregnant mothers) which can be lower than rural mothers in terms of educational, economic status and more access to nutrition information during pregnancy.

The different results underlined differences in dietary consumptions. In developing country especially in our study area dietary calcium intakes among pregnant women are very low for the reason that diets are mainly on cereal and legumes based [18, 8, 19]. In addition the culture of community were prohibited to consume calcium rich food products for pregnant women mainly milk and milk products because of this food groups fattening the fetus and difficulty happen during delivery time. Whereas, in developed country, calcium intake is high due to production and usual consumption of dairy products. Definitely, consumption of calcium-rich foods is low in the study population [19].

Meaningful that hypertensive conditions and its difficulties during gestation are prevalent in developing countries and the positive role of adequate calcium intake in reducing the risk of hypertensive disorders, the common inadequate calcium intake through pregnancy in developing countries requires adequate interventions [7].

# **Factors Associated with Dietary Calcium Intake in Pregnant Women**

Women who were being civil servants (AOR 0.052 95% CI 0.01-0.269) were less likely to have calcium intakes than farmers. This result is supported by the study conducted in Kenya in which employee was associated with dietary calcium intakes (AOR= 1.08 95% CI 0.88 - 2.45). Also in this study women's dietary attitude had shown negative relationship with dietary calcium intake of mothers during pregnancy (AOR=0.003 95% CI 0.001-0.016). This finding is also in agreement with the study conducted in America in which the most significant predictor for good dietary practice was women's attitude towards dietary intake of calcium (AOR=2.32, 1.56-3.43). The present study also demonstrated that there was strong statistical association between regular consumption of milk and milk products and dietary calcium intake during pregnancy (AOR=3.256 95% CI 1.241-8.547). This result is supported by the study conducted in Thailand in which consumption of milk products was significantly associated with dietary calcium intakes (3.9 95% CI: 2.0-5.9)[16].

The finding of this study identified that nutritional counseling have strong statistical association with dietary calcium intake of mothers during pregnancy AOR=2.432 95% CI: 1.072-5.517).

This result is supported by the study conducted in Thailand in which nutrition information was the predictor factor for dietary calcium intakes in the study area (AOR= 0.985, 95% CI: 0.775 - 1.250). Pregnant women in urban areas, women with those whose household size is less than four were significantly less likely to have higher calcium intakes compared to rural women, with those whose household's size was four or less(AOR 0.285 95% CI 0.111- 0.733). This result is supported by the study conducted in Benin in which house hold size was significantly associated with dietary calcium intakes (AOR 1.330 95% CI 1.092 - 1.618)[19].

#### Conclusion

From the present study, it can be concluded that, majority of pregnant mothers (66.6%) had a poor dietary calcium intakes during pregnancy. They lacked the basic and the essential foods to consume vegetables, fruits, egg, milk and others which are the basic sources of most of calcium. Moreover, unhealthy dietary intake was observed among them. The current study also showed that, the most significant predicting factors for dietary calcium intakes in this study were women's nutrition knowledge, regular consumption of milk, importance of calcium, age and family size. Study results show that dietary calcium intakes of pregnant women in the study area were not adequate. The results suggest that pregnant women need nutrition counseling regarding calcium rich food intake practices during pregnancy.

#### List of Abbreviations:

AI = Adequate Intake

AOR=Adjusted Odd Ratio

Ca = Calcium

COR= Crude Odd Ratio

CSA=Central Statics Agency

FAO= Food and Agriculture Organization

FNB=Food and Nutrition Book

RDA= Recommended Daily Allowance

SNNPR= Southern Nation Nationalities Peoples Region

WHO= World Health Organization

#### **Declaration**

By my signature below, I declare and confirm that this manuscript of research is our work. We have followed all ethical principles of research in the preparation, data collection, processing, analysis and completion of this thesis. All scholar materials that are included have been given recognition through citation. We affirm that we have cited and referenced all sources used in this document. Every serious effort has been made to avoid any plagiarism in the preparation of this manuscript. I really declare that this thesis is not submitted to any other institution anywhere for the publication.

# **Consent form**

I Adisu Hailu Tofu give my consent for information about myself/my relative to be published in Nutrition & Metabolism of BMC with manuscript ID- number - NUAM-D-20-00426,co-authors - Yibeltal Kassa and Damene Darota, I understand that the information will be published without my /my relative's as the name attached, but that full anonymity cannot be guaranteed.

I understand that the text and any pictures or videos published in the article will be freely available on the internet and may be seen by the general public. The pictures, videos and text may also appear on other websites or in print, may be translated into other languages or used for commercial purposes. I have been offered the opportunity to read the manuscript.

#### **Competing interets**

The authors declare that they have no competing interest.

#### **Authors' Contributions**

AH was involved in proposal writing, designing, and recruitment and training of supervisors and data collectors, analysis and write-up and in all stages of the project implementation. She did most of the analysis and write up of the paper. YK contributed in the designing of the methodology, reviewing the proposal and paper and in the final approval of the paper. DD involved in designing of project proposal, design of questionnaires and in the final approval of the paper. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

#### Acknowlegements

We would like to acknowledge Wolaita Sodo University; College of Medicine and Health Science for the approval of the ethical clearance. Our gratitude goes high school leaders, data collectors and students who participated in this study.

#### **Data Availability**

Data are available with the corresponding author in SPSS based.

#### **Ethical concerns**

Ethical clearance was taken from Ethical Review Committee of College of Medicine and health sciences of Wolaita Sodo University. Furthermore, letter of permission was obtained from Dawuro zone Health department. Consent was obtained from the study subjects whose age was 15 and above years after they were informed about objectives and procedures of the study and their right to refuse participation any time they want shall assured. No data will be shared to anyone to secure confidentiality.

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