A study to assess the knowledge regarding care of low birth weight baby among mothers in selected hospitals of Pune city

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Abstract

Low Birth Weight is a life-threatening condition. The occurrence of this condition causes substantial morbidity and mortality in children. Nurses have an important role in primary and preventive care of the community. Antenatal mothers must be made aware of this condition and their active cooperation in prevention and control measures. A Non-experimental study to assess the effectiveness of structured teaching programme on knowledge regarding prevention of low birth weight babies among antenatal mothers at Bharati hospital Pune.

The study consists of 60 Antenatal Mothers, who are in-between below to above 36 years and available at the time of study at Bharati hospital. Content validity of the tools was ensured by verifying it with expert from the field of Nursing. Convenient sampling method was used for the selection of samples. The instrument for the data collection was a structured knowledge questionnaire.

Results: There is a significant difference between the scores of test and Re-test knowledge of antenatal mothers regarding prevention of low birth weight. The data collected was analysis in terms of frequency, percentage and presented in the forms of table and Bar graph. The knowledge score of the sample was 71.66% in good.

It shows that there is an association between demographic variables with post-test knowledge scores. The demographic variables which have relationship are age, education, parity. Earlier studies conducted by other researchers also showed educational programs are helpful in increasing the knowledge of antenatal mothers.

Keywords: regarding care, low birth, weight baby, hospitals

Introduction

Birth weight is the single most important factor determining the survival chances of the newborn. Many of the newborn die during their first year of life. The infant mortality rate is higher for all low birth weight babies than other babies. The lower the birth weight, the lower is the survival chance of the newborn. There were 1.8 million infant deaths in the world in 2003. Most of them occurred in developing countries and approximately one half took place during their neonatal period. Low birth weight babies can be managed at the time of Antenatal period. Many mothers go on to enjoy near normal life if their babies were properly managed. Early intervention is important, especially for the management of feeding, handling, cleanliness, prevention from the infection. Mother’s knowledge about care of baby reflects the health and nutritional status of the baby, Nurses play the significant role in empowering the mother of LBW with reliable method of management. Structure teaching and counselling of mothers of LBW babies by nurses may help the mother to get relieved of their worries and to join hands with the nurses in care of low birth weight babies.

Need of the study

Low birth weight remains as an important unresolved problem which is distributed universally in all population. WHO estimates that about 25 million low birth weight babies are born each year globally, consisting 17 percent of all live births of which nearly 95% of them are in developing countries. The incidence of low birth weight varies widely between regions of the world.
In India the infants who weigh less than 2.5 kg at birth represent about 26% of all live births. Nearly the world average infant mortality which has been estimated about 54 per 1000 live births out of which 51% of deaths are due to low birth weight in India and Karnataka is also leading at a rate of infant mortality of 49 per 1000 live births. The vast majority of low birth weight babies in India are born in rural areas with a prevalence of 24% and in urban areas with 21%. Unless the outcomes of these babies are improved it is unlikely to change the overall national neonatal mortality rate. As the mother is both the “seed and the soil” there is link between the health of the mother and the health of a child and more importance should be given for antenatal mothers. Hence the investigator felt the need to assess the antenatal mother’s knowledge regarding prevention of low birth weight babies and to prepare a structured teaching programme for the purpose of improving the knowledge of antenatal mothers.

In India low birth weight was 30% in year 2008, and only in Punjab state 21.3% low birth weight babies were born in year 2008. Further, the investigator during the clinical experience found more number of low birth weight babies born and admitted in neonatal intensive care unit. LBW newborn faces problems like hypothermia, unable to suckle at the breast and hypoglycemia. Due to lack of immunity and LBW newborn are at high risk of having problem with increased chance to acquire infection which later on can lead to death. Low birth weight babies are immature, they need special nursing care. Nurses are front line care providers they are key persons involved with the care of the low birth weight neonates round the clock.

**Objective of study**
1. To assess the knowledge of mothers regarding care of low birth weight baby.
2. To associate findings with demographic variables.

**Research Methodology**

**Research approach**
Exploatory descriptive approach was used in this study

**Settings**
Study was conducted in selected hospitals of Pune city area.

**Target population**
The population of the present study comprises post natal mother who were admitted in the Obstetric and Gynaecology ward of the selected hospitals of the Pune city.

**Sample**
Post natal women’s

**Sampling technique**-non probability purposive sampling technique

**Sample size is 60**

**Tools for data collection**
Informed Consent form

**Tools I- Demographic data**
Tool II - Structured questionnaire to assess the knowledge regarding low birth weight baby care among postnatal mother.

**Analysis of the data**
Descriptive and inferential statistics

**Data collecting process**
- The data collecting process was as follows
- Ethical permission from the college
- Explain the procedure to the sample in their level of understanding and language
- Giving the written consent
- Explaining them about confidentiality and anonymity of their details
- Giving time and proper place to fill in the tools
- Helping them where ever necessary
- Pre test given to the sample
- Structured health education given
- Post test conducted

**Data analysis**
Analysis is the process of categories, ordering, manipulation, and summarizing of data to obtain answer to research question. The purpose of the analysis is to reduce data to an intelligible and interpretable form so that the relation of research problem be studied and tested.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No</th>
<th>Knowledge score</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Good knowledge</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>71.66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Average knowledge</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>28.33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Poor knowledge</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>00%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Table shows:** Majority of low birth weight babies mother (100%) having good knowledge regarding low birth weight baby care is 71.66% mothers having an average knowledge regarding low birth weight baby care 28.33% and 00% mothers having a poor knowledge regarding low birth weight baby care.

**Conclusion**
The following conclusions can be drawn from the study findings:
- Mothers have sufficient knowledge about low birth weight baby care and has observed the knowledge is more important for healthy individual.
- Also regarding knowledge about care that occurs in hospital settings and help to know about preventing measures is to be taken in hospital.
- From all the data obtained, knowledge regarding low birth weight baby care among the postnatal mother in good level.

**References**
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