KNOWLEDGE OF STAFF NURSES IN IMMEDIATE CARE OF NEWBORN BABY AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS: A DESCRIPTIVE SURVEY BASED STUDY

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The present article reports a study to assess the knowledge regarding the newborn care among staff nurses working in Kumareshwar Hospital and Medical Research Centre, Bagalcat, with a view to develop an information booklet. In pre-experimental study, a total of 50 subjects selected through simple random sampling technique. The study employed pre-experimental one group pre-test design while data was collected by structured knowledge questionnaire. It was found that majority 30 (60%) of study subjects had medium knowledge and 20, (40%) of subjects had adequate knowledge regarding newborn care. The present study also implicated that the same study can be repeated in different regions of the state or nation so as to compare the results, can be repeated on a larger sample so as to generalize the results; and the short term training programme and its effectiveness can be analyzed through a pre and post test method.

Key words: New born, Pre and post test, Neonatal care, Information booklet.

INTRODUCTION
There are approximately 4 million neonatal deaths occur worldwide each year. The nurse is in a unique position to aid the neonate in the stressful transition from a warm, dark, fluid-filled environment to an outside world filled with light, sound and novel tactile stimuli. Depending on the type of birthing facility the women chooses a certified nurse midwife or delivery room nurse to be present with the women and her partner. The nurse performs an initial assessment to evaluate the neonate, its immediate post birth adaptations, and the need for further support. Later, a pediatric or neonatal nurse practitioner or nursery nurse will conduct a comprehensive assessment to determine the infant's status and to identify internal and external stressors that might jeopardize successful adaptation. The death rate of new born baby is 400 per 1000 live births with neonatal deaths totaling 119,500 annually. The birth of baby is one of life’s most wondrous moments and new born care is the care of baby from birth to 4 weeks (28 days). Newborn babies have amazing abilities, yet they are completely depending on others for every aspect of feeding, warmth and comfort. Birth of healthy new born is the finest gift of nature. The process of birth takes only a few hours but it is the most hazardous period of life (Niraja, 2004). Since it is associated with largest number of deaths as compared to any other phases of life (Jacob, 2005). Every new born has the right to get the best possible conditions for its growth and development especially because children are assets for nation's development. Yearly 50% of all infant death occurs in first seven days. The common causes are prematurity or low birth weight, birth asphyxia, and neonatal tetanus. Despite extensive efforts by government and other agencies, neonatal morbidity and mortality continues to be high in India. Among other