

EP16.132 Knowledge and perceptions of transvaginal ultrasound in early pregnancy among women in Bahrain

Hakeema Al Hashimi

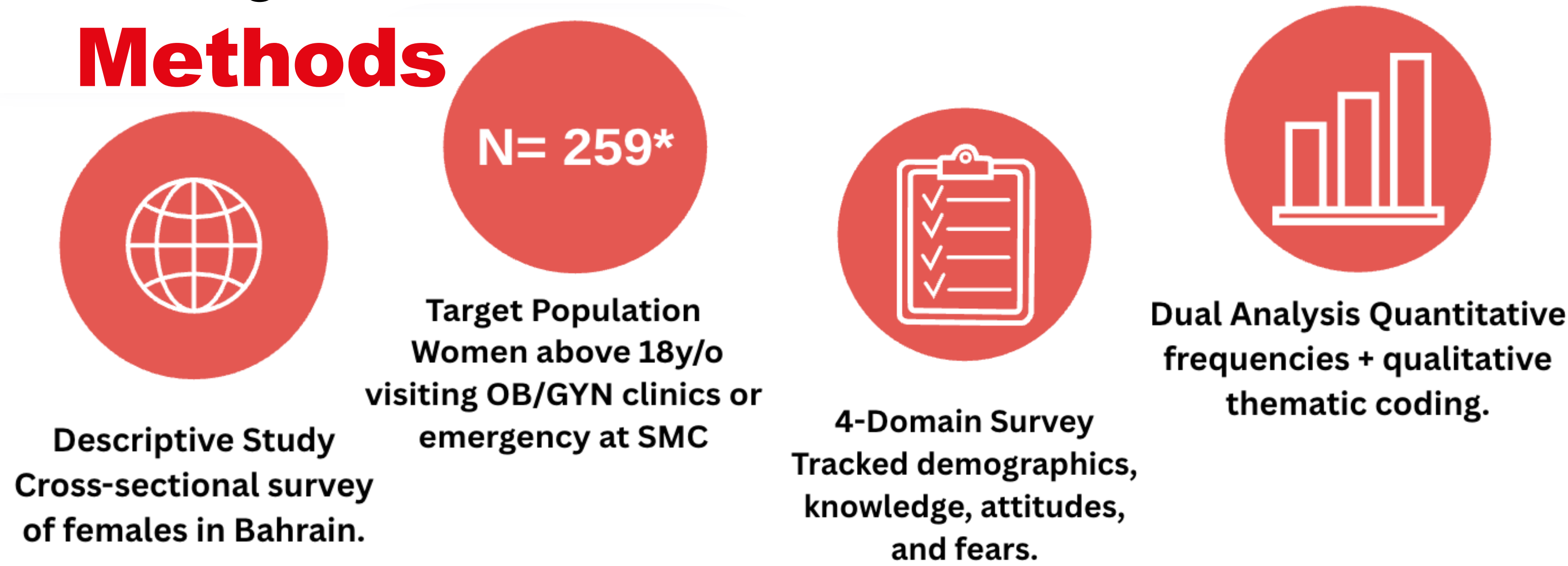
Introduction

Background: Transvaginal Ultrasound (TVUS) is the early pregnancy diagnostic gold standard, providing superior visualization to confirm intrauterine location, assess viability, and detect structural anomalies¹.

The Problem: Despite its clinical benefits, TVUS's invasive nature, physical discomfort, and cultural sensitivities often trigger severe patient anxiety and non-compliance.

Study Objective: This study evaluates baseline knowledge, safety perceptions, and psychosocial or physical barriers toward first-trimester TVUS among females in Bahrain.

Methods



Results

- **Demographics:** High-literacy sample (N = 259) of predominantly married, university-educated women in Bahrain aged 25–45.
- **The Paradox:** Sharp disconnect between logic and comfort; women recognize TVUS safety/necessity but report high physical aversion.
- **Doctor Trust:** High clinical compliance despite anxiety, heavily relying on explicit physician recommendations.
- **Modesty & Pain:** Procedural fear is driven by pain and embarrassment, creating a strict demand for female practitioners.
- **Miscarriage Myth:** Widespread community misconception that physical insertion of a TVUS probe triggers early pregnancy loss.
- **Clinical Solutions:** Mandatory counseling, visible sterilization, and targeted myth-busting materials effectively lower patient anxiety.

