hospitals of Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences Statement Agree Neutral Disagree No. % No. % No. % Education on prenatal care is necessary for both, fathers and mothers 793 99.1 1 0.1 6 0.8 Pregnant mothers need a lot of emotional support during pregnancy 791 98.9 1 0.1 8 1.0 The media can promote male participation in maternal health 5 14 781 97.6 0.6 1.8 He(I) provide(s) my(her) favourite food as soon as possible 779 97.4 3 0.4 18 2.2 Fathers should have perinatal leave for participation in the birth 775 96.9 3 0.4 22 2.8 Fathers should be allowed to attend prenatal visits 771 96.4 7 22 2.8 0.9 Fathers would participate if they had perinatal leave 763 95.4 5 0.6 32 4.0 He(I) help(s) because the child belongs to us both 760 95.1 3 36 4.5 0.4 He(I) care(s) about my (her) nutrition during pregnancy 5 749 93.6 0.6 46 5.8 Movies and TV serials may contribute in promotion of men's participation 724 90.5 5 71 8.9 0.6 He(I) care(s) about the signs of risks during the pregnancy 709 88.6 1 0.1 90 11.2 He(I) like(s) to accompany me (her) in the visits 707 88.4 1 0.1 92 11.5 He(I) remind(s) me(her) about taking iron and vitamins 626 78.6 7 0.9 164 20.5 Her(my) family encourage me(him) to help her(me) during pregnancy 578 72.2 14 1.8 208 26.0

551

524

484

433

408

346

338

336

214

208

208

134

116

96

86

56

68.9

65.5

60.5

54.1

51.0

43.2

42.2

42.0

26.8

26.0

26.0

16.8

14.5

12.0

10.8

7.0

21

81

7

7

2

8

9

14

42

7

1

13

5

3

3

7

2.6

10.1

0.9

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0.4

1.0

1.1

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5.2

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1.6

0.6

0.4

0.4

0.9

228

195

386

360

389

446

453

450

544

583

591

653

679

701

711

737

28.5

24.4

39.0

45.0

48.6

55.8

56.6

56.2

68.0

73.1

73.9

81.6

84.9

87.6

88.9

92.1

Consent for women's discharge from hospital should be conditional on the

father having received perinatal health care education

Community leaders can promote male participation

He(I) smoke(s) beside me(her) during pregnancy

Wives have no job except household and self care

His(my) friends encourage him(me) to help me(my wife)

Help to a pregnant mother is not usual in his(my) family

Help to a pregnant mother is not usual in our community

He(I) work(s) so long and has(ve) no opportunity to help me(her)

He(I) is(am) too busy and so has(ve) no mood to support me(her)

He(I) do(es) not help in the perinatal period because it is a woman's job

Women raised children without help in past

Husbands who help are called "wife's servant"

He(I) help(s) when his(my) family is not present

He(I) is(am) always too tired to help me (my wife)

He(I) do(es) not know how to help

Neonatal care is not men's job

emotionally

Table 2 Distribution of participants (n = 800) according to attitude towards men's participation in perinatal care in selected