KNOWLEDGE ON CARE OF NEWBORN AMONG POST BASIC B. SC. NURSING STUDENTS AT MANGALORE

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ABSTRACT

Adequate care is essential for newborn to develop optimally. Health professionals play a high priority on continual assessment and care of newborns. The objective of the study was to assess the knowledge on care of newborn and to find the association between the knowledge score and selected demographic variables among Post Basic B. Sc. nursing students by a structured knowledge questionnaire. Non-experimental descriptive survey approach with a typical descriptive design was adopted in the present study. The subjects comprised of 30 Post Basic B. Sc. nursing students selected through purposive sampling technique. Major findings of the study showed that all 100% were within the age group 22-34 years, most of 22 (73.4%) were females, majority 16 (53.3%) have experience of 0-3 years and only a few of the respondents 4 (13.3%) were having Paediatric ward experience. The level of knowledge revealed that majority of the subjects 20 (66.7%) had good knowledge, 7 (23.3%) had very good knowledge and 3 (10%) subjects had average knowledge regarding care of newborn. There was no significant association was found between knowledge scores and demographic variables. The researchers here emphasize that more research is needed to understand how to improve the knowledge and motivation of student nurses regarding care of newborn.

KEYWORDS: Knowledge; Care Of Newborn; Post Basic B. Sc. Nursing Students

INTRODUCTION

Essential care of the normal healthy neonates can be best provided by the mothers under supervision of nursing personnel or primary health care providers. About 80 percent of the newborn babies require minimal care. The normal term babies should be kept with their mother rather than in a separate nursery. Bedding-in or rooming-in promotes better emotional
bondage, prevents cross-infection and establishes breastfeeding easily. Ideally the newborn care involves airway clearance, Apgar scoring, thermo regulation, infection control and nutrition (breastfeeding) and immunization. It can save many lives by preventing complication, reducing the risk of infections and hypothermia. No child should be denied the benefit of newborn care due to lack of information to the mother. It should be practiced for the first 28 days since they have a high risk of infection through improper handling of the newborn.  

NEED FOR THE STUDY

In India an estimated 25 million babies are born per year and of those, 24% (6 million) succumb to death. The current IMR (Infant Mortality Rate) in India is 70/1000 live births, which means out of every 1000 newborn babies born 70 die in the first year of life and Two third of the newborns die in the first month after birth. Most crucial phase is the 0-4 weeks of life (called the neonatal period), since two-third of all newborn deaths occur during the first week of life. Poor newborn care practices are to a great extent, a man made problem which directly or indirectly contribute to infections and illnesses, malnutrition and mortality in neonates. Assessing the knowledge on newborn care among nursing students forms an essential first step to bring about positive behavioural change in neonate health.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To assess the knowledge on care of newborn among Post Basic B. Sc. nursing students by a structured knowledge questionnaire.
- To find the association of knowledge on care of newborn among Post Basic B. Sc. Nursing students with selected demographic variables.

HYPOTHESES

H1: There will be a significant association between the knowledge on care of newborn among Post Basic B. Sc Nursing students and selected demographic variables.

METHODOLOGY

Research approach: A descriptive research approach.
Research design: Non experimental descriptive survey method.
Setting of the study: The present study was conducted in Indira Nursing College, Falnir, Mangalore.

Population: In this study, population consist Post Basic B.Sc Nursing students of Indira Nursing College.

Sample and Sampling technique: Purposive sampling technique was used to select the samples. Sample comprised of 30 first year Post Basic B.Sc Nursing students of Indira Nursing College at Mangalore

Tool:
Part I: Demographic variable consists of 4 items
Part II: Structured knowledge questionnaire consists of 25 items

Scoring system:
Poor knowledge (0-6), average knowledge (7-12), good knowledge (13-18) and very good knowledge (19-25).

Data collection procedure:
The study was conducted after obtaining ethical clearance and permission from the college authorities. The purpose of the study was explained and informed consent was taken from the students. Then the data were collected by administering demographic variables and structured knowledge questionnaire with 25 multiple choice items on care of newborn. The average time taken by the students to complete the questionnaire was approximately 30 minutes.

RESULTS
Section I: Description of demographic characteristics of Post Basic B.Sc Nursing students
Out of 30 samples, all 100% were within the age group 22-34 years. Majority 16(53.3%) have experience of 0-3 years, among the samples most 22 (73.4%) were females. Only a few of the respondents 4 (13.3%) were having Paediatric ward experience.
Section II: Analysis of level of knowledge of Post Basic B.Sc Nursing students on care of newborn

Figure 1: Bar diagram showing distribution of level of knowledge of Post Basic B.Sc nursing students on care of newborn

The above figure shows that majority of the subjects 20 (66.7%) had good knowledge, 7 (23.3%) had very good knowledge and 3 (10%) subjects had average knowledge.

Section III: Association of knowledge of Post Basic B.Sc Nursing students with selected demographic variables

The association between the knowledge of Post Basic B.Sc Nursing students on care of newborn with selected demographic variables was done by Chi square test which showed that there was no significant association between level of knowledge and selected demographic variables like age, gender, years of experience and area in which experience is gained.

DISCUSSION

This findings of the present study revealed that majority 66.7% (20) of Post Basic B.Sc nursing students have good knowledge, 23.3% (7) of them have very good knowledge and remaining 10% (3) have average knowledge score.

The findings of the study were supported by the study conducted to assess the knowledge regarding the use of aseptic techniques in caring newborn baby among practicing students. About 40 samples were selected randomly. Purposive sampling technique was used. Questionnaires were given and the finding shows that 85% of the staff nurses are practicing good aseptic techniques in caring newborn.5
CONCLUSION

The study concludes that majority of Post Basic B.Sc nursing students 66.7% were having good knowledge, 23.3% of them have very good knowledge and remaining 10% had average knowledge score on care of new born. So it is important to initiate actions to enhance the knowledge on care of newborn among students.

REFERENCES