Example Quotes Supporting the Main Theme

She [participants’ in-law] said we should go somewhere, and the other women that were there started arguing among themselves. Some were saying I should be taken to the hospital; others are saying I should be taken to the traditional birth attendant. From there, they took me to TBA..., She [the TBA] kept pressing and squeezing my stomach for the child to come out, but the child did not come out. At that point, the child died (FJ).

I asked if it will be possible to get me a vehicle that will take me to the hospital. My grandmother angrily busted out, “Is that what you are wishing for yourself? Just this short labour and you are talking about going to the hospital. There are smaller girls than you that have given birth at home, and you are talking of going to the hospital. I apologized to her… She said they will not take me to any hospital. (HY). (Sobs………)

Had it been I was allowed to go to the hospital at the time I started labour, I could not have ended up with VVF, because I was still feeling the movement of the child at that time (HY)

Men should be enlightened to be allowing their wives to go to the hospital when they are pregnant because that is what is going to help their wives avoid this kind of problem [Fistula]., if they do not go to the hospital [in pregnancy], how can they know if their babies are developing in their bodies well? (HY)

Subtheme

Some were saying I should be taken to the hospital; others are saying I should be taken to the traditional birth attendant

Main theme

Women Autonomy

A girl should be allowed to grow up in her parent's house...girls should be allowed to reach the age of at least eighteen to nineteen before they are given out in marriage (FJ).

Economic Empowerment

The girl that was to be given in marriage at the age of
The girl that was to be given in marriage at the age of 15 can be allowed to reach the age of twenty-five before she marries. Before that time, she must have matured. Unless that is done, you cannot reduce VVF (FA). Illiteracy adds to this ...”; she went on to qualify her view by saying that “Education can lead to enlightenment... if you read, you can know things that you did not know before (ZA)

Women should be [economically] empowered, have enough money to be able to go to the hospital when they are pregnant but ... most of the time what happen is that you don't have the money (FA)

Supposing you get into labour when your husband does not have even money for sachet water, you want to go to the hospital, how can he hire transport to a hospital that is far from the way? That is a problem. Worse is when you get to a hospital where you will have to give money, the husband does not have, the wife does not have...SM

It is so difficult! If it rains, even motorcycles become difficult. Our cry is that the government should make roads for us even if it is for the sake of women in labour, there are people with vehicles that are willing to help without you paying anything, it is getting to the hospital that is a problem because the roads are not good (MU).

Women in labour should be assisted, the government should distribute phone numbers so that if a woman is in labour and she doesn’t have money, she can place a call and a vehicle [ambulances] should come and transport her to the hospital. They should announce it [ambulance number] over the radio, every ward head should be given that number, and people should be referred to their ward head or traditional rulers to go and collect these numbers so that at the start of labour, an ambulance can be sent to come and carry the expectant woman and taken to the hospital on a good time (RY)

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Education can lead to enlightenment

Women should be empowered, and have enough money to be able to go to the hospital when they are pregnant

Supposing you get into labour when your husband does not have even money for sachet water, you want to go to the hospital, how can he hire transport to a hospital that is far from the way?
Some villages don't even have a clinic where a woman can attend the antenatal clinic when they are pregnant, the antenatal clinic can be the first help where a woman can know when she is going to birth, if she knows, she will run to the hospital when she is due. FA

HY held the view that there should be "Qualified staff and doctors in all hospitals for those in … the villages" (HY).

Only qualified midwives should be allowed to make deliveries; if we do that, the obstetric fistula will reduce (FA).

Qualified staff and doctors in all hospitals for those in the villages

Only qualified midwives should be allowed to take deliveries,

**Provision of Skilled Healthcare Services**