



A Descriptive Study to Assess the Paternal Knowledge on Newborn Care in a Selected Tertiary Care Hospital, Kanchipuram District, Tamilnadu, India.

KEYWORDS

Paternal knowledge, Newborn care.

* Ms.Sangeetha P

IIIrd year B.Sc (N) student, Chettinad College of Nursing , Rajiv Gandhi Salai, Kelambakkam, Kanchipuram district, Tamil Nadu, India, * Corresponding Author

Mr.Sabarinath P.K

IIIrd year B.Sc (N) student, Chettinad College of Nursing , Rajiv Gandhi Salai, Kelambakkam, Kanchipuram district, Tamil Nadu, India.

Prof.Dr.Veena M Joseph

Vice-Principal & Guide , Chettinad College of Nursing, Rajiv Gandhi Salai, Kelambakkam, Kanchipuram district, Tamil Nadu, India

ABSTRACT

The study aimed at assessing the paternal knowledge on newborn care using a descriptive study design, the sample size consisted of 50 male partners of the couples with at least one child. The Research tools consisted of a structured interview schedule to elicit demographic variables and a structured questionnaire to assess paternal knowledge on Newborn care. Study findings revealed that 100 % of male partners of the couples had inadequate knowledge on newborn care .

INTRODUCTION

Fathers of newborn face unique challenges as they strive to balance between work and family life .Most fathers are naturally protective, supportive and responsible and are able to provide a number of significant benefits for their children. An increased amount of father child involvement has also proven to increase a child's social stability, educational achievement and even their potential to have a solid marriage as an adult (Horn., Blackenhorn.,et al 1999). The health and survival of Newborn depends upon the parents' knowledge of newborn care. Generally it is the mothers who take complete responsibility for child rearing, fathers seldom participate actively in the care of children. It is generally recognized that knowledge influences care. Literature supports difference in knowledge levels between the parents

Children who were raised without fathers perceive themselves to be less cognitively and physically competent than their peers from father present families. The father child relationship is the defining factor of the fatherhood role in life.Even from birth, children who have an involved father are more likely to be emotionally secure, and confident to explore their surroundings and as they grow older, have better social connections with peers.The importance of fathers' participation for development of the child and the well-being of the family is recognized from earlier research (Saint Paul 2007).

TITLE:

A descriptive study to assess the paternal knowledge on newborn care in a selected tertiary care hospital, Kanchipuram District, Tamil Nadu, India.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To assess paternal knowledge on newborn care
- To associate the level of paternal knowledge on newborn care with selected demographic variables.

METHODOLOGY

A quantitative approach with a descriptive design was used in the study. The study was conducted in a selected

tertiary care hospital, the population included the male partners of the couples with Newborns . A convenient sampling technique was used to select 50 samples with the following inclusion criteria viz., male partners of the couples with at least one child who were willing to participate in the study and those who could understand and read Tamil or English.

RESEARCH TOOL

A structured interview schedule was used to elicit sample profile in relation to age, religion, type of family, educational status, employment status and family income.A Structured Self administered Questionnaire was used to assess the Paternal knowledge on newborn care in the areas of immunization, breast feeding, warmth and sleep.

SCORING AND INTERPRETATION

S.NO.	LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE ON NEWBORN CARE	PERCENTAGE (%)
1.	Inadequate Knowledge	less than 50%
2.	Moderately Adequate Knowledge	50-75%
3.	Adequate Knowledge	more than 75%

STUDY FINDINGS

With regard to sample profile ,78% of the fathers were Hindus, 52% of the fathers were from nuclear family and 100% of the fathers were employed, 56% of the fathers were graduate, 88% of the fathers belongs to the age group of >21-35 years.

With regard to Level of Knowledge on Newborn care , 100 % of the male partners of the couples were found to have inadequate level of knowledge on Newborn care.

CONCLUSION

Through this study revealed that 100% of the couples have an inadequate knowledge of the newborn care. This reflex the level of ignorance and non involvement in their care of their newborn. The study findings emphasize on the need to educate the fathers of the newborn on the various aspects of newborn care so that the fathers will be empowered to take the

informed discussion with regards to the health of their newborns.

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