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Ingredients of high quality universal new born health care

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All newborns should essentially have access to essential new-born care. Maternal health care is also important. The author of this work argues that in view of need for better health outcomes, attention should be shifted to the quality of care. Poor quality of care results in morbidity and mortality. The period surrounding the new-born babies is the most crucial in saving the number of maternal and new-born lives, and preventing stillbirths. There is, thus, need for securing a future in which every pregnant woman and new-born babies receive high-quality care: throughout pregnancy, birth, and post-natal period. This requires high-quality universal new-born health care. All stakeholders should strive to (a) prevent deadly complications in labor and delivery; (b) advocate making new-born babies and mothers a priority; and (c) empower communities with education to protect moms and babies. This paper aims to discuss key factors in providing high-quality universal new born health care. It seeks to respond to two questions: (a) What health interventions should be the new-born and young infants less than two months of age receive and when should s/he receive it? (b) What health behaviours should a mother practise (or not practise)? Type of data used is 'secondary' (largely 'qualitative' in nature) and nature of data analysis is 'descriptive'. The paper briefly concludes that since the new-born babies are at increased risk of developing various illnesses, they require care inside the new-born care unit. Medical and nursing personnel and other stakeholders need to offer specific health care. In addition, the hospitals and other health organizations should offer teaching to parents about how to (a) feed; (b) bathe; (c) dress; & (d) become familiar with the activities, cues, and sounds of babies. Also, they should disseminate information about routine aspects of care pertaining to skin, urine, bowel movements, and weight.

Biography

Santosh Kumar Mishra He retired (in the capacity of Technical Assistant) on June 30, 2020 from the Population Education Resource Centre (PERC), Department of Lifelong Learning & Extension [DLLE, previously known as Department of Continuing & Adult Education & Extension Work (DCAEEW)], S.N.D.T. Women's University (SNDTWU), Mumbai, India. He underwent training in demography, with award of Government of India Fellowship, during 1986-1987 from the IIPS (Deemed University), located at Mumbai.