

ATTITUDE OF MOTHERS ABOUT INFANT FEEDING IN SLUM AND URBAN AREA OF AGRA DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT

Childhood is the crucial period of life span. The nutrition provided in this period affects the overall growth and development of child. Breastfeeding is the safest, least allergic infant feeding method. It has nutritional, immunological, behavioural and economic benefits and also provides desirable mother infant bonding.

The current study was designed to explore the Attitude of mothers towards infant feeding. This study was carried out in slum and urban area of Agra District. 200 mothers were selected from Agra district. 100 samples belonged to slum area and 100 samples belonged to urban area respectively. An "Interview Schedule" was used to collect all necessary information regarding the attitude of mothers on infant feeding. The data was collected, tabulated and analysed. 52.5 % mothers believed that they should not feed the child when child has diarrhoea, 44.5% disagreed and remaining 3.0% have no knowledge, 32.0% did not know about best nutrition for lactating mother and remaining 68% have knowledge about it.

Keywords: Attitude, Breast feeding, Infant feeding, Supplementary feeding,

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Introduction

Breastfeeding is one of the most important determinants of child survival, birth spacing and prevention of childhood infection. The beneficial effects of breastfeeding depend on the initiation of breastfeeding, its duration and the age at which the breastfed child is weaned. All infants should be fed exclusively on breast milk from birth to six month of age, and thereafter, while receiving appropriate and adequate complementary food, breastfeeding should continue up to two years of age or beyond.

BPNI suggest that infant aged (0-5) months who are not breastfed have seven fold and five-fold increased risk of death from diarrhea compared with infants who are exclusively breastfed. At the same age, non-exclusive breastfeeding result in more than two fold increased risk of dying from diarrhea. Infant age 6-11 month who are not breast fed also have an increased risk of such death.

Material and Method

The present study was conducted to observe the attitude, regarding infant feeding among the mother belonging to Slum and Urban Area in Agra. The total sample size was 200, 100 from selected slum and 100 from urban which was calculated using the appropriate formula of the sample size calculation at the 95% confidence interval, 50% proportion and 5% of margin of error. Two stage cluster sampling was used for present work. In first phase we have identified slum and urban area as cluster and in second phase of the study the first household was selected randomly. An "Interview Schedule" was used to collect all necessary information regarding the attitude of mothers on infant feeding.

Before administering the interview schedule on a larger population, a pilot study was carried out on 30 Subjects in order to assess their effectiveness. Further, the schedule was sensitive in selecting the exact information and was found to be valid, selected tools are found suitable and reliable for the present study. Validity and reliability was found to be 0.7% and 0.8% respectively. So schedule was found suitable for the present study. After collecting the required information from the subjects, the schedules were coded numerically and data were classified into simple and complex tables. The data was analysed by applying-percentage, mean, test of

significance (Students t-test) and chi-square for drawing the conclusion.

Result and Discussion

Area wise distribution of mothers according to demographic variables:

The distribution according to demographic variables like age of mother, religion of mothers, religion of mother, type of family, education, occupation of mother, type of food and sex of infant. The result has been illustrated in table no. 1 & 2 and figure no. 1.

Out of total 200 mothers, majority of them 60.5% belonged to 18-25 years age group, followed by 29.5% belonging to age group of 26-30 years and remaining 10.0% belonged to 31-35 years age group. Among the mothers of slum areas 70.0% belonged to 18-25 years age group, followed by 26.0% belonging to age group of 26-30 years and remaining 4.0% belonged to 31-35 years age group respectively. Among the mothers of urban areas 51.0% belonged to 18-25 years age group, followed by 33.0% belonging to age group of 26-30 years and remaining 16.0% belonged to 31-35 years age group.

Table 1. : Area wise distribution of mothers according to age of mother (N=200)

S. No	Parameters	Category	No. & %	Slum (100)	Urban (100)	Total (200)	Chi-square
1	Age of mother	18-25 years	Number	70	51	121	
			Percent	70.0	51.0	60.5	
		26-30 years	Number	26	33	59	
			Percent	26.0	33.0	29.5	
		31-35 years	Number	4	16	20	
			Percent	4.0	16.0	10.0	
		36 and above	Number	0	0	0	
			Percent	0.0	0.0	0.0	

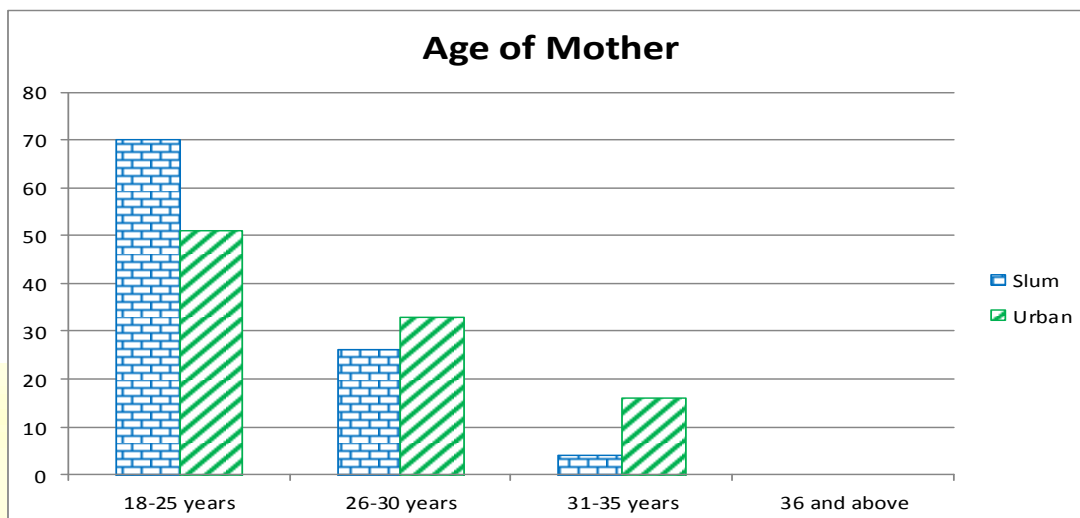


Fig- 1

Figure 1 illustrates the distribution of mothers in slum and urban area according to their age. Maximum respondents were in the age group of 18-25 years.

Table 2. : Area wise distribution of mothers according to occupation mother (N=200)

2	Occupation of mother	Housewife	Number	72	55	127	30.92 (S), p<0.05
			Percent	72.0	55.0	63.5	
		Private sector	Number	17	28	45	
			Percent	17.0	28.0	22.5	
		Government sector	Number	0	17	17	
			Percent	0.0	17.0	8.5	
		Labour	Number	11	1	12	
			Percent	11.0	1.0	6.0	

63.5% mothers were housewives followed by 22.5 were working in private sectors and remaining 8.5% were in government sector and 6.0% were labours. In slum area, majority of them, 72.0% were housewives followed by 17.0 were in private sectors and remaining 11.0% were labours. Among the mothers of urban area, majority of them 55.0% were housewives

followed by 28.0 were in private sectors and remaining 17.0% were in government sector and 1.0% were labours.

Significant association was observed between occupation of mother with the mothers of slum and urban areas.

Area wise distribution of mothers according to attitude about infant feeding:

73.5% mothers said that breastfeeding can prevent diseases affecting breast, 20.0% disagreed with this and remaining 6.5% were uncertain. Among the mother of slum area, 61.0% agreed that breastfeeding can prevent diseases affecting breast, 33.0% disagreed and remaining 6.0% were uncertain. Among the mother of urban area, majority of them i.e. 73.5% agreed breastfeeding can prevent diseases affecting breast, 20.0% disagreed with this and remaining 6.5% were uncertain.

Significant association was observed between Breast feeding preventing diseases affecting breast with the mothers of slum and urban areas.

Table 3. : Area wise distribution of mothers according to attitude of mothers regarding infant feeding (N=200)

S. No	Parameters	Category	Slum (100)	Slum %	Urban (100)	Urban %	Total (200)	Total %	Chi-square
1	Breastfeeding helps in mother & child bonding	Agree	97	97.0	95	95.0	192	96.0	0.54 (NS), p>0.05
		Uncertain	1	1.0	2	2.0	3	1.5	
		Disagree	2	2.0	3	3.0	5	4.5	
2	Breastfeeding can prevent disease affecting breast	Agree	61	61.0	86	86.0	147	73.5	21.29 (S), p<0.05
		Uncertain	6	6.0	7	7.0	13	6.5	
		Disagree	33	33.0	7	7.0	40	20.0	
3	High calorie diet is taken by lactating mother	Agree	65	65.0	87	87.0	152	76.0	13.27 (S), p<0.05
		Uncertain	5	5.0	2	2.0	7	3.5	
		Disagree	30	30.0	11	11.0	41	20.5	
4	Colostrum is	Agree	26	26.0	12	12.0	38	19.0	6.43(S),

	bad for child heath	Uncertain	4	4.0	4	4.0	8	4.0	p<0.05
		Disagree	70	70.0	84	84.0	154	77.0	
5	Stop breastfeeding when supplementary feeding is started	Agree	47	47.0	11	11.0	58	29.0	34.89 (S), p<0.05
		Uncertain	5	5.0	2	2.0	7	3.5	
		Disagree	48	48.0	87	87.0	135	67.5	

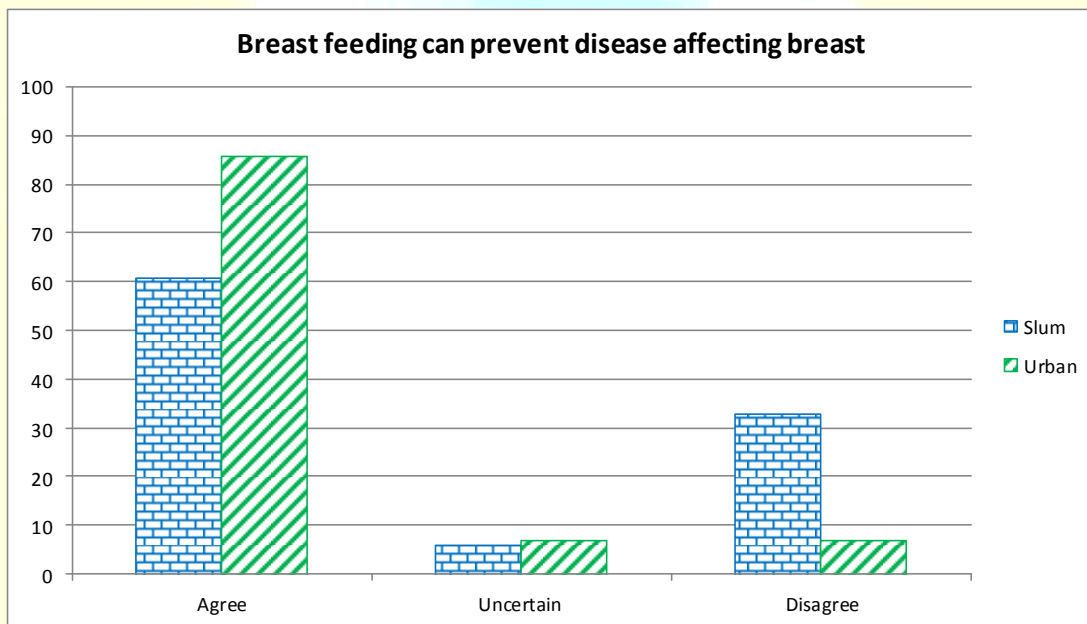


Fig- 2

Figure 1 illustrates the distribution of mothers in slum and urban area according to breastfeeding can prevent disease affecting breast. Maximum respondents were agree

67.5% mothers did not agree that breastfeeding should be stopped while you start supplementary food, 29.0% agreed that breastfeeding should be stopped when starting supplementary food and remaining 3.5% were uncertain. In slum areas, 48.0% disagreed that breastfeeding should be stopped while supplementary feeding, 47.0% agreed that breastfeeding should be continued while supplementary feeding and remaining 5.0% were uncertain. Among the mothers of urban areas, 87.0% disagreed, 11.0% agreed and 2.0% were uncertain.

Significant association was observed between stopping breastfeeding when you start supplementary feeding with the mothers of slum and urban areas.

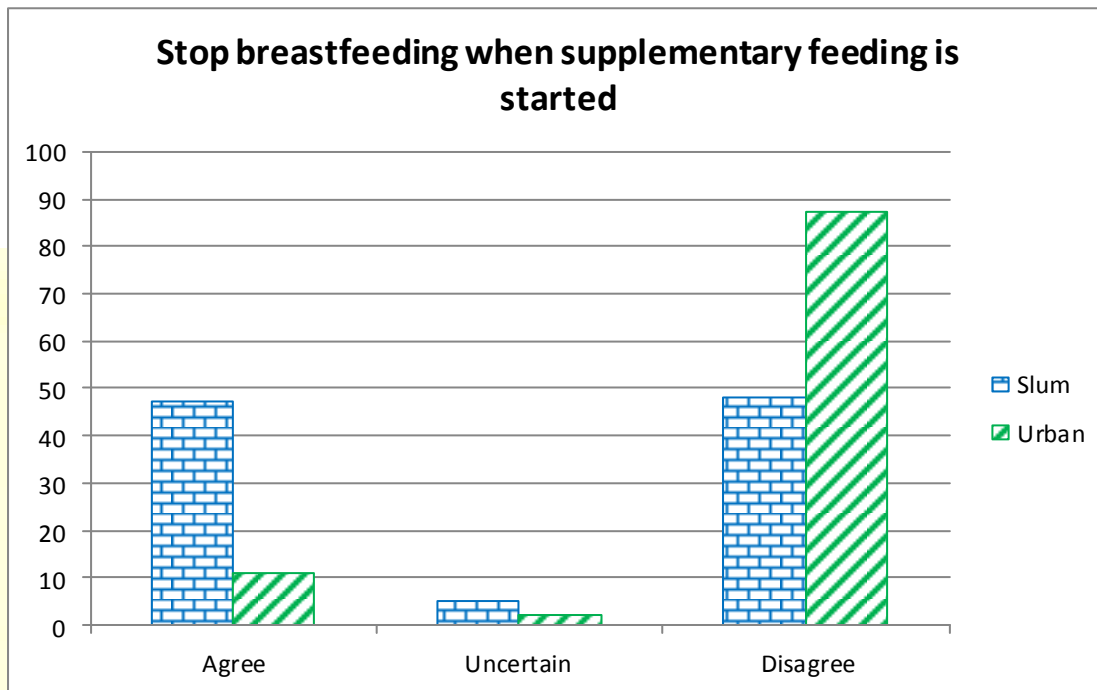


Fig – 3

Figure 3 illustrates the distribution of mothers according to stop breastfeeding when supplementary feeding started. Majority of mothers were disagreed.

Conclusion

Thus it can be concluded from the results that 67.0% mothers knew that exclusive breast milk should be given till first six month, while 12.0% said it should be given upto 1 year while remaining 11.0% and 10.0% said exclusive breast milk can be given for first 8 month and first 2-3 months respectively. 95.5% said that breast milk is the best food for new born.

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