KNOWLEDGE REGARDING PUERPERAL SEPSIS AND ITS PREVENTION AMONG POSTNATAL MOTHERS IN SELECTED HOSPITALS OF BHAVNAGAR

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ABSTRACT

Puerperal sepsis is an infection which arises from bacterial invasion of the genital organs during puerperal period. The objectives of the study was to assess the pre test and post test level of knowledge regarding puerperal sepsis among post natal mothers and to evaluate effectiveness of structured teaching programme and to find association between pre test knowledge scores with selected socio demographic variables. Non-experimental research approach with one group pre- test post- test research design, ” was used. The Sample comprised of 60 postnatal mothers who were diagnosed with puerperal sepsis in Sir.T hospital of Bhavnagar city selected through non- probability convenient sampling method. Major findings of the study showed that, majority of post-natal mothers were from the age group 23 yrs to 27 years (46.66%). The majority samples (70%) were Hindus. Majority of (60%) mothers had primary education. The level of knowledge revealed that the majority 65% of mothers in pre-test of experimental group were having average knowledge score(8-14), where in post-test majority 63.33% of the mothers had a average knowledge score(8-14) and 36.66% of mothers were having good (15-22) knowledge score, which indicates that the STP was effective. The findings on relationship of selected variable of post natal mothers show that there is a significant association between age, religion, educational status, type of family, Residential area, monthly income, Parity, Source of information with knowledge on puerperal sepsis and its prevention. Thus, H$_2$ was accepted. The calculate ‘p’ value is 0.000 at 0.005 level of significance which means that H$_0$ is rejected and H$_1$ is accepted. The study has provided the importance of having a midwifery nurse, who would place more importance on preventive, promotive and curative care.

KEYWORDS: Knowledge; Puerperal Sepsis; Prevention; Postnatal Mothers.
INTRODUCTION

The postpartum period or puerperal (Latin word puer means ‘child’ and parere means “to bring forth”) refers to the 6 weeks after child birth. Puerperal sepsis is an infection which arises from bacterial invasion of the genital organs during puerperal period. (Adele pillitteri 2003). Now a days, puerperal sepsis is a big problem, due to its prevalence and morbidity. According to WHO, 75,000 maternal deaths occurs worldwide per year. Deaths related to puerperal sepsis are very rare in the industrialized world. Most puerperal sepsis take place after hospital discharge, in the absence of postnatal follow-up. Many cases of puerperal sepsis can go undiagnosed and unreported. (Crofton VM 1922). In India, maternal deaths from puerperal sepsis constitute the second most common cause after haemorrhage, accounting for approximately 15% of all maternal deaths. (Indian Journal for the Practising Doctor 2005)

NEED FOR THE STUDY

In India, maternal deaths from puerperal sepsis accounting for approximately 15% of all maternal deaths. A sixteen year study from northern India found that puerperal sepsis was responsible for over 35% of maternal deaths and a study in southern India revealed that puerperal sepsis was a leading cause of maternal death responsible for 41.9% of deaths. Demographic and health survey shows that the majority of women do not receive a postnatal check-up and 14% of women who had a birth in the last 5 years reported very high fever in the postpartum period. (Mehta R, URL: http://www.biomedcentral.com/ 1471-2393.) (Padubidri V.1999). Even in the 21st century, approximately 6, 00,000 women die of pregnancy related causes each year. The WHO reported that 98% of these deaths are the leading cause of maternal mortality is perinatal infections. Puerperal sepsis has been responsible for about 25% maternal mortality in India. Puerperal sepsis morbidity affects 2-10% of patients and it is 5-10 times higher following caesareans delivery. (Shirish N. et al 2005). The nurse can ease the transition from pregnancy to motherhood. It is important to educate mothers about puerperal infection and its prevention. Therefore, the investigator felt need to administer a structured teaching programme to improve the knowledge regarding puerperal sepsis and its prevention.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To assess pre test level of knowledge regarding puerperal sepsis among post natal mothers.
- To assess post test level of knowledge regarding puerperal sepsis among post natal mothers.
To evaluate effectiveness of structured teaching programme by comparing pre and post test knowledge.
To find association between pre test knowledge scores with selected socio demographic variables.
To develop information booklet on preventive measures of puerperal sepsis.

HYPOTHESES

H1: There is a significant difference between pre and post test knowledge score of puerperal sepsis.
H2: There is a significant association between pre test knowledge with selected socio demographic variables.

METHODOLOGY

Research approach: Non-Experimental Research Approach was used.
Research design: In this study exploratory survey method by using “one group pre- test post-test research design,” was used.
Setting of the study: The present study was conducted in Sir.T hospital Bhavnagar
Population: In this study, population consist of postnatal mothers who were admitted in Sir.T hospital of Bhavnagar.
Sample and Sampling technique: Non- probability convenient sampling method was used to select the samples. Sample comprised of 60 postnatal mothers who were diagnosed with puerperal sepsis in Sir.T hospital of Bhavnagar city.

Tool:
Section I: Demographic variable consists of 8 items.
Section II: Multiple choice questionnaires having 22 items.
Scoring system: poor knowledge (0-7), average knowledge (8-14), good knowledge (15-22)
Data collection procedure: Prior permission was obtained from the concerned authority. Keeping in mind, the ethical aspect of research, data was collected after obtaining informed consent from the subjects. Pre-test was conducted by structured interview schedule. Pre-test was followed by a structured teaching programme which was of one hour. After 7 days a post-test was conducted by using the same knowledge questionnaire to evaluate the effectiveness of the structured teaching programme.
RESULTS

Organization of Findings

The data collected from the mothers were organized, analyzed and presented under the following headings.

- Section I: Description of sample characteristics
- Section II: Assessment of knowledge.
- Section III: Evaluating effectiveness of STP (structured teaching programme)
- Section IV: Association of Pre and Post-test knowledge with selected Demographic variables.

Section-I: Description of samples according to demographic/personal characteristics

Out of 60 samples, majority of post-natal mothers were from the age group 23-27 years (46.66%). The majority samples (70%) were Hindus. Majority of (60%) mothers had primary education. Majority of mothers 53.33% were from joint family. Majority (60%) of mothers living in rural area. Majority (76.66%) mothers having a 5000/- monthly family income. The majority of the samples 51.66% were multi Para and 48.33% were primipara. Majority of mothers 46.66% had the knowledge about puerperal sepsis from friends and parents.

Section II: Analysis of knowledge regarding puerperal sepsis and prevention among postnatal mothers before and after structured teaching programme

![Figure 1: Bar diagram showing pre-test and post-test knowledge scores and percentage of samples.](image)

The above figure shows that the majority 65% of mothers in pre-test of experimental group were having average knowledge score (8-14), where in post-test majority 63.33% of the mothers had a average knowledge score (8-14) and 36.66% of mothers were having good knowledge score (15-22) which indicates that the STP was effective.
Section III: Evaluating the effectiveness of STP by assessment of data related to effect of STP on knowledge score among samples.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>S.D</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-test</td>
<td>8.532</td>
<td>2.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post test</td>
<td>13.83</td>
<td>2.24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1: Pre-test and post test knowledge scores

The above table shows the post-test statistical outcomes of knowledge on puerperal sepsis and prevention was 13.83 with SD 2.24 after STP. The results confirms that the STP significantly effective in improving the knowledge on puerperal sepsis and prevention among postnatal mother.

Section-IV: Association of pre and post-test knowledge with selected demographic variables

The relationship of selected variables of post natal mothers show that there is a significant association between Age, Religion, Educational status, Type of family, Residential area, Monthly income, Parity, Source of information with puerperal sepsis and prevention. Thus, level of knowledge is dependent on the selected variables, so H2 was accepted.

DISCUSSION

The findings of the present study revealed that majority 65% of post natal mothers in pre test of experimental group were having good knowledge score (8-14), where in post test 36.66% of post natal mother had a good knowledge score (15-22) and Majority 63.33% of post natal mothers in post test were having average knowledge score(8-14). The calculated ‘p’ value is 0.000 at 0.005 level of significance which means that H0 is rejected and H1 is accepted.

The findings of the study were supported by the study conducted to verify the occurrence of puerperal sepsis in the Delivery centre (DC) india. The sample was 10,559 deliveries from 2000 to 2003. The result was 0.16% of women presented puerperal sepsis. The study concluded that the obstetrical assistance given by this model of care brings reduction in puerperal sepsis.(Machado NX et al)
CONCLUSION

The various findings of the study show that the knowledge regarding puerperial sepsis and its prevention among post natal mothers has been improved through structured teaching programme. There was an association between the knowledge level and variables such as age, religion, educational status, type of family, Residential area, monthly income, Parity, Source of information. The midwifery nurse could play the role of health educator, counsellor, coordinator, supervisor, environmental modifier and consultant and help post natal mothers to improve their knowledge regarding puerperial sepsis and its prevention.

REFERENCES