

HEALTH NOITALUPOPDNA - SEUSSIDNASEVITCEPSREP

[NITELLUBEAHINGNITAROPROCN (TSE. 1968)

HCRAESERNOITALUPOPFOLANRUOJEHTDNA (DTSE. 1974)]

VOLUME 37

NUMBER 3&4

July-December, 2014

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PERCEPTION OF HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS ON NEONATAL INTENSIVE CARE IN AN NICU OF A TERTIARY HOSPITAL IN DELHI

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ABSTRACT

Neonatal intensive care services are specialized services provided to the sick or premature newborns in a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). An exploratory cross-sectional survey was undertaken to know how the health care professionals perceived the services in an NICU of a tertiary-level hospital in Delhi. Perception of 50 health-care professionals of the NICU was measured in five domains such as human resources; human relations; available space; equipment supplies and their preventive maintenance; and asepsis and housekeeping. The ways to improve NICU services were also highlighted. The authors have the view that perception of health care professionals should be given due consideration to improve the neonatal care services in the unit.

Key words: Neonatal care, ICU, Health-care professionals, Hospital equipment.

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IDENTIFYING THE FACTORS INFLUENCING INSTITUTIONAL AND NON-INSTITUTIONAL DELIVERY PRACTICES IN SLUMS OF SHILLONG CITY

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ABSTRACT

An attempt has been made in this paper to determine the factors which resulted in preference for Institutional and Non-Institutional deliveries in slum areas of Shillong city. Cross-sectional study was conducted in slums of Shillong City. From a total of 17605 slum dwellers distributed in different proportions in sixteen wards in Shillong city, a representative sample of 1300 slum households was selected from thirty one localities, using an appropriate statistical formula. From these 1300 households, 1417 women were identified as married women eligible for the study. Information of 1417 married women was analyzed to interpret the place of delivery of slum women in relation to respondent's religion, education, occupation, family income, age at marriage etc. SAS/STAT software was used to analyze the data. The method is based on the well-known statistical technique of factor analysis by which we essentially find out the principal component of the group consisting of various indicators in descending order of their importance. Results from factor analysis show that the total number of ever born children, demand for male child, economic status and customs and religious practices influence both institutional and non-institutional deliveries.

Key words: PCA, Factor analysis, Polychoric correlation, Survey, Delivery practices.

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EFFECT OF ENSURED ANTE-NATAL CARE ON BIRTH OUTCOME: A COMMUNITY-BASED INTERVENTIONAL STUDY

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ABSTRACT

The study was undertaken to assess the appropriateness of the ante-natal services offered under NRHM by assessing whether the antenatal services, if ensured to a pregnant woman, affect birth outcome. All pregnant women presenting with amenorrhoea of 3-4 months, from August, 2011 to February, 2012, belonging to selected villages in Jasra block were followed till their delivery. The women in intervention group were ensured full ante-natal care and safe delivery while the women in non-intervention group were given only IEC (Information, Education and Communication) during regular follow up. Mean birth weight of babies born to women in intervention group was found to be higher (2.90 ± 0.40 kg) than that in non intervention group (2.51 ± 0.42 kg). This difference was statistically significant. It was concluded that the services offered under NRHM are appropriate as ensuring these improved the birth weight. Measures should be taken to facilitate supervision of utilization of these services.

Key words: Low birth weight (LBW), Ensured ante-natal care, Pregnant woman, Child-birth.

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EFFECT OF BREAKFAST SKIPPING ON NUTRITIONAL STATUS AND SCHOOL PERFORMANCE OF 10-16 YEARS OLD CHILDREN OF UDUPI DISTRICT

Meenakshi Garg*, Vidya Rajesh** and Pawan Kumar***

ABSTRACT

Insight into breakfast consumption of children and adolescents is of public health concern, for several reasons as it has been associated with positive outcomes for diet quality, micronutrient intake, BMI status and lifestyle factors. Studies suggest that eating a breakfast which contains sufficiently balanced nutrients has a beneficial impact on both student health – in terms of nutrient intake height-to-weight ratio and early physical development– and cognitive skills such as focused attention and memory recall. Skipping breakfast or consuming an inadequate breakfast contributes to dietary inadequacies that are seldom compensated for at other meals. Present study aims at studying the effect of breakfast skipping on the nutritional status and cognition of school going children. An exploratory cross sectional study was undertaken to assess and compare the nutritional status of school going children eating breakfast and those skipping it. The total sample size was 195 school going students aged 10-16 years old. Chi-square test and t-test were used for statistical analysis using SPSS software.

According to the results of the current study, the prevalence of breakfast skipping among school going children of age 10-16 years old is 23.50% in selected areas of Udupi district. More number of breakfast skippers were found to be overweight than breakfast non-skippers ($p = 0.992$). The intakes of cereals ($p < 0.01$), milk ($p < 0.001$), vegetables ($p < 0.05$), and fruits ($p < 0.05$) were significantly less in breakfast skippers. However intakes of fat ($p < 0.05$) and miscellaneous foods ($p < 0.05$) like junk food that are high in saturated fat were significantly high in breakfast skippers than breakfast non-skippers. A significant difference was also seen in a no. of parameters like memory ($p < 0.001$), concentration ($p < 0.001$), grades obtained ($p < 0.001$), attendance ($p < 0.001$) etc between breakfast skippers and breakfast non-skippers. The study indicates that skipping breakfast affects both the nutritional status as well as the school performance of the students. The study strongly favours breakfast plays an important role for adequate nutrition of school children and has a major impact on cognition.

Key words: Breakfast skipping, Cognition, BMI, Nutritional status, Food groups.

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PREDICTORS TO USE OF FAMILY PLANNING METHODS AMONG WOMEN OF ALLAHABAD DISTRICT, UTTAR PRADESH

Shama Shaikh* and Shraddha Dwivedi**

ABSTRACT

India was the first country in the world to formulate the National Family Planning Programme in the year 1952 and though fertility has shown some decline in India in recent years, contraceptive use remains low. About 31 per cent couples in Uttar Pradesh are using any family planning method. To examine the range of potential predictors to use of family planning services and also identify the barriers that may inhibit service utilization. A community based cross-sectional study was conducted in Dharariya, an urban slum and Jasra village, a rural field practice area under the Department of Community Medicine where a sample of 174 married women was interviewed. 60.5 per cent and 33.3 per cent of women in urban and rural areas reported current use of contraception suggesting a contraceptive prevalence rate of 51.1 per cent. About 48.9 per cent of women were not practicing and the main reason for non use was personal reasons (52.9%) in which desire for more children especially a son deterred them from adopting. Also psychological reasons accounted for 17.6% of the reported barriers where husbands or in laws were opposed to practice. Using logistic regression model for current use of family planning methods, the odds of using family planning methods was greater among urban women (OR= 2.69) and increased significantly after two or more children (OR= 15.33) and education of the husband influenced the use (OR= 1.65 and 2.76). It stresses the importance in the selection of target audience involving not only the eligible women but also their husbands. It is high time to decide upon priority areas with focus laid on identification of barriers which is an important step in gaining widespread acceptance of contraception.

Key words: Family planning, Women, Predictors, Logistic regression, Fertility

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FACTORS AFFECTING NEONATAL MORTALITY IN A HILLY AREA OF NORTHEAST INDIA: A REGISTRY BASED STUDY

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ABSTRACT

The objectives of this study were to explore the use of local civil registration data to analyze the factors associated with neonatal mortality (0-28 days) in Sikkim between January 2000 and December 2012. Three variables age, sex and types of residence of the mother were considered in the analysis. The study was a descriptive, retrospective study based on the secondary data published by Government of Sikkim. The neonatal mortality rate was 6.9 per 1000 live births and early (0-6 days) and late (7-28 days) neonatal mortality rates constitutes 5.02 and 1.82 deaths per 1000 live births respectively and significant differences in mortality were existed between them during the study period. The results highlighted that neonatal mortality were higher among male's neonates (7.64 per 1000 live births) as compared to female's neonates (6.04 per 1000 live births) which was statistically significant. The maximum number of neonatal (0-28 days) mortality occurred in rural (14.25 per 1000 live births) while in urban it was 1.71 per 1000 live births. Rural- urban differences in neonatal mortality rates were found to be significant in the study.

Keywords: Neonatal mortality, Rural-urban differentials, Early neonatal deaths, Late neonatal deaths,

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