

Research Article

Comparative Study to Assess the Knowledge Regarding Newborn Care between Mother and Father in Selected Hospitals of Pune City

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ABSTRACT

Children are the future of society, and mother and father are the guardian of that future. Conventionally, the role of mother as a direct caregiver and the role of a father is providing financial support. However, nowadays, both are involved in direct care as well as financial outlook. This new trend accepted by various countries. Father also availing the facility of leave after delivery of newborn. **Aim:** The aim of the study was to compare the knowledge regarding newborn care between mother and father. **Objectives:** (1) The objectives of the study were to assess the knowledge regarding newborn care among parents and (2) to associate the findings with selected demographic variables. **Materials and Methods:** A total of 200 parents were selected as samples by nonprobability convenient sampling technique used to collect the data. Research tool includes Sections I and II. Section I includes demographic variables of parents. Section II consists of a structured questionnaire to assess the knowledge of parents regarding newborn care. The tool was content validated by experts and translated into the local language which was again validated. The reliability value is 0.78, which is high. The analysis was performed using frequency and percentage distribution and Fisher's exact test. **Results:** Father and mother have an equal level of knowledge regarding newborn care. A significant association between knowledge and parents age, no of children, and previous knowledge. Mother's knowledge regarding newborn care significantly associated with her educational status, occupation, source of information, religion, family income. **Conclusion:** Research findings show that mother and father have average knowledge regarding newborn care. These findings indicate the need for awareness among parents to decrease the infant mortality rate due to malpractice.

Keywords: Knowledge, Newborn, Parents

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Introduction

Childbirth is the process of all pain and labor, and the end of pregnancy by women delivering one or more baby through

vaginal delivery or cesarean section.^[1] Nowadays, extended and joint family pattern is reduced day by day and nuclear family is increasing. In the care of children, both parents are involved.^[2]

According to the UNICEF, India has reported that 11.5 lakhs deaths among under the age of five. Out of which 11.5 lakhs, infant death is of 6.60 lakhs and 0.748 lakh for newborn death. India accounts for 58% more than half of the world's neonatal deaths due to improper health care facilities, lack of immunization, birth malformations, and prevalence of infectious diseases have increased the neonatal death. National Rural Health Mission, maternal, and reproductive child health are the two programs started by the Indian government every year to improve the health of newborn. According to worldwide, the average 45% of

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neonatal mortality to under 5 age.^[2] Care in preterm remains a serious challenge, and still, 12% of death occurs due to perinatal asphyxia. Congenital abnormality contributes to 20% of the deaths. Sepsis is another significant condition which delays the discharge of healthy term low-risk babies from the hospital.^[3]

Materials and Methods

A non-experimental research design was adopted to conduct the study. A total of 200 (100 mothers + 100 father) samples were selected using non-probability convenient sampling technique.^[4] The sample was selected a parents whose newborn admitted in PNC ward. Data were collected from parents whose newborn's age is <3 days. The study instrument was a structured questionnaire using by the researcher, Section I consist of demographic variables of fathers and mothers, and Section II consist of a structured questionnaire to assess the knowledge regarding newborn care among parents. The tool was content validated by expert and translated into a local language which was again validated. The reliability value is 0.78 which is highly reliable. The collected data were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. The scoring system of data considered under the heading of poor, average, and good knowledge regarding newborn care among parents.

Results

Description of combined demographic variables of the parents – maximum 47 (23.5%) parents reported family monthly income in the range of 10,001–20,000. Most of the parents 61 (30.5%) are from Hindu religion as well as belongs to the joint family. About 29.5% of parents followed two children norm. Majority of fathers are in the age of 26–30 years and mothers from the age group of 23–8 years. Maximum 44 (22%) are working in the private sector and 75 (37.5%) mothers are house-maker. About 36% of fathers and 36.5% of mothers reported that they have previous information regarding newborn care. Mothers have given birth to child 63 (31.5%) delivered vaginally.

The majority 70.5% of parents having average knowledge, 78% of fathers having average knowledge, and 63% of mothers having average knowledge on newborn care [Table 1] Table 2 shows that the mean knowledge score of parents was 15.87 and standard deviation (S.D.) was 4.49, father's mean score is 15.62 and S.D. was 0.39 and the mean score knowledge of mother's was 16.14 and S.D is 0.50.

Table 3 reveals that the difference between the two mean scores is not significantly different $P > 0.05$ level of significance. This confirms that father and mother have an equal amount of knowledge regarding newborn care.

Demographic variables of mother like age, number of children, education, family monthly income, previous knowledge, source of information is associated with her knowledge. But religion, type of family, mode of delivery are not associated with mothers level of knowledge.

For association between father's knowledge scores and demographic variables, it is found that age of father, number of children they have previous information related to newborn care have association with the knowledge scores whereas there was no significant association with religion, type of family, family income, occupation, education, and source of information at 0.05 level of significance.

Discussion

Majority of fathers and mothers having average knowledge regarding newborn care.

Findings comparison of knowledge regarding newborn care between mother and father supported by the study conducted by Rama *et al.*, found that 15% of samples have adequate knowledge about newborn care, 39% are feeding practice, and 8% are immunization while 42% had growth and development and 33% of mothers have knowledge regarding newborn illness. The knowledge regarding newborn care was found to have a significant association with the educational status of the mothers.^[5]

Another study conducted by Biemba *et al.* and the finding shows that mothers (36.1%) had good knowledge, and there was good practice on essential newborn care (81.1%). Mothers who are well educated were associated with newborn care practice.^[6]

A study conducted by George *et al.* and the finding of the study 63.33% had inadequate knowledge regarding newborn care, 26.67% had moderate knowledge while 10% had adequate knowledge regarding newborn care while 70% had unfavorable attitude on newborn care, 23.33% in moderate attitude, and 6.67% had favorable attitude.^[7]

For association data show age in year, the number of children and previous knowledge is associated with the knowledge of mother's and father's as per value is <0.05. Education, occupation, family income, and previous information are associated with the knowledge of mother's as per value is <0.05. Types of family and religion mode of delivery are not

Table 1: Description of the father's and mother's knowledge regarding newborn care (n=200)

Knowledge levels	Parents (n=200)		Father (n=100)		Mother (n=100)	
	f (frequency)	%	f (frequency)	%	f (frequency)	%
Poor	35	17.5	11	11	24	24
Average	141	70.5	78	78	63	63
Good	24	12	11	11	13	13

Table 2: Mean knowledge score and SD of parents knowledge (n=200)

Group	Mean knowledge score \pm SD
Parents (n=200)	15.87 \pm 4.49
Father (n=100)	15.62 \pm 0.39
Mother (n=100)	16.14 \pm 0.50

SD: Standard deviation

Table 3: Comparison of knowledge regarding newborn care between mother and father (n=200)

Group	Mean	SE	Variance	d.f.	t	P-value
Father	15.60	0.39441	15.55		0.86	0.388
Mother	16.15	0.49876	24.87			

associated with the knowledge of fathers and mothers, as per value is more than 0.05.

The above findings are supported by Gnyawali *et al.* study that fathers (66.7%) say that they need to be feed 2–3 h of interval. About 18.3% fathers replied that there is a need for feeding whenever the baby is crying. Fathers (3.3%) do not have any idea on the frequency of feeding. Demographic variables were not significantly associated with paternal knowledge of newborn feeding.^[8]

Another study was conducted by the Priyanka *et al.* show that the majority of (58%) postnatal mothers unacceptable practice regarding newborn care. Postnatal mothers (44%) had average knowledge, minimum (16%) of postnatal mothers had better knowledge regarding newborn care, and maximum postnatal mothers and knowledge and practices had positive correlation regarding the care of newborn among postnatal mothers. There is a significant association between knowledge and practices on newborn care with selected demographic data such as family type. Source of information and education level of mothers had a significant impact on practices regarding newborn care knowledge.^[9]

Conclusion

Research findings show that there is no statistical difference in the level of knowledge between mother and father. They both have average knowledge. These findings indicate the need for awareness among parents to decrease the infant mortality rate due to malpractice. Parents who are elder than others and having more number of children show better knowledge than others. As well as parents having previous

experience shows significant association with knowledge regarding care of newborn.

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