

Abstract

This study was conducted on 400 mothers who were randomly selected and who delivered live babies during the period of 1st November to 31st December 2009 in General Hospital Trincomalee. It was carried out with the aim of determining the prevalence of Low Birth Weight and pre disposing factors affecting Low Birth Weight and prevalence of Anemia.

Anthropometric data such as maternal height and weight, socio economic status of mother, the age, education, income, present pregnancy factors such as parity, weight gain and associated conditions like hypertension, Ante Partum Hemorrhage, pre maturity and past pregnancy outcomes were obtained by an interview and collected data using an administered questionnaire. At this process, each mother was personally interviewed in the antenatal and postnatal ward during this period and the records were cross checked with antenatal card, Birth register and the hospital records.

Out of 404 babies, the number of mothers who delivered live babies with birth weight less than 2500 grams was 87 (21.5 %) after completion of 28 weeks of gestation at the obstetric unit during the period of 1st of November to 31st of December at General Hospital Trincomalee.

According to this study maternal weight, weight gain, education, income, complications (APH, PIH) during present pregnancy and anemia were found to be slightly influence the birth weight while parity and past pregnancy outcome were found not related to the birth weight of the new born.