

Abstract

This is a cross sectional, descriptive, hospital-clinic based study, on knowledge and attitude of congenital abnormalities of the pregnant mothers who presented to antenatal clinics. The Colombo North Teaching Hospital was the study setting. The main objectives of the study were to determine the awareness of the mothers' on

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1. factors responsible for giving rise to CAs. (Chromosomal, Genetic, food , chemical etc.)
2. prevalence of different types of CAs in the population.
3. Tendency to reapiure the CAs in successive pregnancies in some mothers.
4. Availability of investigations in order to detect CAs in fetal stage

And attitudes towards the Congenital abnormal baby / fetus were also assessed in the study.

But it should be noted here the study was confined to major CAs of some selected systems of the body. Those are CVS , CNS, Urinary tract, Multiple structural abnormalities and chromosomal abnormalities

There were no previous study done in Sri Lanka on this subject and clinicians may be limited on mothers knowledge and attitudes of CAs. These abnormalities are increasing in frequency , may be partly because increasing diagnosis with advanced medical technology.

As Sri Lanka is a developing country, its economy in not satisfied and termination pregnancies are illegal, it is interested to asses the pregnant mothers attitude regarding congenital abnormal baby.

Data were collected by means of self administered questionnaire which was pre tested. The study was carried out for a period of two months

It was reveled that the majority of mother presented to the clinics were between 18-32 years and 49.3% of the study population were in their first pregnancy. Majority of mothers had educated up to G.C.E. (O/L) class.

Less than 45% of the population knew approximately the incident of abnormalities. A proportion of % of mothers were aware about, causative factors of CAs, at least to some extent. But majority of mothers were poor in other assessment (48.9%) had no fear on their present pregnancy and 22.3% of the population recommended induce abortions for antenataly detected CA fetus. 85.1% of mothers thought that it is better to have medical advice during future pregnancies of mothers who have had children with CAs.

62.2% of the study population of mothers attitude were that a mother should bring up a child with CAs (what ever the severity is) with the help of medical treatment.