



Abstract

This study aims at assessing the evidence base in an implementation of the 5S and Total quality management strategy (5S-TQM) within antenatal care setting at Piliyandala Medical Officer of Health division. The study is the first of its kind in Sri Lanka to be conducted within a preventative health care framework in assessing the impact of a 5S-TQM intervention to enhance the Quality of antenatal care.

The study population comprised of all mothers and health care workers attending antenatal care clinics ($n=11$) in the selected Piliyandala Medical Officer of Health division. The clinics were also assessed under the 5S-TQM assessment checklists.

The study had three phases: Firstly, a baseline assessment which assessed the quality of antenatal care; Second, the development and implementation of an intervention to enhance the quality of the antenatal care; and finally; to evaluate the effect of these interventions on improvements in quality.

The base line assessment revealed relatively low knowledge and attitude in health care workers in some aspects of antenatal care provision. However, the knowledge and attitudes showed significant improvement post-intervention.

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No significant difference was observed in the antenatal clinic facilities ~~post-intervention~~, as the facilities in the base-line measure were satisfactory.

The knowledge and attitude regarding 5S showed significant improvement in the midwife population, post-intervention. This increased knowledge and attitude significantly translated into practical improvements across all 5S levels measured.

The management and conduct of the clinic, the detection of at risk mothers, referral and follow-up systems were all enhanced significantly post-intervention. As a result the maternal satisfaction had a significant improvement when measured at the end of the study.

The intervention tools developed in this study may be useful in assessing the status and improving the quality of antenatal care for the other areas in Sri Lanka. The Medical Officer of Health division, Piliyandala may serve as a development model to advocate similar interventions in other divisions.