Knowledge of nurses on essential newborn care

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ABSTRACT

Introduction Essential newborn care is a care that every newborn baby needs regardless of where it is born or its size. Essential newborn care should be applied immediately after the baby is born and continued for at least the first 7 days after birth (WHO). This study was conducted to assess the knowledge of nurses on essential newborn care methods. The study was conducted using descriptive correlational research design. The samples included 30 nurses working in Apollo Cradle for Women & Children who were selected using purposive sampling technique. Data was collected using demographic variable preforms a structured questionnaire to assess the knowledge of nurses on essential newborn care through a non-experimental descriptive method. Results revealed that the mean and standard deviation of knowledge of nurses on essential newborn care was (M = 14.93, SD = 3.35). The study findings revealed that there was the significant association between selected demographic variables and knowledge of the nurses -years of experience and knowledge of nurses on essential newborn care (p < 0.05).

Keywords: Knowledge, Essential newborn care

1. INTRODUCTION

Essential newborn care is a care that every newborn baby needs regardless of where they're born or their size. Essential newborn care should be given immediately after the baby is born and continued for at least first 7 days after birth (WHO). Otunomeruke (2016) conducted a study to assess the impact of essential newborn care (ENC) practices on the mortality of neonates delivered at home in Bangladesh. They examined the effect of ENC practices on neonatal mortality based on 3190 live-born infants. Results of the study showed that the delayed bathing (72 hrs after delivery) significantly contributed to reducing neonatal mortality.

Vittner (2009) in his article on essential newborn care states that the newborn intensive care unit is technology focused and crisis-driven. Working in that area demands technical competence as well as the emotional aptitude to ensure that infant should care in the environment of basic humanness. Essential newborn care skill enhances the nursing profession. Thus the result showed a significant improvement in the knowledge and skills of newborn care.

Hence the researcher has undertaken this study to assess the knowledge of nurses on essential newborn care which has a vital role in nurturing the quality based care in the future for newborns.

Statement of the Problem
A Descriptive Correlational Study to Assess the Knowledge of Nurses on Essential Newborn Care at Selected Hospitals, Chennai.

Objectives of the Study
1. To assess the knowledge of nurses on essential newborn care
2. To find out the association between the selected demographic variables and knowledge of nurses on essential newborn care.

Null Hypothesis
There will be no significant association between the selected demographic variables and knowledge of nurses on essential newborn care.

Materials & Methods
A Nonexperimental descriptive research design was adopted for conducting this study at Apollo Cradle for women & children. Thirty nurses were selected for the study using purposive sampling technique. After the initial introduction, the researcher obtained consent from the subjects to

participate in the study. An assurance was given regarding confidentiality before the data collection procedure.

Instruments

The baseline data was collected using a demographic variable Proforma for nurses and a structured questionnaire was used to assess the knowledge of nurses on essential newborn care. The structured questionnaire consisted of 25 MCQ items (with one right option and three distractors) which included components such as immediate care of newborn, breastfeeding, thermoregulation and others. Each correct answer was scored 1 and each wrong answer was scored 0. Hence the obtainable score was 0 – 25.

2. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Demographic data revealed that more than half of the nurses were aged 22 – 24 years, (76.6%) with B. Sc (N) (100%) and the majority of them were staff nurses (73.3%).

Table 1: Frequency and Percentage Distribution of Knowledge of Nurses on Essential Newborn Care (N=30)

Knowledge of Nurses	f	%
Inadequate Knowledge	9	30
Moderately Adequate Knowledge	15	50
Adequate Knowledge	6	20

The data presented in table 1 show that half of the nurses (50%) had the moderately adequate knowledge and 20% of nurses had adequate knowledge.

It was also noted that nurses with experience up to two years were found to have better knowledge when compared to the experienced nurses. It may be due to the fact that Essential Newborn Care was revised in the recent years. So the newly trained nurses were more aware of the revised module. Hence measures should be taken to improve the knowledge of nurses considering its strong effect in quality care in newborns, systematic and updated workshops and conferences can be conducted for the nurses working in neonatal and maternity hospitals to prevent the occurrence of birth complications and its consequences.

Table 2: Mean and Standard Deviation of Knowledge of Nurses on Essential Newborn Care (N=30)

	Mean	SD
Knowledge of essential newborn care	14.93	3.35

We can infer from the above table that the mean score and standard deviation of knowledge of nurses on essential newborn care were (M =14.93, SD = 3.35).

The findings of the study revealed a significant association between years of experience ($p < 0.05$) and knowledge of nurses on essential newborn care. Hence the null hypothesis H01: There will be no significant association between knowledge of nurses on essential newborn care and selected demographic variable of nurses is rejected.

3. CONCLUSION

Birth is a major challenge for the newborn to negotiate successfully from intrauterine to extra uterine life. The first few hours since birth is the most crucial period in the life of an infant for further growth and development, which is largely determined by the quality of care that the newborn receives. With the emerging health care demands and newer trends in the field of nursing education, the focus should be on the innovations that would enhance the nursing care. The findings from the literature review show that the impact of essential new born care practices upon the mortality of newborns. This could be supported by giving training of essential new born care to the staff nurses.

4. REFERENCES

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