

Original Research Article

A Study to Assess the Knowledge Regarding Fetal Development among Antenatal Mothers in Selected Villages, Nellore, A.P.

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ABSTRACT

Background: Optimal fetal development requires the potential mother to be in a good state of physical and emotional health both prior to, and during pregnancy. To adequately support the development of fetus, a mother must possess adequate knowledge regarding the growing fetus, changes that occur within, from conception to safe delivery of precious treasure besides general state of health. For this, the mother should have knowledge regarding conception, growth and delivery of a child.

Aim: The aim of the study was to assess the knowledge regarding fetal development among antenatal mothers.

Objectives: 1.To assess the knowledge regarding fetal development among antenatal mothers. 2. To associate the level of knowledge regarding fetal development among antenatal mothers with selected socio demographic variables. 3. To provide an information booklet regarding fetal development.

Methods: A quantitative approach with descriptive design, 100 antenatal mothers was selected by using Non-probability convenience sampling technique.

Results: Study revealed that, Among 100 Antenatal mothers, 76(76%) had inadequate knowledge, and 24(24%) had moderately adequate knowledge regarding fetal development.

Conclusion: This study concluded that, majority of the antenatal mothers had inadequate knowledge regarding fetal development.

Key Words: Fetal Development, Antenatal Mothers.

INTRODUCTION

Fetal development is the longest and clinically the most important developmental phase of human life. Embryonic development is the series of changes an embryo undergoes as it grows toward a mature organism after the embryonic period the baby is then called a “fetus”. Many key changes take place to prepare the child for independent living outside of the womb. ^[1]

As the child grows in his mother’s womb, it is at a delicate and vulnerable stage of life. Many of the choices the

mother makes and her practices can affect the child for the rest of his life. Having a healthy pregnancy is one of the best ways to promote a healthy birth. Getting early and regular prenatal care improves the chances of a healthy pregnancy. ^[3] The highly significant part of the prenatal assessment is screening for high risk factors. Risk factors are any findings that have been shown to have a negative effect on pregnancy outcome, either for the woman or her unborn child. Maternal - Fetal Medicine (MFM) is one of the most rapidly evolving

fields in medicine especially in what concerns the fetus. [4]

As the child grows in his mother's womb, it is at a delicate and vulnerable stage of life. Many of the choices the mother makes and her practices can affect the child for the rest of his life. Having a healthy pregnancy is one of the best ways to promote a healthy birth. Getting early and regular prenatal care improves the chances of a healthy pregnancy. [5]

NEED FOR THE STUDY

The burden of death and disability due to impaired fetal development is particularly high in developing countries; it is also a significant concern in many developed countries. By taking steps to promote optimal fetal development, it should be possible to improve outcomes not just for early survival but also for later survival, morbidity and other measures of human capital, which in turn, will lead to improved social and economic health and well-being. Optimal fetal development requires the potential mother to be in a good state of physical and emotional health both prior to, and during pregnancy. There are several factors affecting growth of the intrauterine life contributing to the optimum. [3]

A cross-sectional study was conducted with an aim to assess the antenatal knowledge and describe the learning needs and preferred information seeking behaviour of expecting and/or new Saudi mothers. The study was conducted at multiple primary health care centres in Riyadh city, Saudi Arabia. A questionnaire was used to assess levels of antenatal knowledge, educational preferences, and information Results. The mean antenatal knowledge score was low (34.8/100). Educational material in written format was preferred by 39.8% of the sample, followed by a preference for one to one education (18.8%). The study concluded that Antenatal knowledge scores were low with no variation with age or educational level among this population. Reform in antenatal

educational content, channels, and formats should be adapted according to the preferences of the target population. [2]

PROBLEM STATEMENT

A study to assess the knowledge regarding fetal development among antenatal mothers in selected villages, Nellore.

OBJECTIVES

1. To assess the knowledge regarding fetal development among antenatal mothers.
2. To associate the level of knowledge regarding fetal development among antenatal mothers with selected socio demographic variables.
3. To provide an information booklet regarding fetal development.

ASSUMPTION:

Mothers may have some knowledge regarding fetal development.

DELIMITATIONS

The study is delimited to:

- Antenatal mothers residing in selected villages, Nellore.
- The sample size is 100 Antenatal mothers.
- The duration for data collection is 6 weeks.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Research Approach: Quantitative research approach

Design: Descriptive design.

Setting: This study was conducted among Antenatal mothers in Venkatachalam village at Nellore.

Population: *Target Population:* The Target Population Includes All The Antenatal Mothers.

Accessible Population: The antenatal mothers who were residing in selected villages, Nellore.

Sample size: The sample size of the study was 100 antenatal mothers residing in selected villages, Nellore.

Sampling Technique: Non-probability Convenience sampling technique.

Sampling criteria

Inclusion Criteria

- Primigravida and Multigravida Mothers

- Antenatal Mothers who were willing to participate in the Study.
- Antenatal Mothers Available at the Time of Data Collection.

Exclusion Criteria

- Antenatal Mothers who Don't Know to Read in Telugu or English.
- Antenatal Mothers with High Risk Conditions like Twin Pregnancy, PIH etc.

Description of the Tool

The tool consists of two sections

Section-I: Demographic data: Age, gravida, trimester, type of family, educational status, occupation, income and source of information.

Section-II: A structured questionnaire to assess the knowledge of Antenatal mothers regarding fetal development.

SCORE INTERPRETATION

Score	Level of Knowledge
1-12	Inadequate knowledge
13- 24	Moderate knowledge
25- 35	Adequate knowledge

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

Table-1: Frequency and percentage distribution of level of knowledge regarding fetal development among antenatal mothers. (N=100)

Level of knowledge	Frequency (F)	Percentage (%)
Inadequate knowledge	76	76
Moderate knowledge	24	24
Total	100	100

Table-1 shows that, among 100 Antenatal mothers, 76(76%) had inadequate knowledge, and 24(24%) have moderate knowledge regarding fetal development.

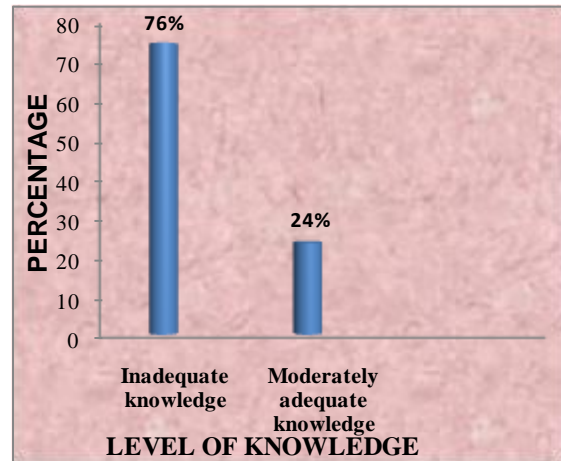


Fig-1: Percentage distribution of level of knowledge among antenatal mothers regarding fetal development.

Table-2: Mean and standard deviation of knowledge score of Antenatal mothers. (N=100)

Criteria	Mean	Standard deviation
Level of knowledge	34.75	2.945

Table-2: Shows that, the mean knowledge score of antenatal mothers is 34.75 and standard deviation is 2.945.

Table-3: Association between level of knowledge regarding fetal development among antenatal mothers with socio demographic variables. (N=100)

S.No	Socio demographic variables	Inadequate knowledge		Moderate knowledge		Chi square
		F	%	F	%	
1.	Family type					C= 5.172 T=4.30 df=2 P<0.05 S*
	a) Nuclear	66	66	15	15	
	b) Joint	5	5	5	5	
	c)Extended	5	5	4	4	
2.	Occupation					C=13.588 T=3.18 df=3 P<0.05 S*
	a) Home maker	59	59	12	12	
	b) Coolie	11	11	6	6	
	c) Private job	5	5	4	4	
	d) Govt. job	1	1	2	2	
3.	Income (in rupees)					C=5.275 T=3.18 df=3 P<0.05 S*
	a) < 5000	6	6	4	4	
	b) 5001- 7000	40	40	5	5	
	c) 7001- 9000	25	25	14	14	
	d) >9001	5	5	1	1	

Table-3 shows that there was a significant association found between level of knowledge of antenatal mothers with socio demographic variables like family type, occupation and monthly income.

MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

- The study reveals that, among 100 Antenatal mothers, 76(76%) had inadequate knowledge, and 24(24%)

have moderate knowledge regarding fetal development.

- The mean knowledge score of antenatal mothers is 34.75 and standard deviation is 2.945.
- There was a significant association found between level of knowledge of antenatal mothers with socio demographic variables like family type, occupation and monthly income.

CONCLUSION

The study findings revealed that majority 76(76%) of antenatal mothers have inadequate knowledge regarding fetal development. Also there was a significant association between family type, occupation, and income with levels of knowledge regarding fetal development among antenatal mothers at the level of $p < 0.05$.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- A similar study can be conducted for larger group of samples.
- An experimental design can be done to assess the effectiveness of information booklet on fetal development.

- A similar study can be done by using various methods of imparting knowledge and evaluating their effectiveness.
- A similar study can be done in different clinical settings.
- A similar study can be replicated on large sample size, in different settings with in different population as longitudinal study.

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