**A STUDY TO ASSESS THE PERCEIVED HOME CARE NEEDS BY PARENTS OF
PREMATURE AND LOW BIRTH WEIGHT BABIES ADMITTED TO NICU OF A
SELECTED HOSPITAL, JAIPUR (RAJ) TO PREPARE AN INFORMATION
BOOKLET**

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ABSTRACT:

Introduction: Low birth weight has been defined by the World Health Organization (WHO) as weight at birth of baby less than 2,500g (5.5pound). The low birth weight babies are classified into 3 categories, those are, low birth weight babies, very low birth weight babies, extremely low birth weight and small for dates babies. The morbidity and mortality rates in newborns are high in India, almost 7 out of 100 babies do not see their first birthday and nearly 65 %of these infant deaths occur in the neonatal period, namely, the first four weeks of life.

Methodology: The research design selected for this study was descriptive design. Setting selected for the study was NICU of Mahatma Gandhi hospital, Jaipur. Using convenient sampling technique 60 samples were selected and perceived home care needs by parents of premature and low birth weight babies were assessed by self-administer questionnaire tool.

Result: Overall, the samples had good knowledge of low birth babies. However, information booklet their knowledge significantly increased.

Conclusion: The present study was undertaken to assess the perceived home care needs by parents of premature and low birth weight babies with a view to develop an information booklet.

Keywords: Perceived home care needs , parents, premature and low birth weight babies.

INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND:

The morbidity and mortality rates in newborns are high in India, almost 7 out of 100 babies do not see their first birthday and nearly 65 %of these infant deaths occur in the neonatal period, namely, the first four weeks of life. The current neonatal mortality rate in India is 44 per 1000 live births (2016).Birth weight below 2,500g contributes to a range of poor health outcomes.

The preterm babies are those born before 37 weeks of gestation. A preterm baby is small in size (usually less than 47 cm long),the head is relatively large, sutures are widely separated and fontanelles are larger, the face appears small and the buccal pad of fat is minimal, the thin pinkish skin appears shiny due to generalized edema, and there is less subcutaneous fat. About 10-12% of Indian babies are born preterm as compared to 5-7% incidence in the west. The preterm newborns are anatomically and functionally immature and therefore, their neonatal mortality is high.

The preterm and low birth weight babies are kept in NICU for their sickness or other health problems. The prolonged stay of premature and low birth weight babies in the NICU is associated with

emotional trauma, uncertainty, anxiety, and lack of bonding with the baby on the part of parents.

Objectives of the study

1. To assess perceived home care needs by parents of premature and low birth weight babies admitted to NICU.
2. To find the association between the perceived home care needs by parents of premature and low birth weight babies with selected demographic variables.
3. To prepare an information booklet regarding perceived home care needs by parents of premature and low birth weight babies admitted to NICU.

Hypothesis:

H 1 : There is a significance association between perceived home care needs by parents of premature and low birth babies and demographic variables.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

Methodology is a way to systematically solve the problem. This includes strategies and logistics to be applied, in collecting and analyzing the data to accomplish research objectives. The content of this chapter includes description of research approach, research design, setting, sampling technique,

description of instrument of the present study.

Research Approach:

The research approach is the basic procedure for the conduct of research enquiries. In view of the nature of the objective to be accomplished, a descriptive survey was considered in this study.

Research Design:

Research design refers to the researcher's overall plan for obtaining answers to the research questions and it spells out the strategies that the researcher adopt to develop information that is accurate, objective and interpretable. The present study assesses the perceived home care needs by parents of premature and low birth weight babies to prepare an informational booklet. Research design selected for this study was a Descriptive Design.

Research Setting

The study was conducted in NICU of Mahatma Gandhi Hospital, Jaipur (Raj.).

Population:

The target population for the study included babies who have been diagnosed as having premature and low birth weight, and the accessible population is the babies those who have diagnosed as having premature and low birth weight and

transferred to NICU of Mahatma Gandhi Hospital, Jaipur (Raj.).

Sample and Sample size:

Sample of this study consist of parents of premature and low birth weight babies admitted in NICU of Mahatma Gandhi Hospital, Jaipur (Raj.).

Sample size: The sample size in a study consist of 60 parents (n=60).

Sampling criteria:

Inclusion: Parents of the premature and low birth weight babies .Parents of premature and low birth weight babies are willing to participate in the study.

Exclusion: Parents of critically ill babies.

Sampling Technique: Convenient sampling was used for the study.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA:

Table 1. Frequency and percentage of demographical variables of parents N=60

Demographic variables	Frequency	Percentage (%)
History of Having Premature and LowBirth Weight Babies.		
Yes	13	21.66
No	47	78.34
Type of family		
Joint	39	65.00
Nuclear	21	35.00

Above table depicts that majority of parents have a history of having of a premature and low birth weight babies. Majority of the parents belonged to a joint family.

Table 2 . Frequency and percentage of demographical variables of babies N=60

Demographic variables	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Gender		
Male	24	40.00
Female	36	60.00
Diagnosis		
Premature	42	70.00
Low birth weight	18	30.00
Associated complication/abnormalities		
Yes	15	25
No	45	75

Above table depicts that more than half (60%) of the samples were female, 70% were premature and 75% did not have any associated complication / abnormalities.

Table 3. Description of overall perceived home care needs by parents of premature and low birthweight babies. N=60

Max. score	Range	Mean	S.D	Mean %
148	86-142	112.3	12.11	80

From the table it is evident that the overall perceived home care needs by

parents of premature and low birth weight babies was 80%.

CONCLUSION

The review of literature was done under three headings regarding perceived home care needs, studies regarding premature and low birth weight admitted in NICU and information the effectiveness of booklet.

A descriptive design was used and the sample comprised of 60 parents of premature and low birth weight babies those who were admitted in NICU of Mahatma Gandhi hospital, Jaipur and a convenient sampling technique was used.

Data were collected using a self administered questionnaire to assess perceived home care needs of parents of premature and low birth weight babies. Three experts established the content validity. Reliability of the tool was assessed by split half technique. The pilot study was conducted between 15/07/16 to 17/07/16 to assess the feasibility of conducting the final study and to determine the method of statistical analysis. The final data were collected from 21/07/16 to 21/08/16. The data were analyzed and interpreted in terms of objectives using descriptive and inferential statistics.

The samples identified breast feeding and maintaining baby body temperature and Kangaroo mother care as important needs followed by positioning of baby during sleeping/resting and common illnesses of baby and care (premature and low birth weight) as least important needs. This study has helped to bring out the perceived home care needs by parents of premature and low birth weight babies. The investigator hopes that this information booklet prepared by the investigator would be a guide in meeting the home care needs by parents of premature and low birth weight babies.

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