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**TOPIC: ANTENATAL CARE DURING COVID 19 ERA IN SUB –  
SAHARAN AFRICA**

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**Introduction:** Corona virus pandemic has brought several challenges to countries and the world at large. After its insurgence in Wuhan, China, it has since spread to almost all regions of the world. COVID 19 has had an impact on some essential healthcare services in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). These essential healthcare services include antenatal care service, which is critical in addressing maternal health related challenges in many countries in SSA.

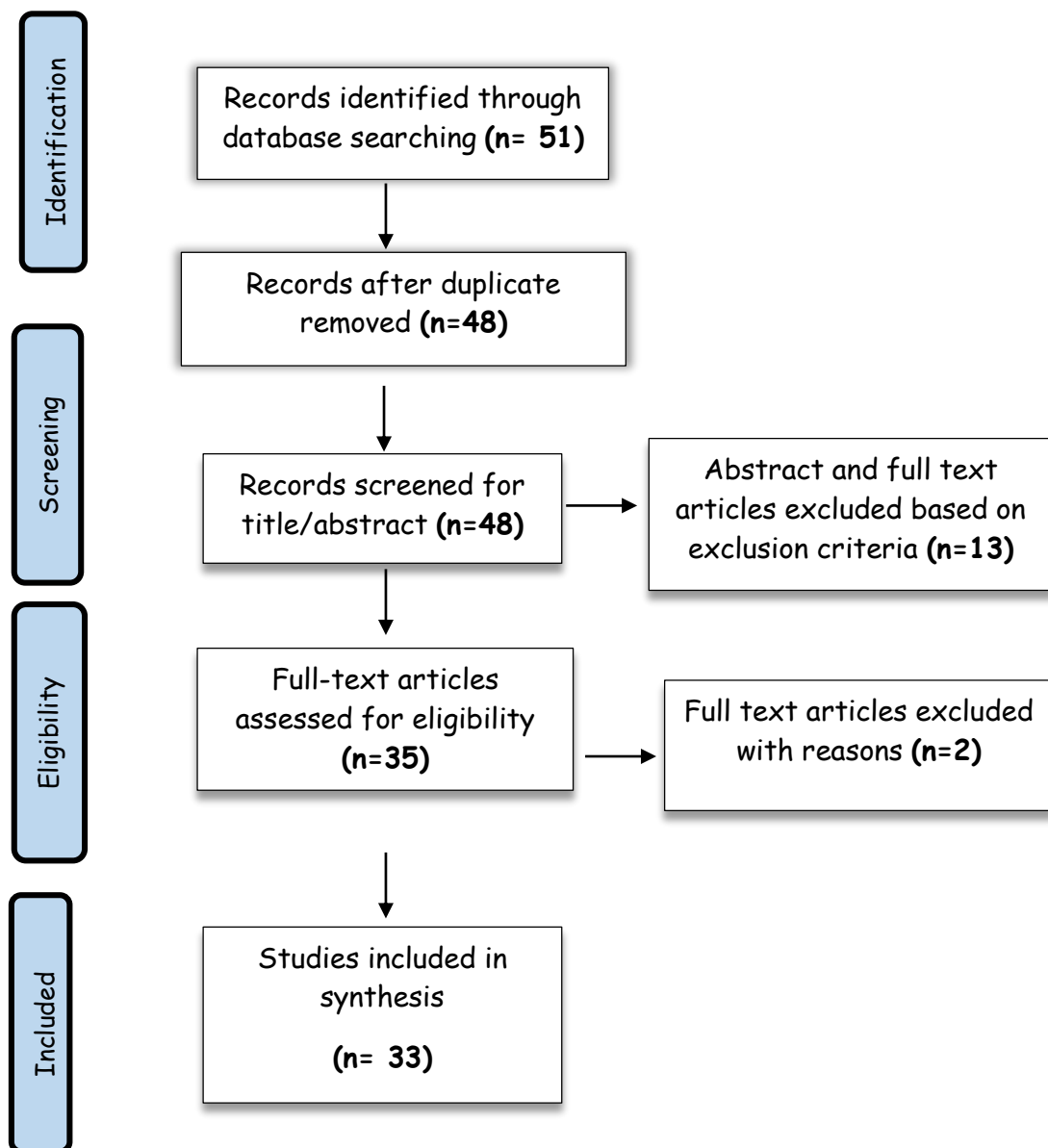
**Objective:** To assess antenatal care service during COVID 19 pandemic in SSA.

**Methods:** A bibliography search was done using Google scholar, PubMed, BMC, Science direct and Scopus to obtain relevant literature and studies on the main subject of the review. A comprehensive review was carried and 33 articles met the inclusion criteria.

**Results:** It was found that there was high level of knowledge about COVID 19 symptoms and preventive measures among pregnant women, but there were also misconceptions that were documented about the disease. Pregnant women were reported to have poorly practiced the preventive measures although they knew these measures. Three major challenges were identified in ANC service during the era of COVID 19: delay in decision making, delay in reaching the health facility and delay in receiving ANC service.

**Conclusion:** ANC service delivery during the pandemic faced important challenges with dire consequences. It is recommended that telemedicine be introduced into mainstream health service delivery while enhancing house- to-house ANC and support groups formation to support the COVID 19 campaign to ensure that while efforts are being made to address COVID 19 in SSA, it will not affect women and children's health in SSA.

Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta – Analysis (PRISMA) flow diagram for the scoping



Adapted from (Moher et al. 2009).

#### KEYWORDS

- Antenatal Care
- During
- Covid 19 Era