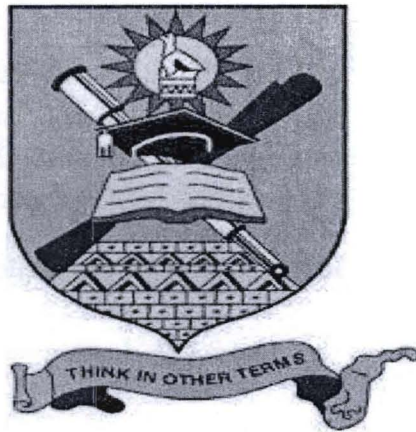


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**RISK FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH POOR APGAR SCORE IN BABIES BORN
OF POST NATAL MOTHERS AT BONDA HOSPITAL IN MANICALAND
PROVINCE OF ZIMBABWE DURING
2011 TO 2015.**

**A RESEARCH PROJECT
BY**

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A Research project submitted to the National University of Science and
Technology in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for M. Sc. in
Midwifery Education

Faculty of Medicine and Social Sciences Department of Nursing and Midwifery

Supervisor: Doctor R Gwini

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Abstract

Introduction

The Zimbabwe bears a heavy burden of high neonatal mortality (ZNMNHRM 2007 to 2015). Low birth weight and low Apgar score are major determinants of morbidity, mortality and disability in infancy whereby low Apgar score measures the extent of asphyxia. The study sought to identify risk factors associated with low Apgar score.

Study design; The study was a retrospective case control conducted where records of mothers who delivered live babies at Bonda Hospital from 2011 to 2015 were reviewed. The design enabled the researcher to establish the prevalence of low Apgar score in Mutasa district and factors associated with low Apgar scores at 5 minutes. Apgar score were assessed and were classified into cases and controls'

Methods; The study encompassed 152 records of mothers who delivered live infants during the study period of 2011 to 2015. The inclusion criteria age after 16 years, and delivered at Bonda with Apgar score recorded. The exclusion criteria mothers with age below 16years , gross malformation, stillbirths, severe prematurity, the neonates with birth weight, no apgar score, no gestational age and multiple pregnancies.

Results; The data was analysed using the uni-variate, bi-variate and multiple variate. Simple logistic regression model was used to identify factors associated with low Apgar score. The result were presented in graphs and figures and the following were some of the factors that were significantly associated with low Apgar score in the univariate and multivariate model namely prematurity, HIV status and maternal conditions like PIH and maternal infections.

Recommendations

In the light of the findings of the study, the researcher recommends the following;

The institutions should embark on policy that pregnant mothers with infections should get free treatment at the institutions. Midwives should strengthen the expertise as they attend to pregnant mothers. Midwives to improve on their attitudes towards mothers since the mothers fail to disclose complains. The mothers who are infected with HIV should be made aware of their status so that this knowledge can be facilitate early counselling and treatment as a way of preventing low Apgar .The ministry should provide the rural settings with drugs to aid in curbing low apgar score. Midwifery practices should promote friendship and support to pregnant mothers that is Respectful maternity. The midwives should practice health promotion model to prevent ill health among mothers thus preventing low apgar.

Conclusions; The purpose of the study was to analyse the factors associated with poor Apgar score among babies born at Bonda hospital. The answer to the question on prevalence was answered when the prevalence of low Apgar score was found to be increasing from 2011 to 2015. The question of the factors associated with low Apgar score which were found to be prematurity, maternal infections, PIH and HIV- Positive status. There is therefore need to strengthen the midwifery care.