

**EVALUATION OF MALARIA PREVALENCE RATES IN PREGNANT WOMEN  
ATTENDING ANTENATAL CLINIC: A CASE STUDY OF KILIFI DISTRICT  
HOSPITAL**

**BY**

**SALIM SAID SALIM  
BPHARM110/01975**

**This Research Project Submitted To The School Of Pharmacy In Partial  
Fulfillment Of The Requirements For The Award Of Bachelor Of Pharmacy  
Of Mount Kenya University**

**OCTOBER, 2013**

## ABSTRACT

Malaria is a mosquito-borne infectious disease of humans and other animals caused by parasitic protozoans (a type of unicellular microorganism) of the genus *Plasmodium*. Commonly, the disease is transmitted via a bite from an infected female *Anopheles* mosquito, which introduces the organisms from its saliva into the person's circulatory system. Malaria is a health risk shown to 7% of women observed in safe motherhood demonstration. Mortality is high under five and pregnant women. Pregnant women are usually vulnerable to malaria and therefore at a higher risk of complications in both fetal and maternal that are fatal. The main objective of the study was to evaluate the prevalence of malaria in relation to different age groups, parity status and gestation period of the pregnant women attending antenatal clinic and maternity ward at Kilifi district hospital. The study was cross-sectional in design and hospital based which was carried out in Kilifi District Hospital (KDH) at the Antenatal Clinic (ANC) in pregnant women. Simple random sampling technique was employed and the data was collected using semi-structural questionnaires which was filled by the pregnant women in the ANC. Laboratory process was used where blood sample was taken for microscopy to determine the parasitemia levels. Collected data was analyzed and presented through descriptive statistics; charts, tables and graphs. The study revealed that prevalence rate of malaria in pregnant women attending the ANC in Kilifi District Hospital is 45% (45 women) especially those in their first pregnancy (primigravida). Even though there is National Malaria Strategy in Kenya, much can still be done in creation of awareness of risk of malaria in pregnant women through multidisciplinary and multisectorial policy formulation.