

ACUTE RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS IN UNDER FIVE CHILDREN:
A STUDY OF KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICES OF MOTHERS
IN URBAN COMMUNITIES, DHAKA.

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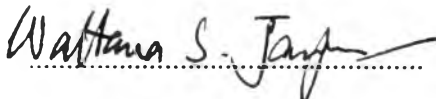
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Abstract

Acute respiratory infections in under five children: A study of knowledge and practices of mothers in urban communities, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Objectives: This study will assess the existing level of knowledge and care seeking of mothers of under five children with ARI, the ability of mothers to recognize important signs of severe ARI.

Methods: Data will be gathered, in a community based cross sectional descriptive study, in urban communities of Dhaka city. Data will be based on a sample of 750 urban mothers who have under five children with ARI. Sample size will be taken from different wards of Dhaka city on simple random basis.

Data exercise: A pilot study, a data gathering exercise, a qualitative and quantitative approach, which includes open ended interview was done, for exploring the feasibility of my proposed research study. Eleven mothers and eleven health care providers were interviewed.

Results: Most mothers had traditional beliefs as to the cause of ARI, with only a minority knowing the cause. Few mothers knew signs and symptoms of pneumonia, the majority had not experienced the danger signs, fast breathing and chest indrawing and could not utilize it. Health care providers think majority mothers considered ARI as a serious illness, but at same time majority mothers could not recognize the signs of ARI.

Conclusion: This study suggests :-

1. Mothers need more education and training for their behavioural change.
2. Health workers should be encouraged to visit household in their assigned areas.
3. Mothers home care management should be encouraged.

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CONTENT

		Page
Abstract		
Acknowledgment		
Chapter		
I.	INTRODUCTION	1
II	ESSAY	
	Introduction	4
	Issues	17
	Conclusion	18
III	PROPOSAL	
	Introduction	20
	Background	23
	Literature Review	34
	Justification	42
	Objectives	45
	Research Questions	45
	Methodology	46
IV.	DATA EXERCISE	
	Introduction	50
	Method	54

Interview Health care Provider	55
Discussion	60
Interview Mothers	61
Discussion	68
Secondary Data	70
Limitation	77
Conclusion	78
V. PRESENTATION	81
VI BIBLIOGRAPHY	83
Appendix Survey Questionnaire	99
Curriculum Vitae	106

LIST OF TABLES

TABLE		PAGE
3.1	Distribution of ARI episodes among different ages and among different countries of the world.	36
4.1	Showing specific characteristics of mothers in relation to the knowledge and practice of ARI.	63
4.2	Showing number and percentage of specific characteristics of the family.	64
4.3	Distribution of number and percentage of specific characteristics of the children.	65
4.4	Number and percent of mother correctly answered questions related with knowledge of ARI.	66
4.5	Number and percent of mothers practiced of ARI ARI management in their own under five children.	67
4.6	Distribution of ARI episodes in under five children in a NGO health centre, (Radda MCH), in Dhaka city.	72
4.7	Monthly statement of ARI in under five children, in a public health complex, Dhaka city.	73
4.8	Yearly statement of ARI (1995) in under five children in Dhaka children hospital, Bangladesh.	74
4.9	Showing morbidity and mortality of ARI in selected areas in Bangladesh, in 1995.	75