

## SUMMARY

Antenatal care is the care provided from conception until the beginning of labour. The antenatal care should be early detection and treatment of abnormalities, promote Health mother and fetus. Goal of antenatal care is to maintain mother's well being and achieve healthy out come for both mother and baby.

Nowadays, the word quality seems to be the focus of every discipline, and several approaches have been used to improve the quality of nursing care. There are three classic frame works from which nursing care can be evaluated, namely structure, Process, and out come Each of these interacting elements contributes to the quality of nursing care. Furthermore, an improvement in any element is likely to produce favorable changes in the other two.

Quality of care is determined by the knowledge and skills of the nurse's assessment. In order to deliver high quality of care, the nurse must be able to perform effectively and must be competent in the application of theory & skills in the clinical situation.

Nurse should provide optimal and individualized care for pregnant mother according to women's needs and the effect of pregnancy changes on her health.

The present study aimed to Assessment of the quality of nursing performance and knowledge in antenatal unit.

The study included all nurses working in the obstetric ward at Benha university Hospital. They were 80 nurses in different age, qualification, who working through out three shifts. Tools used for data collection were: sheet to cover general characteristics of nurses,

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**The data collection consists of two tools :**

The First tool interviewing questionnaire included questions of nurses knowledge about quality of antenatal nursing care.

The second tool observation checklist included standards of nursing care in Antenatal period.

While the second tool was observational check list designed to collect nurse's data about nursing practice during antenatal observed nurses' skills, it includes five items; communication, taking history, taking vital signs, physical examination (height, weight, abdominal examination, urine analysis for sugar and albumin and breast care) and health education

A pilot study was performed, necessary modifications were also done. Both tools of evaluation assessed nurses' level of knowledge and practice during antenatal period.

**The main findings of this study generally revealed the following:**

- There was a positive correlation between both nurses knowledge and their practice in relation to their age and years of experience.
- There was a positive significant correlation between nurses' knowledge and their practice.
- There was poor structure of the antenatal unit due to lack of enough illumination and ventilation, cleanliness not available, more than half of furniture was not available and lack of equipment and supplies in the unit.

**The study recommended the following:-**

- Periodic educational program for nurses in antenatal unit to upgrade their knowledge and improve their practice.
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- Provide adequate supplies and facilities to encourage nurses to follow the standardized techniques.
- Provide adequate supervision, guidance and regular feed back to nurses about their performance evaluation that will help in improving their skills and ensure quality of care.
- Provision of regular on going specialized in service training programs for nurses about infection control to improve maternal and child health care.