

A Study of Breast Feeding and Neonatal Care Practices in Some Ethnic Communities in Periurban Slums at Jaipur Rajasthan

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ABSTRACT A cross-sectional study of 335 mothers having children up to 5 years of age in the urban migrant tribes was undertaken. The aim was to assess pattern of infant feeding and neonatal care among them. The study revealed that breast feeding was initiated in all newborns within 24-48 hours of birth. 35.8 percent used colostrum. 93.15percent children were given exclusive breast feeding for six months. Average duration of breast feeding was 17.1SD±7.7 months. Average age at weaning was 8.82, SD±2.57 months. Prevalence of malnutrition was 49.43percent at 36 months of age. 78.5% deliveries were institutional. None of the mothers had any antenatal care. No morbidity episode occurred in exclusively breastfed infants. While breast feeding of all infants in the communities is encouraging, delay in weaning need behavior modification. Providing focused promotive health care and nutritional supplementation services to this population are urgent health needs.