



## Awareness regarding danger signs of newborn illness among postnatal mothers admitted in selected hospital, Bangalore. With a view to develop an informational pamphlet

Mrs. Kamatchi K

Department of obstetrical and gynecological Nursing, R V College of Nursing, Bangalore, India.

### ABSTRACT

A global rate of 19 deaths per 1,000 live births of neonates takes place in India. The main causes of these deaths are the common preventable illnesses like Weakness, fever, Excessive crying, Vomiting, Refusal to feed, Difficulty in breathing, Diarrhea and Jaundice. World Health Organization encourages the active participation of caretakers in the treatment of infants. The involvement of mothers and community health workers in the detection and assessment of the danger sign is very important. It was therefore necessary to evaluate awareness of the mothers regarding the early identification of danger signs to reduce the mortality of new borns. With this awareness, the investigator had taken up "A study to assess the awareness of mothers regarding danger signs of new born illness among postnatal mothers admitted in selected hospital, Bangalore with a view to develop an informational pamphlet." **Objectives:** 1. To assess the awareness of postnatal mothers regarding new born danger signs. 2. To find the association between awareness of postnatal mothers regarding new born danger signs and selected baseline variables. **Methods:** The research designs adopted for this study was a descriptive approach. The study was done in postnatal ward and private rooms in SJMCH, Bangalore, which is a multi-specialty hospital with 1350 bed strength and the postnatal ward has got 25 beds. 98 samples were selected for the study using purposive sampling technique. A structured questionnaire was used to assess the awareness of mothers regarding danger signs of new born illness. The collected data were analyzed by using descriptive and inferential statistics. The statistical tools carried out for analysis were range, mean, median, standard deviation, ANOVA and t-test. **Results:** The present study showed that the mean awareness score of the postnatal mothers were  $16.21 \pm 4.97$  with the mean percentage of 60.05%. The present study showed that the median percentage of the awareness of the samples regarding fever, vomiting and refusal to feed are 66.67% each, where as median percentage of awareness on diarrhoea, excessive crying and difficulty in breathing are 50% each. The participant scored 100% in the area of jaundice. The result of the present study showed mothers awareness on different danger signs of new born illness are not associated with the age (ANOVA 1.39,  $p=0.256$ ), Education (ANOVA 1.29,  $p=0.282$ ), Occupation (ANOVA 0.29,  $p=0.743$ ), Family income (ANOVA 0.99,  $p=0.375$ ), Number of children (t test -0.60,  $P=0.544$ ), Previous history of NICU admission in the previous child (t test -0.15,  $p=0.877$ ). **Conclusion:** The present study showed that there is necessary to evaluate awareness of the mothers regarding the early identification of danger signs to reduce the mortality of new borns.

---

**Keywords :** Danger signs, Excessive crying, Vomiting, Refusal to feeding, Difficulty in breathing, Diarrhoea and Jaundice

---

## INTRODUCTION

There is nothing more enjoyable in this world than becoming parents of a little one. A new born baby presents a bundle of blissful joy to his parents. However, being the parents of a new born, they must be careful to take care of their babies. New borns are in a very critical stage of life, it is here that many complications and deaths may occur. New borns are delicate and have distinct health problems with high morbidity and mortality demanding specialized health care facility. They need optimal care for improved survival. New born care is highly cost effective because saving the life of a new born baby is associated with survival and productivity of future adults. They are truly the foundation of a Nation; they contribute towards the nation's productivity. New born health problems are frequently found ranging from minor physical or physiological peculiarity to the serious life-threatening illness. The major contributors to new born morbidity and mortality are delay in recognizing the new born danger signs; these are the signs that show significant change in the health of new born and require immediate treatment. One of the components in reducing the new born mortality and morbidity is early recognition of sick new born and the danger signs of illness and initiation of prompt treatment. Common danger signs in new born which require immediate care and accounts for morbidity are the danger signs which include Refusal to feed, Weakness, Excessive crying, difficulty in breathing, Fever, Jaundice, diarrhoea and vomiting. Most of the signs of illness in new borns are non-specific. Nurse needs to know the danger signs of sick new borns. She can explain these signs to mother or family members in a simple language to enable them to identify the danger signs and to seek early and prompt medical help. Most of the new born deaths can be avoided through simple, affordable interventions, especially in areas with weak health systems and high rates of new born mortality. Health education to improve home-care practices, recognition of new born danger signs, generation of demand for skilled care, and increased health-seeking behaviour can lead to significant reductions in new born mortality.

## OBJECTIVES

- 1 To assess the awareness of postnatal mothers regarding new born danger signs.
- 2 To find the association between awareness of postnatal mothers regarding new born danger signs and selected baseline variables

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

The research designs adopted for this study was a descriptive approach. The study was done in postnatal ward and private rooms in SJMCH, Bangalore, which is a multi-specialty hospital with 1350 bed strength and the postnatal ward has got 25 beds. 98 samples were selected for the study using purposive sampling technique.

The tool consists of two sections: **Section-A** Proforma to measure baseline variables. **Section-B** Structured awareness questionnaire to assess awareness of postnatal mothers regarding danger signs of new borns and the analysis of data was organized and presented under the following sections. **SECTION 1 :** Description of subjects based on baseline variables **SECTION 2 :** Awareness of postnatal mothers on new born danger signs **SECTION 3:** Association of awareness and selected baseline variables.

Tool was administered at their convenient time after 24 hours of delivery and Each mother(sample) took approximately 30-40 minutes to complete the task.

**Maximum score , Range , median , median percentage , IQR of area wise awareness of mothers regarding new born danger signs**

S.NO	VARIOUS ASPECTS OF AWARENESS	MAX. SCORE	MEDIAN	MEDIAN %	IQR
1	DIARRHOEA	4	2	50%	1-3
2	FEVER	3	2	66.67%	1-2
3	VOMITING	3	2	66.67%	1-3
4	EXCESSIVE CRYING	4	2	50%	1-3
5	JAUNDICE	3	3	100%	2-3
6	DIFFICULTY IN BREATHING	4	2	50%	1-3
7	WEAKNESS	3	1	33.33%	1-2
8	REFUSAL TO FEED	3	2	66.67%	1-3

**Awareness of postnatal mothers on new born danger sign no :98**

STUDY VARIABLE	MAX.SCORE	RANGE OF SCORE	MEAN	MEAN %	STANDARD DEVIATION
Awareness	27	5-27	16.21	60.05%	4.97

**Mean , SD, ANOVA and P value to determine the association of awareness and selected baseline variables (Age, Education and Occupation )**

S.NO	BASELINE VARIABLES	MEAN	SD	TEST OF SIGNIFICANCE	P VALUE
1	<b>Age</b>				
	15-25 years	16.01	5.29	1.39	0.256
	26-35 years	16.02	4.31		
	36-45 years	19.80	5.89		
2	<b>Education</b>				
	Profession	13.86	4.63	1.29	0.282
	Graduate	15.12	2.92		
	High school	16.89	5.37		
	Middle school	16.67	6.18		
3	<b>Occupation</b>				
	House wife	16.21	5.11	0.29	0.743

	Professional	15.44	4.25		
	Skilled worker	17.60	4.15		

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The present study revealed that out of 98 mothers 54(55.1%) mothers were in the age group of 15-25 years; 39 (39.8%) mothers were in the age group of 26-35 years; 5(5.1%) mothers were in the age group of 36-45 years and the over all mean awareness score of the postnatal mothers were  $16.21 \pm 4.97$  with the mean % of 60.05% and its showed that there is no association between awareness and baseline variables.

## CONCLUSION

The present study showed that the median percentage of the awareness of the samples regarding fever, vomiting and refusal to feed are 66.67% each, where as median percentage of awareness on diarrhoea, excessive crying and difficulty in breathing are 50% each. The participant scored 100% in the area of jaundice.

## REFERENCE

- [1] Jacob Alphonsa , Singh Sangram. Paediatric Nursing. 2nd ed. Indore: NR brother's publications; **2003**.
- [2] Fraser Diane M, Cooper Margaret A. Myles Textbook for midwives. 14thed. Edinburg: Elsevier publication; **2003**. 709, 727.
- [3] Dutta Parul. Pediatric nursing. 1sted. New Delhi: Jaypee brother's medical publishers (p) ltd; **2008**.
- [4] Thumbulwadkar R S. Pediatric nursing. 2nd ed. Mumbai: Vora medical publication; **2004**.
- [5] Singh Meharban. Essentials pediatrics for nurses. 1st ed. New Delhi: Sagar publication; **2004**.
- [6] Chellappa Jessie M. Pediatric nursing.1st ed. Bangalore: Gajanana book publishers and distributors; **2002**.
- [7] Gupta Piyush. Essential pediatric nursing. 1st ed. New Delhi: A.P.Jain and co publication; **2004**.
- [8] Dorthy R M, Barbara A R. Textbook of pediatric nursing. 6th edition. Philadelphia (USA): Elsevier; **2005**
- [9] Awasthi Shally, Verma Tuhina, Agarwal Monica. Danger signs of neonatal illness: perception of caregivers and health workers in northern India. Bulletin world health organization. October **2006**; 84(10):819-26. Available at: URL: <http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/84/10/05-029207>.
- [10] Park K. Park's Textbook of Preventive and Social medicine. 21st ed. India: M/S Banarsidas Bhanot publication; **2011**.
- [11] Dongre Amol R, Deshmukh Pradeep R, GargBishan S. A Community Based Approach to Improve Health Care Seeking for Newborn Danger Signs inRural Wardha, India. Indian Journal of Pediatrics. **2009** Jan; 76(1):45- 50.Available at: URL: <http://medind.nic.in/icb/t09/i1/icbt09i1p45>.
- [12] Kumar V, Shearer J C, Kumar A, Darmstadt GL. State-of-the-art neonatal hypothermia in low resource setting: a review. Journal of Perinatology.**2009**.

[13] Nasrin Khalesi, Fatemeh Rakhshani. Knowledge, attitude and behavior of mothers on neonatal jaundice. JPMA 58: 671; **2008**

Available at: URL:[http://www.jpma.org.pk/full\\_article\\_text.php?article\\_id=1567](http://www.jpma.org.pk/full_article_text.php?article_id=1567)

[14] Dongre Amol R , Deshmukh Pradeep R, Garg Bishan S. Awareness and Health Care Seeking for Newborn Danger Signs Among Mothers in PeriUrban Wardha. Indian Journal of pediatrics. **2009** Jul;76(7): 691-3. Available at:URL: <http://medind.nic.in/icb/t09/i7/icbt09i7p691>.

[15] Avadesh kumar , Manushi srivastava , Shanshad Ahmad . Knowledge and practice of newborn care among postnatal mothers in tertiary care hospital of Varanasi;August **2015** . Available from:[www.ijhsr.org](http://www.ijhsr.org);2249-9571