



## RESEARCH ARTICLE

### STUDY ON KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE AND PRACTICES REGARDING PARTOGRAPH AMONG STAFF NURSES

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#### ABSTRACT

Prolonged labour is a leading cause of death among mothers and newborns in developing countries. Early detection of abnormal progress and prevention of prolonged labour can significantly improve the outcome of labour. The partograph is a simple chart for recording information about progress of labour. A descriptive study was carried out to assess the knowledge, attitude and practices regarding partograph among 60 staff nurses selected by convenience sampling technique, working in Labour ward of selected hospitals of district Ludhiana, Punjab. A structured questionnaire for knowledge, Likert scale for attitude and checklist for practices regarding partograph. More than half of staff nurses (55%) had good knowledge, majority (90%) had positive attitude whereas only 18.3% had practiced partograph. The association of knowledge with attitude ( $p \leq 0.01$ ) and practices ( $p < 0.05$ ) regarding partograph among staff nurses was found to be highly significant with a weak positive relationship between knowledge and attitude ( $r = 0.455$ ;  $p = 0.000$ ) whereas a strong positive relationship between knowledge and practices ( $r = 0.701$ ;  $p = 0.016$ ). A statistically significant association of knowledge and attitude with education was found and the association of attitude with experience in labour ward and number of deliveries conducted was also found to be significant.

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## INTRODUCTION

Labour has been considered to be the most painful journey a woman ever undertakes. Although it is a natural process but complications can arise at any time during its course. The need to improve maternal health is currently a major issue on the international scene. Approximately 800 women die from pregnancy or childbirth related complications, around the world everyday. One of the tools used in the intranatal period is the partograph, a preprinted one-page form on which labour observations are recorded. It consists of three components, that is monitoring and managing of (a) Fetal condition (b) Maternal condition (c) Progress of labour. It has been observed that maternal mobility rate increases because of insufficient facilities in the health care settings, inadequate knowledge and attitude of health care personnel regarding partograph as shown in one of the studies depicting that majority of nurses (91.3%) had unsatisfactory score of knowledge however the attitude regarding partograph was positive.

## Objective

To assess the knowledge, attitude and practices regarding partograph among staff nurses.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

A descriptive research design was used with convenience sampling technique. The sample for the study consisted of 60 staff nurses working in Labour ward of Dayanand Medical College & Hospital, Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital, Pal Hospital, Deep Hospital, Civil Hospital, Pahwa Hospital, Shah Hospital of district Ludhiana, Punjab. Data was collected in the month of January 2015 using a structured questionnaire for knowledge, Likert scale for attitude and checklist for practices regarding partograph. The research tool was validated by consulting experts from field of Community Health Nursing, Obstetric & Gynaecological Nursing and Medical Surgical Nursing. The latest estimate of MMR brought by the Office of RGI puts the MMR at 178 per 100,000 live births in 2012 in India. This is a substantial improvement from an estimated MMR level of 437 per 100 000 live births in 1990-91. But India is unlikely to reach the targeted level of 109 per 100000

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live births by 2015. Early detection of abnormal progress and prevention of prolonged labour can significantly reduce it . Obstructed labour and ruptured uterus contributes up to 70% of maternal mortality. Tools and techniques to monitor labour thus play an important role in saving women’s lives. Analysis was done using both descriptive and inferential statistics.

**RESULTS**

The findings of the study revealed that more than half of the staff nurses were between the age group of 21-30 years with mean age 27.28±5.533 and most of them were married.

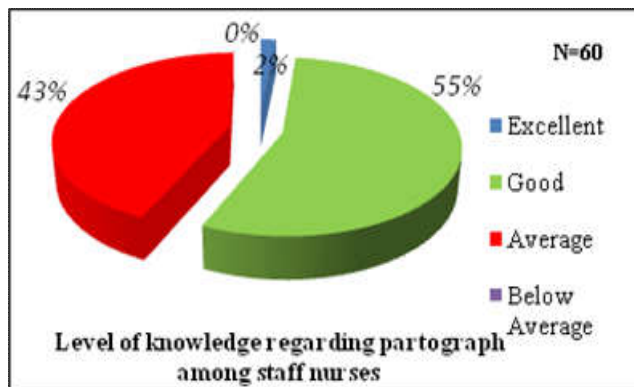


Fig. 1. Distribution of staff nurses as per Level of knowledge regarding partograph

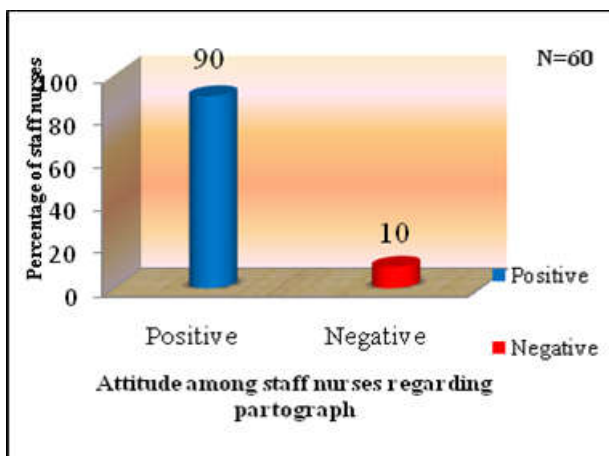


Fig. 2. Distribution of staff nurses as per attitude regarding partograph

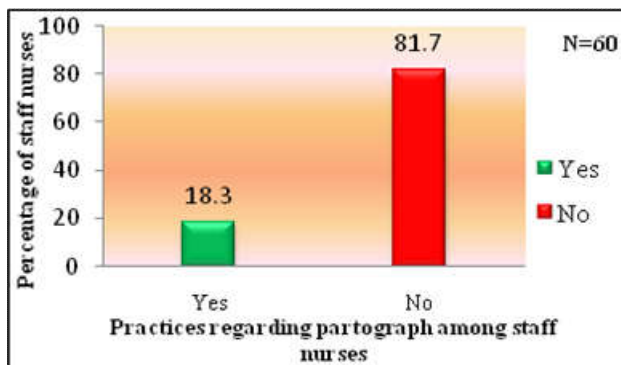


Fig. 3. Distribution of staff nurses as per practices regarding partograph

As per education, maximum number of staff nurses were with GNM, currently working in Private hospital had experience of 0-5 years in Labour ward and conducted more than 15 deliveries.

**Table 1. Association of knowledge with attitude regarding partograph among staff nurses**

Variables	Mean± SD	Mean %	t Value p Value	r Value p Value
Knowledge	12.63±2.893	52.62	14.628	0.455
Attitude	19.27±3.705	80.29	0.000**	0.000**

**Table 2. Association of knowledge with practices among staff nurses regarding partograph**

Variables	Mean± SD	Mean %	t Value p Value	r Value p Value
Knowledge	14.91±2.914	62.12	2.345	0.701
Practices	12.91±3.961	64.55	0.041*	0.016*

As per present study a statistically significant association of knowledge and attitude with education was found and the association of attitude with experience in labour ward and number of deliveries conducted was also found to be significant.

**DISCUSSION**

Labour has been considered to be the most painful journey a woman ever under takes. Although it is a natural process but complications can arise at any time during its course. Thus concern has been raised about the quality of intrapartum care within health facilities. The use of a partogram for the management of labour has been shown to be beneficial. In the present study, more than half of staff nurses (55%) had good knowledge regarding partograph while less than half of staff nurses (43.3%) had average knowledge similar to other study. In this study, conducted by conducted by Fantu Abebe *et al.* (2012) showed more than half (53.4%) of the study participants have good knowledge of the partograph. In the present study, it was found that majority of staff nurses (90%) had positive attitude regarding partograph whereas only 18.3% staff nurses had practiced partograph as supported by a study conducted by Hapwaya Shamabo Daphen Namoonga (2012) which show that 86% respondents had positive attitude towards utilization of partograph, however the utilization of partograph was low (70%). The findings of present study revealed that there was a highly significant association of knowledge with attitude ( $p \leq 0.001$ ) and practices ( $p < 0.05$ ) regarding partograph among staff nurses as supported by another study done by Opiah *et al.* (2012) which showed that there was significant relationship between knowledge of the partograph and its utilization ( $P < 0.05$ ). The findings of present study revealed that a statistically significant association of knowledge and attitude with education. Also there was a significant association of attitude with experience in labour ward and number of deliveries conducted.

**Conclusion**

The present study concluded that staff nurses had good level of knowledge and positive attitude regarding partograph.

However there was low level of practices. The association of knowledge with attitude and practices regarding partograph among staff nurses was found to be significant with a weak positive relationship between knowledge and attitude whereas a strong positive relationship between knowledge and practices. It can be concluded that inspite of good knowledge and positive attitude, there were low practices regarding partograph among staff nurses.

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