

## **Pre/ Postnatal Nursing Care In Maternal And Child Health Centers At Benha City**

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### **Abstract:**

Pre / postnatal times are critical periods in woman's life so providing nursing care is an essential to maintain mother and child health. The aim of this study was to explore pre/ postnatal nursing role among nurses in MCH centers. This study was an exploratory-descriptive design that conducted in maternal and child health centers at Benha city, between the period of January 2005 up to June 2005. The sample composed of 120 nurses selected from MCH centers at Benha city, the study tools were constructed interviewing questionnaire for assessing the sociodemographic characteristics of nurses and knowledge related to pre/ postnatal care and also an observational check list for data collection nurses' data about nursing practice during pre/ postnatal care. The study results showed that the mean age of the nurses was  $28.38 \pm 5.38$ , the majority of nurses had incomplete knowledge about pre/ postnatal care and pre/ postnatal nursing skills. Were partially performed There were highly significant differences between nurses' pre/ postnatal knowledge and skills with their educational level, occupation and setting of MCH center, also there was a highly significant difference was detected between the total nurses' pre / postnatal knowledge and the total pre/ postnatal skills. This study concluded that nurses have incomplete pre/ postnatal knowledge and nurses did not perform the majority of procedures needed during pre/ postnatal care. The study recommended that nurses should have regular, ongoing, specialized in-services training programs about per/ postnatal nursing care, also nursing care procedures standards should be applied in MCH centers to improve the care provided.

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Key wards: prenatal, postnatal, nursing care.

***Introduction:***

The reality is that the future health of the nation life with in each woman who is pregnant so there is a need for commitment to excellence services for women as a special aggregate group within the community and the nurse has an important role in providing and evaluating these services (*allender and spradley, 2001*).

Pregnancy is a dynamic state, the body and its receptive systems under goes dramatic changes to meet the demands of the developing fetus. Early and adequate prenatal care is essential as it associated with improved pregnancy outcomes and identifications of potential problems that may take place to mother and fetus (*Simpson, 2002*).

Nursing responsibility for prenatal care include physiologic and psychological assessment, health education and counseling for pregnant woman, identification of needs with appropriate community and specialty referrals and provision of health promotion such as adequate nutrition, proper exercise and planned care (*Reeder, 1997*).

Advanced technology and increases understanding of importance of prenatal care, such as reproduction, conception, fetal growth and maternal adaptation to pregnancy have improved prenatal care over the last years. Although there are many women still don't receive adequate prenatal care (*Didona and Marks, 1996*).

In the postnatal period a woman is at risk of morbidity, Postnatal care is a vital part of the child rearing process but unfortunately it has been given a low priority in many maternity unit. Its important however to examine nurses practice, criticize the care given and make systematic efforts to improve care (*Alexander, 1997*).

**Significance of the study:**

pre/ postnatal periods are critical periods in women live in which there are different chances, problems and complications can occur and risk of increasing morbidity and mortality rates for mother and baby.

In Egypt, The National Maternal Mortality Rate was (NMMR).Reported as 59.8 maternal deaths per 100.000 live births, while in kaluobeya governorate, was reported as 51.1 maternal deaths per 100.000 live births (Ministry of Health and Population, 2004). So attention should be given to maintain care during pre/ postnatal periods and there is a clear need for evaluating, monitoring and continuing education of nurses in order to improve nurse's knowledge and skills. That reflects on clinical care and management of different health problems.

***Aim of The Study:***

The study aim is to explore pre / postnatal nursing role among nurses work in maternal and child health centers at Benha city.

***Subject and method :******Settings:***

This study was conducted in all MCH centers at Benha city catchments area, where there are 26 MCH centers (Benha medical center, damalo, Manshet Benha, Elraml, Meet Elattar, Tahla, kafer Atalla, Meet Elhofeen, Gamgara Elkadema, Bata, sheblanga, Meet Elsebaa, Batamda, Gezeret Bely, Sandanhor, Bekera, Warwara, Elshemot, Meet Asem, Meet Rady, Mogol, Kafr Elshemot, Gamgara Elgededa, dafer el Hamm, Nokbas, Degwa health center), each health center serving around 15.000 population of its catchments area,

