ORIGINAL ARTICLE

TO ASSESS THE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT ESSENTIAL NEWBORN CARE IN THE NURSING STAFF CATERING TO NEONATAL POPULATION IN TERTIARY CARE HOSPITAL.

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Abstract -

Nursing staff has a very important role in neonatology services at all levels. Being the primary contact personnel, newborn care knowledge could have direct impact on neonatal mortality. This study was under taken to assess knowledge about essential newborn care in the nursing staff catering to neonatal population. Around 40 nurses included, irrespective of age, qualification and experience. Using questionnaire with 15 simple, easy to understand, objective type of questions. In this most of nurses aware of breast feeding, hand washing, danger signs and KMC for prevention of hypothermia but lack in neonatal resuscitation. Continued medical education for nursing staff would be a very essential intervention for minimising neonatal mortality and morbidity.

Keywords : Essential Newborn Care, Nursing staff Catering, Interventions

Introduction :

Global estimates indicate that 4 million newborns die annually, with almost 99% of these deaths occurring in low and middle-income countries like India[1]The millennium development goal for child survival cannot be met without substantial reductions in neonatal mortality in these countries.[1] A recent review indicated that universal implementation of 16 interventions with proven efficacy during pregnancy, delivery, & postnatal period could avert an estimated 41% to 72% of neonatal deaths worldwide.[2]

Essential newborn care (ENC) is designed to improve health of newborns through a minimum set of interventions that should be made available for all births.[3,4] Essential newborn care is based on simple principles of prevention of infection, thermal protection, resuscitation of newborn with asphyxia, early and exclusive breastfeeding, care of low-birth weight babies, and identification and appropriate referral of sick neonates.[5,6] It is recognized that practice of cleanliness, that is, hand washing, clean delivery surface, and care of the umbilical cord, is associated with a reduction in perinatal morbidity and mortality.[7] Thus Nursing staff, being the primary contact personnel, essential newborn care knowledge, could have direct impact on neonatal mortality.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES -

- To assess knowledge about essential newborn care in the nursing staff catering to neonatal population.
- To reveal Lacunae in newborn care
- To improve essential nursing care of newborn
- To reduce neonatal mortality

MATERIALS AND METHODS -

The study was a cross sectional time bound study.

It was conducted in the Department of pediatrics , tertiary care Hospital, Ahmednagar.

The study Period was 1 months.

The research protocol was approved by the college ethical committee and informed consent was obtained from each subject prior to inclusion in the study.

40 nurses were included in the study.

The purpose of the study was explained to all the volunteers.

All nurses were assessed for knowledge about essential newborn care, Using questionnaire with 15 simple, easy to understand the objective type of questions.

The responses were noted by same observer, one mark was allotted for each correct answer. The data was analyzed for knowledge about breast feeding, care of sick neonates and neonatal resuscitation.

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS -

Statistical Analysis was done using SPSS version 10.

OBSERVATIONS AND RESULTS :

Early initiation of breast feeding and burping was known to all nurses.

Majority knew about breast feeding – 80%

About KMC – 64%

About prevention and sepsis and danger signs -60%

Majority didn't know about LBN, BFHI, and positive pressure ventilation.

CONCLUSION -

Nursing staff has a very important role in neonatology services at all levels. Being the primary contact personnel, newborn care knowledge could have direct impact on neonatal mortality.

In this most of nurses aware of breast feeding, hand washing, danger signs and KMC for prevention of hypothermia but lack in neonatal resuscitation.

Continued medical education for nursing staff would be a very essential intervention for improving neonatal mortality and morbidity.

Awareness about neonatal care is associated with a reduction in perinatal morbidity and mortality.

So, Training programs for health care providers are commonly viewed as the key strategy to promote health care practices.

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