

MATERNAL KNOWLEDGE AND AWARENESS ON NEW CHILD HEALTH DEVELOPMENT RECORD

Sathiadas M G¹, Gunalini² Q V, Nisanthiny K², Arooran K²

¹*Department of Paediatrics, Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka*

²*Teaching Hospital, Jaffna, Sri Lanka*

Introduction: The child health development record is a comprehensive health record for children until 18 years of age. Vital information needed by parents and caregivers to optimize the health status of their children are included in the CHDR. Hence assessing the maternal knowledge and awareness about CHDR is important to ensure parent involvement in health and welfare of their children.

Objectives: The aim of the study was to assess the maternal knowledge and awareness regarding various components of CHDR

Methodology : This is a descriptive cross sectional study carried out at the Teaching Hospital Jaffna for a 2 month period from March 2014. Mothers who could not read and write in Tamil were excluded. The collected data was analyzed by using SPSS version 16.

Results : Of the 300 mothers administered questionnaires 5 were excluded due to incomplete data. Of the 295 mothers, 3(1%) were less than 20 years. Nearly 30% had more than two children. 67.5% of them had completed GCE ordinary level and 5.1% had completed higher education.

While considering the overall knowledge of mothers, 27.5% were having satisfactory knowledge, 58.3% had average knowledge and 14.2% had poor knowledge. Knowledge on newborn care, alarming signs, special care, breast feeding and feeding practices were satisfactory in 261(88.5%), 113(38.5%), 136(46.1%), 173(58.6%), 168(56.9%) respectively. They were having average knowledge on growth (67.5%), immunization (68.8%), feeding (39%) and illness (54.2%). Awareness on development was poor (123; 41.7%) while comparing with the knowledge on other components. There was a significant association between maternal educational level ($p=0.005$) and knowledge about CHDR.

Conclusion : Knowledge of various components in CHDR was average. But most of them were aware of newborn care, breastfeeding and feeding practices.

Knowledge, mainly with regard to development was poor. Association between maternal educational level and knowledge about CHDR was statistically significant.