INTRODUCTION:
An Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) is a modern type of examination often used in health sciences. It is a form of performance-based testing used to measure clinical competence of client.

Systematic supervision (examination and advice) of a woman during pregnancy is called antenatal care. The primary aim of antenatal care is to achieve at the end of pregnancy a healthy mother and a healthy baby. (Dutta, 2004)

A woman plays different roles throughout her life. Pregnancy is one of the important vital events in a woman’s life. Pregnancy can be exciting and scary time as well, because the journey of the fetal growth in uterus in these nine months, 40 weeks, 280 days journey needs to be monitored. (Myles, 2003)

In a developing country like India, one woman in every 16, may die of pregnancy related complications compared to one in 2800 of developed countries. (Census India, 2001)
The routine clinical examination of an antenatal mother includes general observation of health, history taking, height, weight, assessment of hemoglobin, blood glucose levels, urine check up, abdominal examination and antenatal advice. (Bennet, 2004)

There are a number of steps a woman can take to reduce high risk delivery. One important step is regular antenatal visits to her health care provider. During these visits the provider can effectively examine the antenatal mother and monitor the progress of pregnancy, also identify and refer high risk pregnancies. (Molly, 2007)

Routine antenatal care is an example of preventive health care at its best. Its aim is to help and educate the mother to achieve optimum health so that the outcome of pregnancy and child birth is favorable both for the mother and her baby. From a cost benefit stand point antenatal care has proved effective at lowering maternal mortality and morbidity as well as improving perinatal outcome. (Holl and Brewis, 1999)

NEED FOR THE STUDY
According to Indian Council for Medical Research and Central Board of Health, Maternal Mortality in India in 1990 were 46/1000 live births but again it raised to 54/1000 live births in 2001 (WHO/UNICEF, 2000).

Infant Mortality rate 63% (Census, 2001)

A nurse-midwife-community health nurse plays a liaison role for early identification of at risk women in their antenatal period. (Allen, 1991)

Mother and child must be considered as one unit during antenatal period, as the fetus is the part of the mother. The development of fetus in mother’s uterus is about 280 days. A healthy mother brings forth a healthy baby; Certain diseases and conditions of mother during pregnancy like syphilis, German measles and drug intake are likely to have their effects upon the fetus; hence an antenatal mother must be regularly examined. (Park, 2005)

Since the inception of the National Health Service in 1948 the present pattern of antenatal care is in existence and many people are questioning the benefits of routine attendance at hospital antenatal clinics. Improvement at maternal health and social conditions coupled with advances in diagnostic screening techniques, now make it possible to revise current systems and implement new schemes for maximum efficiency. (Hall et all, 2002)

In an OSCE clinical skills are tested and then practiced repeatedly until one perfects the skill. Candidates rotate through stations, completing all stations in their circuit. It is considered to be an improvement over traditional examination methods because the stations can be standardized, fairer peer comparison and complex procedures can be assessed without endangering patient’s health.(Newble,2004)

PROBLEM STATEMENT
‘A study to assess antenatal examination with the help of OSCE among final year B. Sc. nursing students of Dr. D. Y. Patil College of Nursing, Pune.
OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY
1. To assess antenatal examination skills using OSCE.

METHODOLOGY: The Research design was evaluative, Pre experimental one group pretest posttest study, which was carried out to assess the antenatal examination skills of final year B.Sc Nursing students with the help of OSCE. The investigator delivered a planned teaching on the method of doing antenatal examination and demonstrated the same. An assessment format-OSCE was then developed; the tool consisted of two sections

SECTION-1 Consisted of 3 items on age and gender of sample and name of the assessor.

SECTION-2 Consisted of 6 OSCE stations,
1. viz: history taking skills
2. interpersonal skills
3. Blood Pressure measurement and weight measurement skill
4. Physical examination skill
5. abdominal examination skill
6. skill in antenatal advice.

VALIDITY & RELIABILITY:

The tool was validated by face and content validity. It was given to senior faculties and thus peer validity was done. Inter-rater reliability was done. Measure of reliability by comparing the observed and expected value to calculate the R value for pilot study, the R value calculated was 0.89 this showed that the tool was highly reliable.

There-after every student was assessed for 10 antenatal examinations each by using the newly developed format. The Research setting was the Antenatal OPD and Antenatal ward of Dr. D. Y. Patil Hospital. The investigator delivered a planned teaching on the technique of antenatal examination and demonstrated the same. An OSCE was then developed; thereafter students were given one week time for practice session. Using the newly developed format daily two students were assessed each for 10 antenatal examinations. Each student was given a feedback after the first assessment using OSCE. Thereafter the rest of the clinical examinations were assessed using the same OSCE assessment format.

The sample comprised of all the Final Year B.Sc Nursing students studying in Dr. D. Y. Patil College of Nursing, Pimpri, Pune:18. Non-Probability Convenient Sampling Technique was used for selection of the sample.

RESULTS: As all the observations of OSCE’s for the individual sample as well as for every OSCE station were within the 6 sigma limits, it reflects the reliability, consistency of the data as well as that of the tool. This means that the data is perfectly under prescribed limits and statistically said to be highly reliable within the 99% Level Of Significance. The 6 sigma safety limits of the study prove that the study is authentic, genuine and practically applicable in academic career, counseling and evaluation process. Also all the OSCE stations are well within the limits of consistency, where the limits range from 8-20%

Overall it can be concluded that antenatal assessment by OSCE shows a better tool for examining and evaluating the students, than the customary or traditional methods because of the ease of evaluation of professional skills and the conceptualizations by the students.
The present pattern of antenatal assessment for final year B.Sc nursing students of Dr. D. Y. Patil University can be modified by making an assessment with the help of OSCE.

REFERENCES