



AN ASSESSMENT OF KNOWLEDGE OF SLUM AREA WOMEN REGARDING NEWBORN CHILD CARE IN JAIPUR

KEYWORDS

Women, newborn care, knowledge and practices

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ABSTRACT *Health of the future citizens depends on the care we are giving to our children today. Newborn babies constitute the foundation of life. Present study was an attempt to assess the knowledge and practices, followed by slum area women regarding newborn care. The study was conducted at purposively selected, Sanjay nagar bhata kachhi basti in Jaipur city. A total number of 50 women from selected slum area in the age of 15-45 and who had at least one child in the age of 0-28 days were selected for the study. The data were collected through structured interview schedule to assess their knowledge and practices regarding newborn care. Results reveal that majority (58%) of the slum area mother possessed low knowledge regarding various aspects like physical function, cord care, feeding etc of the newborn care. Further, it was also observed that majority (58%) of slum area women poorly followed general hygiene, feeding and health care practices. Age, income, occupation and educational status of the respondents and ordinal position of newborn baby were significantly influenced the level of knowledge and practices followed by slum area women regarding newborn care.*

INTRODUCTION

Newborn babies constitute the foundation of life. The neonate period is highly vulnerable period in which many psychological and physiological adjustments to life outside uterus must be made. The baby must be provided basic care to ensure its survival and optimum growth and development.

Mother Plays a key role in identify minor developmental deviations and early evidences of disease process because she is constantly and closely watching her baby. So she needs the basic knowledge and skills pertaining to mother craft, child nutrition (feeding), immunization, environmental sanitation, personal hygiene, and common problems in children. Insufficient knowledge of mother regarding new born care could lead to decrease quality of care and threaten neonatal health. But it is generally observed and available research studies reveals that slum area women spent very little time for looking after their children. Child care is the most neglected activity for slum mothers. It is supported by Moran et al. (2009) reported that exclusive breastfeeding was rare among slum mother and most of women were giving their babies sweet water, honey and/or other foods before initiating the breast feeding. Hence, the present study was conducted to assess the knowledge and find out practices of slum area women regarding newborn care.

METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted in one purposively selected kachhi basti "Sanjay nagar bhata kachhi basti" in jaipur city. It is the biggest kachhi basti of jaipur city.

A sample of fifty slum area women in the age group of 15-45 years and who had at least one child in the age of 0-28 days was selected, purposively. Descriptive survey research design was used for the study. For data collection structured interview schedule was developed by the investigator to assess the knowledge and practices of women of slum area women regarding newborn child care. Two point scale test (dichotomous test) to measure the knowledge and practices regarding newborn care was used. The knowledge and practice score of the each respondent were calculated by assigning marks for the correctly answered question. Each respondent scored 1 point for the correct response and 0 for the wrong responses. A maximum score of 37 was possible for knowledge test and maximum score of 31 was possible for practices test. Data were analyzed by using some suitable statistical measure.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table:-1

OVERALL LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE REGARDING NEWBORN CARE
N=50

KNOWLEDGE WITH SCORE RANGE	F	%
Low (0-12)	29	58
Medium (12-24)	16	32
High (24-37)	5	10
TOTAL	50	100

Table 1 shows the percentage of sample with low, medium, high levels of knowledge. Table depicts that majority of respondents (58 %) of the respondents were in low levels of knowledge category followed by (32%) of the sample were at medium level of knowledge and only 10 % of respondents had high knowledge regarding new born care.

TABLE:-2

LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE REGARDING VARIOUS ASPECT OF
NEWBORN CARE
N=50

Sr. NO.	Aspects	No. of Respondents					
		Low		Medium		High	
		F	P	F	P	F	P
1	Physical function	23	46	22	44	5	10
2	Breastfeeding	27	54	17	34	6	12
3	Cord care	33	66	10	20	7	14
4	Personal hygiene	26	52	21	42	3	6
5	Maintenance of body temperature	39	78	9	18	2	4
6	Immunization	39	78	11	22	0	0

Table 2 present the information about distribution of respondents by their different aspects wise level of knowledge regarding newborn care.

Physical Function

The above table indicates that in aspect of physical function majority of the respondents (46%) were in category of low knowledge followed by (44%) had medium level knowledge whereas only (10%) of the respondents were in high knowledge category.

Breastfeeding

This table further reveals that majority of respondents (54%) had low knowledge regarding breast feeding. While (34%) of the respondents were found to possess medium knowledge and only (12%) of the respondents were found at high knowledge.

Cord care

The above table further indicate that in aspect of cord care highest number of respondents which has formed percentages of (66%) were in category of low knowledge regarding cord care followed by (20%) had medium level knowledge whereas only (14%) of the respondents were in high knowledge category.

Personal hygiene

The table also shows that (52%) of the total respondents were in low personal hygiene category followed by (42%) had medium level knowledge and the least number of respondents had high personal hygiene knowledge, which was 6%.

Maintenance of body temperature

The above table also shows that highest number of respondents which has formed percentages of (78%) were in low knowledge category whereas (18%) of the respondents were found in medium level of knowledge category while only (4%) of the respondents possessed high knowledge regarding maintenance of body temperature of newborn.

Immunization

Table further shows that maximum number of respondents (78%) was having low knowledge regarding immunization. Followed by 22% were having medium level of knowledge but no one found in high knowledge category regarding immunization of newborn.

Table:- 3
LEVEL OF PRACTICES REGARDING VARIOUS ASPECTS OF NEWBORN CARE

N= 50

Sr. NO.	Aspects	No. of respondents					
		Low		Medium		High	
		F	P	F	P	F	P
1	General hygiene	25	50	20	40	5	10
2	Bathing	36	72	12	24	2	4
3	Feeding	39	78	9	18	2	4

Table 3 shows the percentage of sample with low, medium, high levels of practices regarding different aspect of newborn care.

General hygiene

The above table indicates that highest number of respondents (50%) had low practice regarding general hygiene. While (40%) were in medium and (10%) were having high level of practices regarding some dimensions of general hygiene.

Bathing

The table also shows that (72%) of the total respondents were in low bathing practices category followed by (24%) had medium level practices and the least number of respondents had high feeding practices, which was 4%.

Feeding

This table further reveals that (78%) of all respondents had low feeding practices, 18% were having medium level of practices but rests of 4% had the high feeding practices regarding newborn.

Table:- 4
OVERALL LEVEL OF PRACTICE REGARDING NEWBORN CARE

N=50

KNOWLEDGE WITH SCORE RANGE	F	%
Low (0-12)	29	58
Medium (12-24)	16	32
High (24 -37)	5	10
TOTAL	50	100

Table 4 shows the percentage of sample with low, medium, high levels of practices. Table depicts that majority of respondents (58%) of the samples were in low levels of knowledge category followed by (32%) of the sample were in medium level of knowledge and only 10 % of respondents had high knowledge regarding new born care. It is supported by Sreeramareddy et al. (2006) and Aneja et al. (2007) it reveals that mothers followed high-risk traditional new born care practices like, delayed in initiation of breast feeding, delayed wrapping, prelacteal feeding and discarding colostrums etc.

CONCLUSION

The result of the study revealed that majority of slum area women had low level of knowledge and practices regarding newborn care, and out of all selected aspects, in immunization aspect they had very poor knowledge and practices. It may be due to lack of awareness and educational intervention about proper newborn care practices. Therefore It can be concluded that there is need to improve knowledge and practices of slum area women regarding newborn care. Providing timely education in the form of intervention to the mothers could fill these gaps in knowledge and practices regarding newborn care practices. Study is also supported by Rahi et al. (2006), reveals that more than half of mothers were unaware of proper newborn care practices, thus there is an urgent need to reorient health care providers and to educate mothers on early neonatal care.

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