



KNOWLEDGE ATTITUDE AND PRACTICE OF NEONATAL CARE AMONG POSTNATAL MOTHERS

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ABSTRACT

The present study was designed to assess the knowledge and attitude of neonatal care practices among postnatal mothers. Based on the objective of the study, a structured questionnaire was prepared. This questionnaire consists of 40 items pertaining to knowledge and knowledge of practice regarding new born care. The data was collected from 100 postnatal mothers. The highest mean knowledge of practice score related to the newborn care was found in the aspect of prevention of hypothermia (55.0%), whereas lowest mean knowledge of practice score was found in the aspect of personal hygiene and prevention of infection (39.3%). This study indicates that awareness and attitude of postnatal mothers towards neonatal care has lots of lacunae especially in those who belong to the lower socioeconomic status and with no proper education.

KEYWORDS : Neonatal care, Postnatal mothers, Knowledge-Attitude-Practice

INTRODUCTION

WHO estimates that each year 5 million children die within 1st month of their life and Neonatal mortality varied from 53/1000 live births in least developed countries, about 5/1000 live births in developed countries. 3.2 million deaths have occurred during this period and 1.6 million deaths occur after 1 week and with in 28 days (Park K 2000). One of the contributing factors to infant mortality is the ignorance of child care. The art of child care has to be learnt many times a mother has learnt it by paying a heavy price through the death of one or two infants. Lack of breast feeding, faulty feeding practices is one of the factors associated with high infant mortality in India. Proper care of the newborn babies forms the foundation of the subsequent life not only in terms of longevity or survival but also in terms of qualitative outcome without any mental and physical disabilities.

AIM

To assess newborn care knowledge and practices among mothers.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A cross-sectional study was conducted at tertiary care hospitals. Method of taking data from the hospital was interview schedule based on structured questionnaire. The target population of this study was primipara mothers in postnatal ward of selected Hospital. Based on the objective of the study, a structured questionnaire was prepared. This questionnaire consists of 40 items pertaining to knowledge and knowledge of practice regarding new born care.

RESULTS

In our study 100 postnatal mothers were included. The result depicts that majority (38.0%) of respondents belong to the age group of 22-24 years, followed by 36.0% between 25-27 years and 26.0% were in the age group of 19-21 years. Regarding Educational status, the findings indicate that 38.0% of the respondents had primary school education, 22.0% of the respondents had PUC qualification, 22.0% of respondents had high school education and the remaining 18.0% of the respondents had middle school education. In this study 66.0% respondent were house wives followed by 20.0% of the Government employees and remaining 14.0% were coolies. With regard to number of abortion / still birth, majority (80.0%) of the respondents did not have abortion / still births and the remaining 20.0% had abortion / still birth. It was observed that 70.0% of the respondents were residing in urban areas and the remaining 30% in rural areas. From the present study it was evident that majority (54.0%) of the respondent were emerged from nuclear family

background, 34.0% belonged to joint family background and remaining 12.0% belonged to extended family. With regard to family income per income per month 48.0% of respondents had income of Rs. 4,001-5,000 per month. The findings with respect to source of information, 78% of the respondent received information from friends/neighbors, 76% of the respondents received information from electronic media, 46.0% of the respondents received information from family members/relatives, 16.0% of the respondents received information from the health personnel and 4.0% from print media. Overall mean knowledge score was found to be 42.7% with SD 12.3%. The highest mean knowledge score related to the newborn care was found in the aspect of personal hygiene and prevention of infection (50.0%), where as lowest mean knowledge score was found in the aspect of prevention of hypothermia (31.6%). It was found that 60.0% of the respondents had inadequate knowledge and 40.0% had moderate knowledge. The highest mean knowledge of practice score related to the newborn care was found in the aspect of prevention of hypothermia (55.0%), whereas lowest mean knowledge of practice score was found in the aspect of personal hygiene and prevention of infection (39.3%). It was found that 52.0% of the respondents had moderate knowledge of practice level and 48.0% had inadequate knowledge of practice level. among the respondents with primary education 73.7% had inadequate knowledge and 26.3% had moderate knowledge. Table also indicates that respondents belonging to middle school educational status, 77.8% possessed inadequate knowledge as compared to 22.2% of respondents had moderate knowledge level. The respondents belonging to high school educational status, majority 54.5% had moderate knowledge and 45.5% possessed inadequate knowledge level. Further, respondents with PUC qualification, 63.6% possessed moderate knowledge level as compared to 36.4% of respondents had inadequate knowledge. The association between educational status of the respondents and knowledge level was found to be statically significant ($\chi^2 = 8.20^*$ at $P < 0.05$ level). It is clearly indicates that there is significant association between knowledge level and educational status of the respondents on newborn care. It shows that among 40 respondents with no abortion/ still births, 57.5% had inadequate knowledge level and 42.5% had moderate knowledge level. There were 10 respondents with one abortion/still births, among them, 70.0% had inadequate knowledge level and 30.0% had moderate knowledge level. The χ^2 value is found to be non-significant at 5% level ($\chi^2 = 0.52NS$, $P > 0.05$). It indicates that there is non-significant association between knowledge and the number of abortion/ still birth.

Table 1 Demographic Variables of Respondents

| Characteristics | Category | Respondents | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|---------|
| | | Number | Percent |
| Age group (years) | 19-21 | 26 | 26 |
| | 22-24 | 38 | 38 |
| | 25-27 | 36 | 36 |
| Educational status | Primary school | 38 | 38 |
| | Middle school | 18 | 18 |
| | High school | 22 | 22 |
| | PUC | 22 | 22 |
| Occupational status | House wife | 66 | 66 |
| | Coolie | 14 | 14 |
| | Government | 20 | 20 |
| Number of Abortion/ Still birth | No | 80 | 80 |
| | One | 20 | 20 |
| Residential Area | Urban | 70 | 70 |
| | Rural | 30 | 30 |
| Type of family | Nuclear | 54 | 54 |
| | Joint | 34 | 34 |
| | Extended | 12 | 12 |
| Family income per month | Rs. 3,001-4,000 | 28 | 28 |
| | Rs. 4,001-5,000 | 48 | 48 |
| | Rs. 5,001-6,000 | 24 | 24 |
| Source of information @ | Electronic media | 76 | 76 |
| | Print media | 4 | 4 |
| | Health personnel | 16 | 16 |
| | Family members/Relatives | 46 | 46 |
| | Friends/Neighbors | 78 | 78 |

Table 2 Educational status and Knowledge Level of Respondents regarding Newborn Care

| Educational Status | Respondent's Knowledge Level | | | | | |
|--------------------|------------------------------|------|----------|------|-------|-------|
| | Inadequate | | Moderate | | Total | |
| | N | % | N | % | N | % |
| Primary school | 28 | 73.7 | 10 | 26.3 | 38 | 100.0 |
| Middle school | 14 | 77.8 | 4 | 22.2 | 18 | 100.0 |
| High school | 10 | 45.5 | 12 | 54.5 | 22 | 100.0 |
| PUC | 8 | 36.4 | 14 | 63.6 | 22 | 100.0 |
| Combined | 60 | 60.0 | 40 | 40.0 | 100 | 100.0 |

CONCLUSION

This study indicates that awareness and attitude of postnatal mothers towards neonatal care has lots of lacunae especially in those who belong to the lower socioeconomic status and with no proper education. There is scope for improvement by providing better care and health education for antenatal mothers at primary care level itself.

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