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## Knowledge and Practice Regarding Prevention of Puerperal Sepsis among Postnatal Mothers in Selected Areas of Kamrup (M), Assam

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Abstract: Background: Postpartum period or puerperium is the period following childbirth during which the body tissues especially the pelvic organs revert back approximately to the prepregnant state both anatomically and physiologically. Each mother has to adjust the physical changes in her own body due to involution and lactation as well as puerperal complication which may occur.

Title of the study: A study to assess the knowledge and practice regarding prevention of puerperal sepsis among postnatal mothers in selected areas of Kamrup (M), Assam.

Methodology: A quantitative survey approach was adopted to assess the knowledge and practice regarding prevention of puerperal sepsis among postnatal mothers in selected areas of Kamrup (M), Assam. 81 postnatal mothers were selected using multistage simple random sampling technique from selected areas (Lalganesh, Bank Colony, Adagudam, Sankar Nagar, Kailashpur, Sreebhumi Nagar, Hillview Road, Odalbakra, Gobinda Nagar under Odalbakra MPHC of Dhirenpara zone) Kamrup(M), Assam. A structured interview questionnaire and checklist were used to assess the knowledge and practice of the postnatal mothers regarding prevention of puerperal sepsis.

Result: The result reveals that majority 63(77.8%) of the postnatal mothers has moderately adequate knowledge, 11(13.6%) has adequate knowledge and 7(8.6%) has inadequate knowledge regarding prevention of puerperal sepsis among postnatal mothers. Knowledge mean is 12.02 and SD is 3.384. Majority 62(76.5%) of the postnatal mothers has average practice, 10(12.3%) has good practice and 9(11.2%) has poor practice regarding prevention of puerperal sepsis among postnatal mothers. Practice mean is 8.01 and SD is 2.261. There was a moderately positive correlation between knowledge and practice regarding prevention of puerperal sepsis among postnatal mothers. There was significant association between the knowledge level and demographic variables i.e., parity and previous source of information. And also significant association between the practice level and demographic variables i.e., parity and type of present delivery.

Conclusion: Majority of the mothers had moderately adequate knowledge and average practice regarding prevention of puerperal sepsis. There was a moderately positive correlation between knowledge and practice regarding prevention of puerperal sepsis among postnatal mothers. Significant association was found between the knowledge and demographic variables i.e., parity and previous source of information. Significant association was also found between the practice and demographic variables i.e., parity and type of present delivery.

Keywords: Assess, Knowledge, Practice, Prevention, Puerperal sepsis, Postnatal mothers.

#### I. INTRODUCTION

Puerperium is the period following childbirth during which the body tissues especially the pelvic organs revert back approximately to the prepregnant state both anatomically and physiologically which lasts for approximately six weeks. Puerperal infection is a dreadful disease and puts economic burden on family as well as on society. According to 2019 GBD (Global Burden of Disease) data estimated almost 21 million incident cases and 17 thousand deaths from maternal sepsis and other maternal infections worldwide. India has the highest number of maternal deaths (50,000 maternal deaths in 2013), and within India, the north-eastern state of Assam has a high maternal mortality ratio (MMR= 301/10,000) live births in 2012-2013, higher than the national average (MMR=178/10,000) live births in 2010-2012. Considering the present statistical scenario made the student researcher felt the need to assess the knowledge and practice of postnatal mother regarding prevention of puerperal sepsis.



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#### A. The Statement of Problem

A study to Assess the Knowledge and Practice regarding Prevention of Puerperal Sepsis among Postnatal Mothers in Selected Areas of Kamrup (M), Assam.

#### B. Specific Objectives

- 1) To assess the level of knowledge regarding prevention of puerperal sepsis among postnatal mothers in selected areas of Kamrup (M), Assam.
- 2) To assess the level of practice regarding prevention of puerperal sepsis among postnatal mothers in selected areas of Kamrup (M), Assam.
- 3) To find out the correlation between knowledge and practice regarding prevention of puerperal sepsis among postnatal mothers in selected areas of Kamrup (M), Assam.
- 4) To find out the association between knowledge regarding prevention of puerperal sepsis among postnatal mothers with selected demographic variables in selected areas of Kamrup (M), Assam.
- 5) To find out the association between practice regarding prevention of puerperal sepsis among postnatal mothers with selected demographic variables in selected areas of Kamrup (M), Assam.

#### C. Hypotheses

- H<sub>1</sub>: There is significant correlation between knowledge and practice regarding prevention of puerperal sepsis among postnatal mothers at 0.05 level of significance.
- H<sub>2</sub>: There is significant association between knowledge regarding prevention of puerperal sepsis among postnatal mothers with selected demographic variables at 0.05 level of significance.
- H<sub>3</sub>: There is significant association between practice regarding prevention of puerperal sepsis among postnatal mothers with selected demographic variables at 0.05 level of significance.

#### II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A quantitative survey approach was used for the study. Descriptive correlational research design was adopted for the study. In this study, multistage simple random sampling technique was adopted to select 81 samples for the study. The tools used for the study were demographic variables, structured interview questionnaire and checklist. The analysis was done by using descriptive and inferential statistics in terms of frequency and percentage distribution, mean, mean percentage and standard deviation, Karl Pearson correlation coefficient and Chi-square.

#### III. **RESULTS**

#### A. Findings Related to demographic data

Table 1: Frequency and percentage distribution of the postnatal mothers according to their demographic variables n = 81

Demographic variables	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Demographic variables	rrequency (1)	Telechtage (%)
1) Age (in years)		
• 21-25	20	24.7
• 26-30	29	35.8
• 31-35	25	30.9
• Above 35	7	8.6
2) Religion		
<ul> <li>Hindu</li> </ul>	45	55.6
<ul> <li>Islam</li> </ul>	30	37
<ul> <li>Christian</li> </ul>	6	7.4
• Others	-	-



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3)	Educational qualifications		
	Illiterate	10	12.3
	<ul> <li>Primary school certificate</li> </ul>	25	30.9
	<ul> <li>Middle school certificate</li> </ul>	15	18.5
	<ul> <li>High school certificate</li> </ul>	20	24.7
	Intermediate or diploma	6	7.4
	Graduate	5	6.2
	<ul> <li>Profession or honors</li> </ul>	-	-
4)	Occupational status		
	<ul> <li>Professional</li> </ul>	-	-
	<ul> <li>Semi-profession</li> </ul>	6	7.4
	<ul> <li>Clerical/shop/farm</li> </ul>	11	13.6
	<ul> <li>Skilled worker</li> </ul>	-	-
	<ul> <li>Semi skilled worker</li> </ul>	4	4.9
	<ul> <li>Unskilled worker</li> </ul>	25	30.9
	<ul> <li>Unemployed</li> </ul>	35	43.2
5)	Parity		
	• 1	25	30.9
	• 2	30	37
	• 3	18	22.2
	<ul> <li>4 and above</li> </ul>	8	9.9
6)	Type of present delivery		
	<ul> <li>Normal vaginal delivery</li> </ul>	30	37
	<ul> <li>Cesarean delivery</li> </ul>	51	63
7)	Family type		
	<ul> <li>Joint family</li> </ul>	29	35.8
	<ul> <li>Nuclear family</li> </ul>	47	58
	<ul> <li>Extended family</li> </ul>	5	6.2
8)	Monthly family income		
	• ≤ 9226	10	12.3
	<ul><li>9232 – 27648</li></ul>	33	40.7
	<ul> <li>27654 – 46089</li> </ul>	31	38.3
	<ul> <li>46095 – 68961</li> </ul>	7	8.6
	<ul> <li>68967 – 92185</li> </ul>	0	0
	• 92192 – 184370	0	0
	• ≥18,4376	0	0
9)	Previous source of information		
	<ul> <li>Health personnel</li> </ul>	41	50.6
	<ul> <li>Social media</li> </ul>	17	21
	<ul> <li>Relatives and friends</li> </ul>	15	18.5
	<ul> <li>All of the above</li> </ul>	8	9.9

The data table 1 shows the frequency and percentage distribution of selected demographic variables of the postnatal mothers. Majority of the postnatal mothers i.e., 29(35.8%) were from the age group of 26-30 years, Majority were Hindus i.e., 45(55.6%), Majority i.e., 25 (30.9%) postnatal mothers were primary school certificate, Majority were Unemployed i.e., 35(43.2%), Majority of postnatal mothers were parity 2 i.e., 30(37%), Majority i.e., 51 (63%) of the postnatal mothers had caesarean section, Majority of the postnatal mothers were from nuclear family i.e., 47(58%), Majority i.e., 33(40.7%) belonged to monthly family income group of 9232 – 27648 and majority i.e., 41(50.6%) of the postnatal mothers had received the previous source of information from health personnel.



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B. Finding related to level of knowledge regarding prevention of puerperal sepsis among postnatal mothers The knowledge of postnatal mothers regarding prevention of puerperal sepsis were assessed through Structured interview questionnaire. The overall knowledge was categorized into inadequate knowledge, moderately adequate knowledge and adequate knowledge. The frequency and percentage distribution is presented on fig 1.

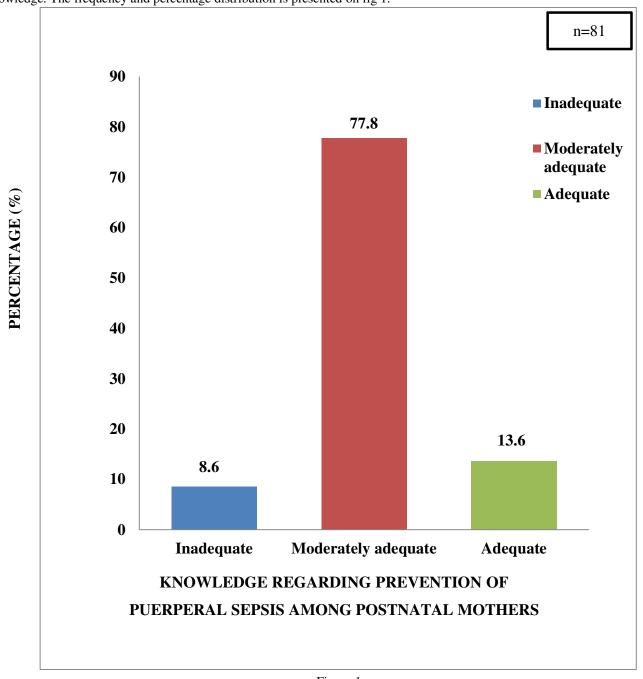
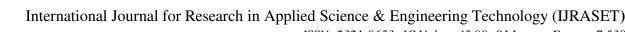


Figure 1 Bar Diagram Showing Distribution Of Level Of Knowledge Regarding Prevention Of Puerperal Sepsis Among Postnatal Mothers

The data presented on the figure 1 depicts that majority i.e., 63(77.8%) of the postnatal mothers had moderately adequate knowledge, 11(13.6%) had adequate knowledge and 7(8.6%) of postnatal mothers had inadequate with median score of 12, mean knowledge score of 12.02 and SD of 3.384.





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C. Findings Related to Level of Practice Regarding Prevention of Puerperal Sepsis Among Postnatal Mothers

The practice of postnatal mothers regarding prevention of puerperal sepsis were assessed through checklist. The overall practice was categorized into poor practice, average practice and good practice. The frequency and percentage distribution is presented on fig 2.

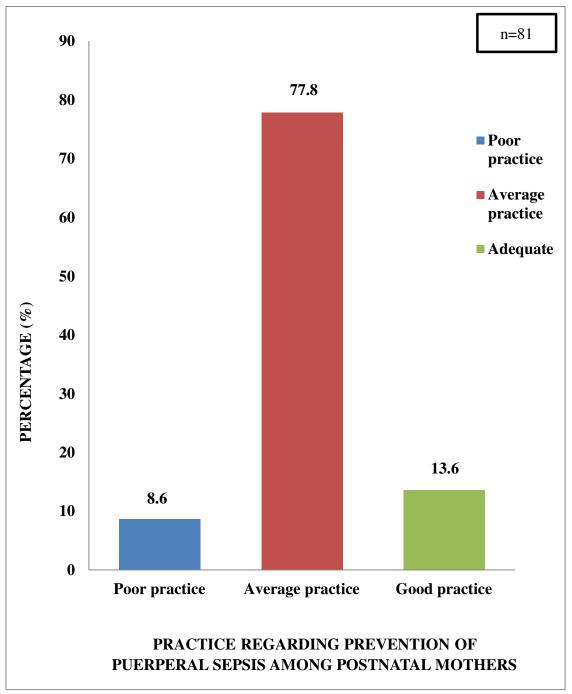


FIGURE 2

Bar Diagram Showing Distribution Of Level Of Practice Regarding Prevention Of Puerperal Sepsis Among Postnatal Mother

The data presented on the figure 2 depicts that majority i.e., 62(76.5%) of the postnatal mothers had average practice, 10(12.3%) had good practice and 9(11.2%) had poor practice with median score of 8, mean knowledge score of 8.01 and SD of 2.261.



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D. Table 2: Findings related to correlation between knowledge and practice regarding prevention of puerperal sepsis among postnatal mothers

It presents the correlation between knowledge and practice regarding prevention of puerperal sepsis among postnatal mothers.

The null hypothesis  $H_{01}$  was formulated against the stated research hypothesis  $H_1H_{01}$ : There is no correlation between knowledge and practice regarding prevention of puerperal sepsis among postnatal mothers at 0.05 level of significance. karl pearson correlation co-efficient was computed to determined the correlation between knowledge and practice regarding prevention of puerperal sepsis among postnatal mothers.

n = 81\*p<0.05 level of significance

VARIABLES	MEAN	SD	ʻr' VALUE	'p'VALUE
Knowledge	12.02	3.384	0.390	0.001*
Practice	8.01	2.261		

Data presented on the table 2 depicts the values of 'r' 0.390 and 'p' 0.001 which indicate moderately positive correlation between knowledge and practice regarding prevention of puerperal sepsis among postnatal mothers and was found to be statistically significant at p < 0.05 level of significance.

The investigator found that there was a correlation between knowledge and practice regarding prevention of puerperal sepsis among postnatal mothers at 0.05 level of significance. Hence, the null hypothesis  $H_0$  is rejected and the research hypothesis  $H_1$  is accepted.

E. Table 3: Association between knowledge regarding prevention of puerperal sepsis among postnatal mothers with selected demographic variables

The null hypothesis H<sub>02</sub> was formulated against the stated research hypothesis H<sub>2</sub>.

H<sub>02</sub>: There is no significant association between knowledge regarding prevention of puerperal sepsis among postnatal mothers with selected demographic variables at 0.05 level of significance.

Chi square was computed to determined the significant association between knowledge regarding prevention of puerperal sepsis among postnatal mothers with their selected demographic variables

n=81

Sl	Demographic Variables	Knowledge			$\chi^2$	df	ʻp'	Tabulated	Inferences
No		Inadequate	Moderately	Adequate			value	value	
			adequate						
1.	Age (in years)								
	21-25	3	14	3	5.207	6	0.518	12.59	NS
	26-30	2	21	6					
	31-35	1	22	2					
	Above 35	1	6	1					
2.	Religion								
	Hindu	3	35	7	1.283	4	0.864	9.49	NS
	Islam	3	24	3					
	Christian	1	4	1					
	Others	-	-	-					



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			1	1	1	1			
3.	Educational								
	qualifications								
	•								
	Illiterate	1	8	1	14.26	10	0.161	18.31	NS
	Primary school	1	21	3	14.20	10	0.101	10.51	110
		1	21	3					
	certificate								
	Middle school	2	12	1					
	certificate								
	High school	-	14	6					
	certificate								
	Certificate								
	Toda was a Pada	2	4						
	Intermediate or	2	4	-					
	diploma								
	Graduate Profession	1	4	-					
	or honors	-	-	-					
4.	Occupational status								
	S T T T T T T T T T T T T T T T T T T T								
	Professional								
					10.440	0	0.206	15.51	210
	Semi-profession	-	-	-	19.448	8	0.306	15.51	NS
	Clerical/shop/	1	5	-					
	farm	2	8	1					
	Skilled worker								
	Semi skilled worker	-	_	_					
	Unskilled worker	_	2	2					
	Unemployed			2					
	Ollempioyed	1	10	_					
		1	19	5					
		3	29	3					
5.	Parity								
	1	2	21	2	24.08	6	0.001	12.59	S
	2	1	26	3					
	3	-	13	5					
	4 and above	4	3	1					
	4 and above	4	)	1					
6.	Type of present								
".	delivery								
	uchvery								
	3.7	~	2.1	,	2.022		0.144	<b>7</b> .00	NG
	Normal vaginal	5	21	4	3.923	2	0.141	5.99	NS
	delivery								
	Cesarean delivery	2	42	7					
	i		1	1	1	i .	i .		



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7.	Family type								
	Joint family Nuclear family Extended family	2 3 2	23 37 3	4 7 -	7.026	4	0.135	9.49	NS
8.	Monthly family income (in rupees)								
	≤ 9226 9232 - 27648 27654 - 46089 46095 - 68961 68967 - 92185 92192- 184370 ≥18,4376	1 2 4 - - -	8 25 24 6 - -	1 6 3 1 -	2.572	6	0.860	12.59	NS
9.	Previous source of information  Health personnel Social media Relatives and friends All of the above	1 1 2	32 15 11	8 1 2	13.47	6	0.036	12.59	S
		3	5	1					

\*p<0.05 level of significance

S-Significant

NS-Non significant

Overall statistical findings of data presented on the table 3 shows that there is significant association between knowledge regarding prevention of puerperal sepsis among postnatal mothers with demographic variables such as parity ( $^{\chi^2}$  24.08 and  $^{\prime}p^{\prime}$  0.001) and previous source of information ( $^{\chi^2}$  13.47 and  $^{\prime}p^{\prime}$  0.036) and there is no association between knowledge regarding prevention of puerperal sepsis among postnatal mothers with demographic variables such as age, religion, educational qualification, occupational status, type of present delivery, family type and monthly family income. Hence, the null hypothesis  $H_{02}$  is rejected and the research hypothesis  $H_2$  is accepted in demographic variables such as parity and previous source of information. The null hypothesis,  $H_{02}$  is retained for the demographic variables such as age, religion, educational qualification, occupational status, type of present delivery, family type and monthly family income.

F. Table 4: Association between Practice regarding prevention of puerperal sepsis among postnatal mothers with selected demographic variables

The null hypothesis H<sub>03</sub> was formulated against the stated research hypothesis H<sub>3</sub>.

 $H_{03}$ : There is no significant association between practice regarding prevention of puerperal sepsis among postnatal mothers with selected demographic variables at 0.05 level of significance.

Chi square was computed to determined the significant association between practice regarding prevention of puerperal sepsis among postnatal mothers with selected demographic variables.

n=81



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Sl No	Demographic Variables	F	Practice		$\chi^2$	df	ʻp' value	Tabulated value	Inferences
		Poor	Average	Good					
1.	Age (in years)								
	21-25 26-30 31-35 Above 35	4 3 2	13 22 20 7	3 4 3 -	4.355	6	0.629	12.59	NS
2.	Religion								
	Hindu Islam Christian Others	4 4 1 -	36 22 4	5 4 1 -	0.857	4	0.931	9.49	NS
3.	Educational qualifications								
	Illiterate Primary school certificate	2 1	8 22	2	10.35	10	0.410	18.31	NS
	Middle school certificate	1	10	4					
	High school certificate	3	13	4					
	Intermediate or diploma	1	5	-					
	Graduate Profession or honors	1 -	4 -	-					



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	-40) K00X								
4.	Occupational status								
	Due Control								
	Professional				6.716		0.500	1.5.51	). TG
	Semi-profession	-	-	-	6.716	8	0.568	15.51	NS
	Clerical/shop/	2	4	-					
	farm	1	9	1					
	Skilled worker								
	Semi skilled worker	-	-	-					
	Unskilled worker	1	2	1					
	Unemployed								
		1	20	4					
		4	27	4					
5.	Parity								
	1	2	22	1	13.97	6	0.029	11.07	S
	2	4	22	4					
	3	-	13	5					
	4 and above	3	5	1					
6.	Type of present								
	delivery								
	Normal vaginal	6	23	1	6.523	2	0.038	5.99	S
	delivery								
	Cesarean delivery	3	39	9					
7.	Family type								
		_	1.0	_	4.20			0.40	3.70
	Joint family	5	19	5	4.296	4	0.367	9.49	NS
	Nuclear family	3	39	5					
	Extended family	1	4	-					
8.	Monthly family								
	income (in rupees)								
		_	_			_			
	≤ 9226	1	8	1	3.317	6	0.768	12.59	NS
	9233 – 27648	6	23	4					
	27654 – 46089	2	25	4					
	46095 – 68961	-	6	1					
	68967 – 92185	-	-	-					
	92192- 184370	-	-	-					
	≥18,4376	-	-	-					
9.	Previous source of								
	information								
	Hoolth normann -1	4	20	_					
	Health personnel	6	30	5	2.022		0.020	10.50	NIC
	Social media	1	15	1	2.832	6	0.830	12.59	NS
	Relatives and friends	1	11	3					
	All of the above	1	6	1					
		1	6	1					

\*p<0.05 level of significance

S-Significant

NS-Non significant



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Overall statistical findings of data presented on the table 7 shows that there is significant association between practice regarding prevention of puerperal sepsis among postnatal mothers with demographic variables such as parity ( $^{\chi^2}$  13.97 and  $^{\prime}p^{\prime}$  0.029) and type of present delivery ( $^{\chi^2}$  6.523 and  $^{\prime}p^{\prime}$  0.038) and there is no significant association between practice regarding prevention of puerperal sepsis among postnatal mothers with demographic variables such as age, religion, educational qualification, occupational status, family type and monthly family income, previous source of information. Hence, the null hypothesis  $H_{03}$  is rejected and the research hypothesis  $H_3$  is accepted in demographic variables such as parity and type of present delivery. The null hypothesis  $H_{03}$  is retained for the demographic variables such as age, religion, educational qualification, occupational status, family type and monthly family income, previous source of information.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

The findings revealed that most of the postnatal mothers had moderately adequate knowledge and average practice regarding prevention of puerperal sepsis. There was a moderately positive correlation between knowledge and practice regarding prevention of puerperal sepsis among postnatal mothers. There was significant association between the knowledge regarding prevention of puerperal sepsis among postnatal mother and demographic variables i.e., parity and previous source of information. And also there was significant association between the practice regarding prevention of puerperal sepsis among postnatal mother and demographic variables i.e., parity and type of present delivery.

#### V. RECOMMENDATION

- 1) The study can be replicated on a larger sample to have more valid generalization.
- 2) A study can be conducted to assess the effectiveness of structured teaching program on knowledge and practices regarding prevention of puerperal sepsis among postnatal mothers.
- 3) A study can be conducted on assessment of level of knowledge and practice regarding home management of common illnesses during puerperium period among postnatal mothers.

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