RESULTS

The results of this study are presented in (1-24) tables and (1-4) figures. They include the following:

Part (I): Socio–demographic characteristics (table 1-2) and figure (1a-2c) of**:**

1- Premature infant: it includes gestational age, birth weight, proportion to gestational age, gender, and birth order.
2- Mothers: it includes age, level of education, and working status.

Part (II): Mothers' practical knowledge regarding sources of information and care of their premature infants, it includes (table 3-21): concept of premature infant, causes that leads to birth of premature infant, problems that might face premature infants, and needs of premature infants. It also includes practical knowledge regarding infants' eye care, cord care, bathing, diaper care, immunization, sleeping, positioning, prevention of infection, crying, dealing with health problems, normal weight, breast feeding, artificial feeding, preparation of bottle feeding, bottle care, feeding problems, signs of illness, and importance of medical follow-up.

Part (III: Relations between mothers' knowledge (theoretical and practical knowledge), and their socio- demographic characteristics (table 22-24), which include: age, level of education, and working status. It also includes; relations between mothers' practical knowledge, birth order, and gender of the premature infant.

PART (I): Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Premature Infants and their Mothers

Table (1): Number and Percentage Distribution of Premature Infants according to their Socio-Demographic Characteristics.

Characteristics of Premature Infants	Premature Infants (N=200)	%
- Gestational age:		
▪ <27 weeks	2	1.0
▪ 27-: <32 weeks	21	10.5
▪ 32-: ≤ 37 weeks	177	88.5
$\bar{X}$ ± SD	34.2 ± 0.36 weeks	
- Birth weight in grams:		
▪ < 1000 grams	2	1.0
▪ 1000: <1500 grams	26	13.0
▪ 1500: <2000 grams	33	16.5
▪ 2000: < 2500 grams	135	67.5
▪ More than 2500 grams	4	2.0
$\bar{X}$ ± SD	2300 ± 230 grams	
- Proportion to Gestational age:		
▪ Small for gestational age	43	21.5
▪ Appropriate for gestational age	144	72.0
▪ Large for gestational age	13	6.5
- Gender:		
▪ Male	116	58.0
▪ Female	84	42.0
- Birth order:		
▪ First	91	45.5
▪ Second	58	29.0
▪ Third	41	20.5
▪ More than the third	10	5.0

This table shows that 58% of premature infants are males. Infants less than 1000 grams are 1%. Meanwhile, about two thirds (67.5%) of infants' weight ranging from 2000 grams to less than 2500 grams, and the mean birth weight of premature infants is 2300 $\pm$ 230 grams. This table also shows that the majority (88.5%) of infants' gestational age are between 32 and less than 37 weeks, the mean gestational age is 34.2 $\pm$ 0.36 weeks. This table illustrate that 45.5% of infants is the first birth order, while 5% of them are in the fourth birth order or more. This table also illustrate that 72% of infants are appropriate for gestational age, while minority of them (6.5%) are large for gestational age.

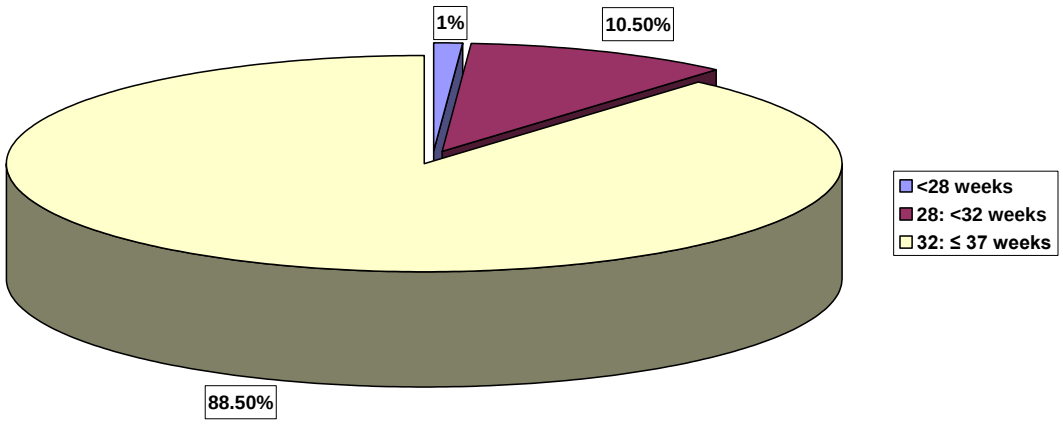

Fig. (1a): Precentage Distribuation of Premature Infants Acording to Gestional Age by weeks.

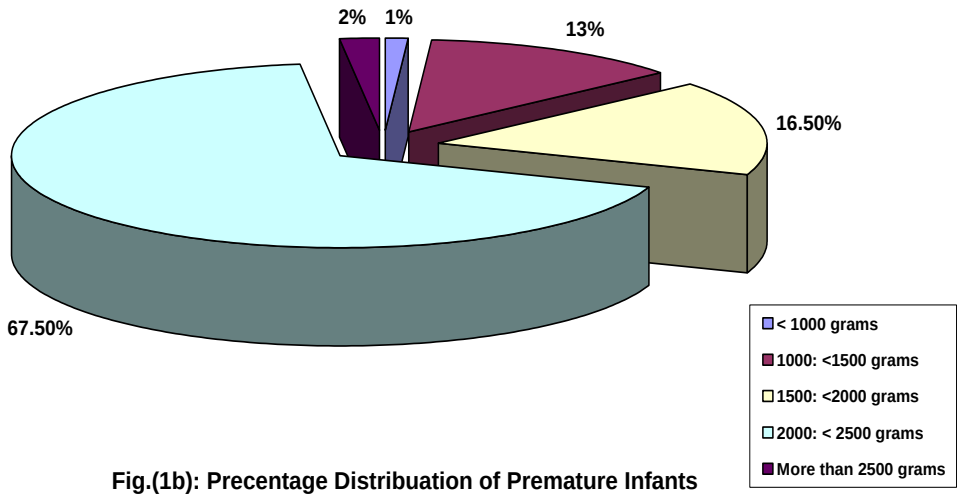

Fig.(1b): Precentage Distribuation of Premature Infants Acording to Their Birth Weight in grams.

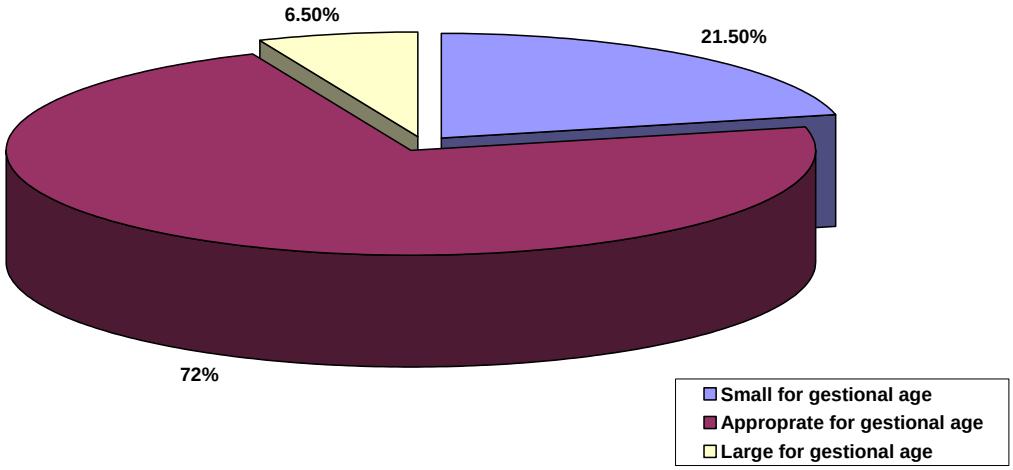

Fig. (1c): Precentage distribuation of Premature Infants Acording to Their Proprtion to Gestional Age.

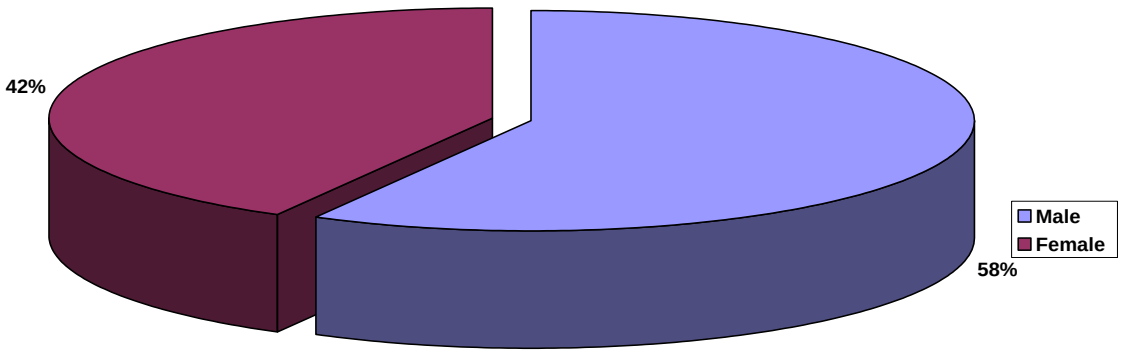

Fig. (1d): Precentage Distribuation of Premature Infants Acording to Their Sex.

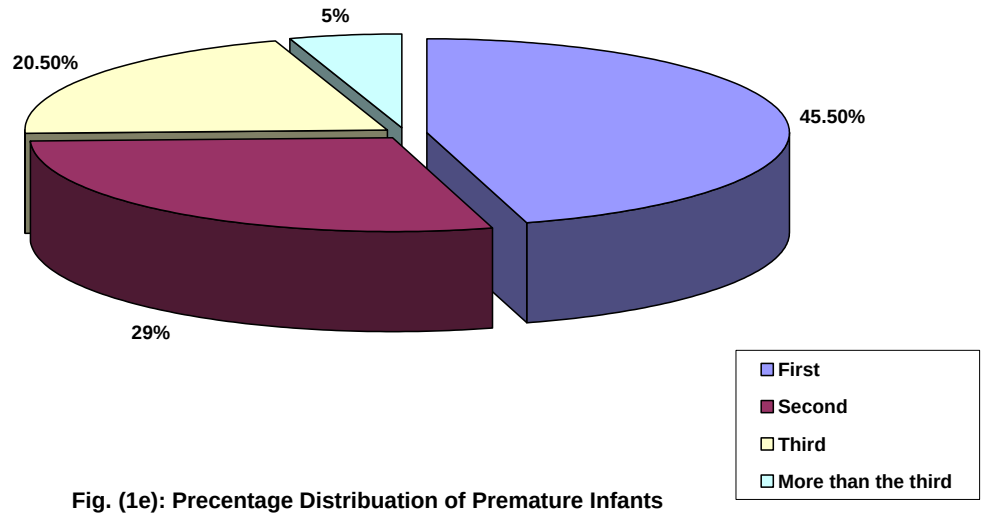

Fig. (1e): Precentage Distribuation of Premature Infants Acording to Their Birth Order.

Table (2): Number and Percentage Distribution of Mothers by their Socio-Demographic Characteristics

Characteristics of Mothers	Mothers (N=200)	%
-Age in years:		
▪ < 20 years	39	19.5
▪ 20 : < 25 years	57	28.5
▪ 25: 30 years	74	37.0
▪ More than 30 years	30	15.0
$\bar{X} \pm$ SD	25.70 $\pm$ 0.77 years	
-Level of education :		
▪ Illiterate	13	6.5
▪ Basic education	46	23.0
▪ Secondary & high education	141	70.5
-Working status :		
▪ House wife	166	83.0
▪ Working	34	17.0

As shown in this table, the mean age of the mothers is 25.7±0.77 years, and the percentage (37%) belongs to age from 25 to 30 years. Regarding the level of education, more than two thirds (70.5%) of mothers reached to secondary and high education, while 6.5% of them are illiterate, and only 23% of them had basic education. Regarding mothers' working status; about 83% of them are housewives, while 17% are working.

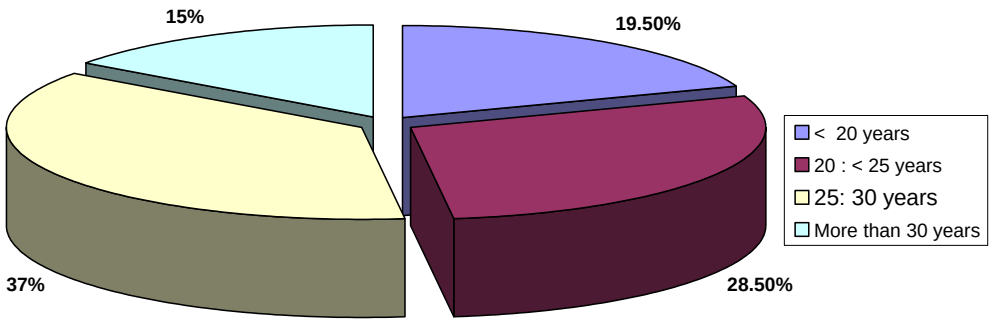

Fig. (2a): Precentage Distribuation of Mothers of Premature Infants Acording to Their Age in years.

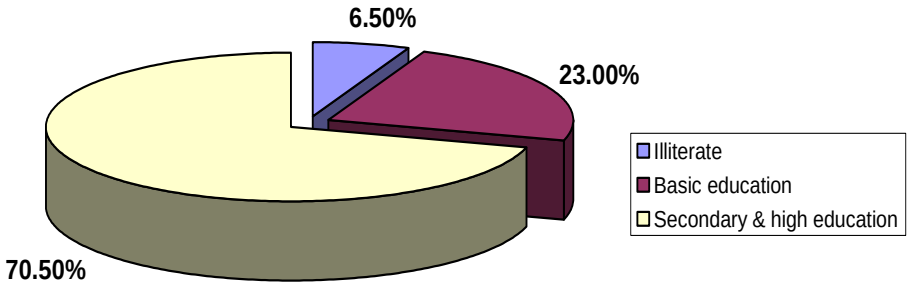

Fig.(2b): Precentage Distribuation of Mothers of Premature Infants Acording to Their Level of Education.

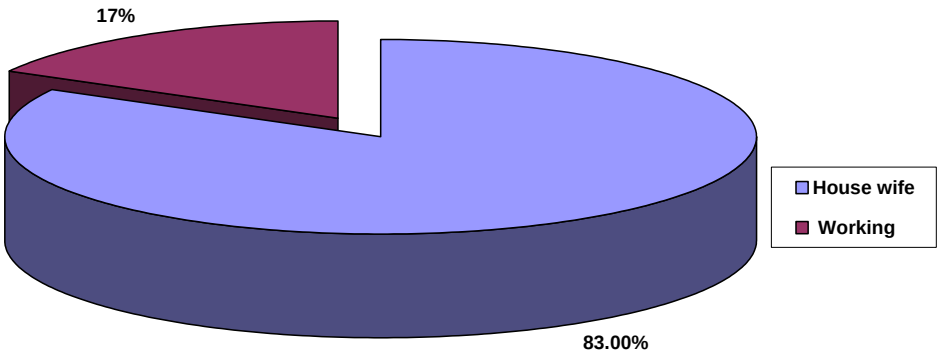

Fig. (2c): Precentage Distribution oif Mothers According to Their Working Status.

PART (II): Mothers' Knowledge about Premature Infants

Table (3): Distribution of the Studied Mothers according to their Sources of Information about Premature Infants' Care

Sources of mothers' information	Total N.= 200 (100.0)	
	No.	%
-Their own mothers	63	31.5
-Neighbor	25	12.5
-Physician	30	15.0
-Nurse	10	5.0
-T.V.	4	2.0
-By mother herself	25	12.5
-All of the above	43	21.5

Regarding source of mothers' information about care of their premature infants, this table shows that, 36.5 % of them obtain their information from their own mothers, 12.5% of them depend on their neighbor to obtain their information. This table also illustrates that nurses (5%) have limited role for giving information about care of their premature infants for these mothers.

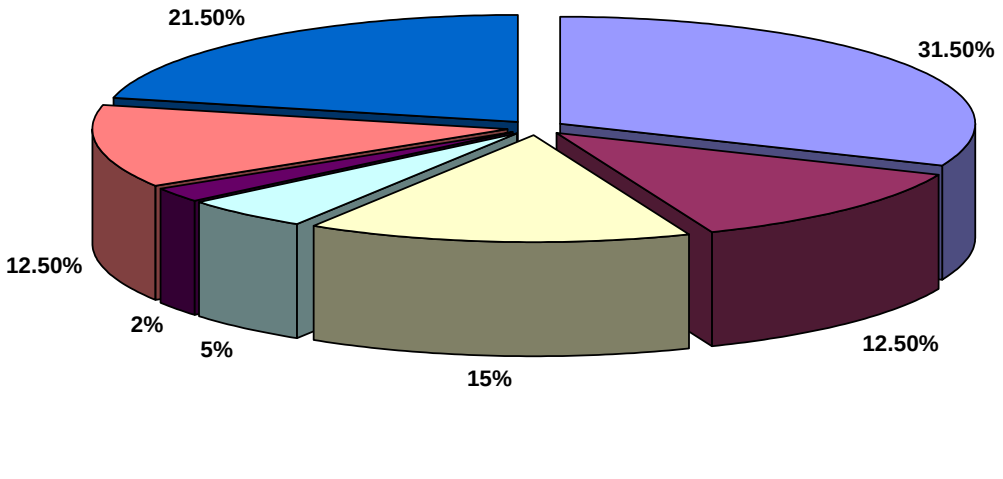

Fig.(3): Distrubtion of the Studied Mothers Acording to Their sources of Information about Premature infants' care.

Table (4): Distribution of the Studied Mothers according to their Knowledge about Premature Infants

Mothers' Knowledge about Premature Infants	Total N.= 200 (100.0)	
	No.	**%**
- Concept of Premature Infant		
▪ Correct	44	22.0
▪ Incorrect	156	78.0
- Causes lead to birth of premature infant		
▪ Correct	104	52.0
▪ Incorrect	96	48.0
- Problems that face premature infant		
▪ Correct	156	78.0
▪ Incorrect	44	22
- Needs of Premature Infant		
▪ Correct	191	95.5
▪ Incorrect	9	4.5

Regarding to mothers' knowledge about premature infants, this table shows that, 78% of mothers have incorrect knowledge about concept of premature infants. While more than half (52%) of mothers have good knowledge about causes which lead to premature birth. This table also shows that more than two thirds (78%) of mothers have adequate knowledge about problems of prematurity, meanwhile, the majority of them (95.5%) have high knowledge about needs of these infants.

Table (5): Distribution of the Studied Mothers according to their Practical Knowledge about Premature Infants' Eye Care

Mothers' Practical Knowledge about Eye Care	Total N.= 200	
	No.	**%**
- Care of Premature Infants' Eyes		
▪ Correct	118	59.0
▪ Incorrect	82	41.0
- Signs of Eye Infection		
▪ Correct	129	64.5
▪ Incorrect	71	35.5
-Care of Premature Infants' during Eyes Infection		
▪ Correct	116	58.0
▪ Incorrect	8	42.0

Regarding mothers' practical knowledge about premature infants' eye care after discharge from NICUs, this table shows that, more than one half (59%) of mothers having good knowledge about eye care. This table also illustrate that 64.5% of mothers completely recognized signs of eye infections. More than half (58%) of mothers can deal correctly when their premature infants' eyes are infected.

Table (6): Distribution of the Studied Mothers according to their Practical Knowledge about Cord Care

Mothers' Practical Knowledge about Cord Care	Total N.= 200	
	No.	**%**
- Care of Umbilical Cord		
▪ Correct	171	85.5
▪ Incorrect	29	14.5
- Frequency of umbilical cord care		
▪ Correct	108	54.0
▪ Incorrect	92	46.0
- Signs of cord Infection of Premature Infant		
▪ Correct	77	38.5
▪ Incorrect	123	61.5
- Care of infant during Cord Infection		
▪ Correct	133	66.0
▪ Incorrect	67	33.0

Regarding mothers' practical knowledge about cord care, this table shows that, 85.5% and 54.0% of them having correct knowledge about umbilical cord care and the frequency of care respectively. In addition, 61.5% and 33.0% of mothers have incorrect knowledge about signs of cord infection as well as care of cord when infected respectively.

Table (7): Distribution of the Studied Mothers According to their Practical Knowledge about Bathing

Mothers' Practical Knowledge about Bathing	Total N.= 200 (100.0)	
	No.	**%**
- Best time for bathing of premature infant		
▪ After fail of cord	102	51.0
▪ At any time	70	35.0
▪ Before fail of cord	28	14.0
- Frequency of bathing (Number)		
▪ More than one time every day	11	5.5
▪ Once every day	81	40.5
▪ Every 2 days	30	15.0
▪ Once a week	33	16.5
▪ Twice a week	30	15.0
▪ Never	15	7.5
- Change clothes		
▪ When it become dirty	60	30.0
▪ When it become wet	52	26.0
▪ Once every day	68	34.0
▪ Once a week	12	6.0
▪ Twice a week	8	4.0

Regarding mothers' practical knowledge about premature infants' bathing, this table shows that more than one half of mothers (51%) bathing their infants after fall of the umbilical cord, while 14% of them bathing infants before fall of the umbilical cord. This table also shows that 40.5% of mothers bathing their infants once every day, while 7.5% of them never bathing their infants' until they reach two or three months of age, and minority of them (5.5%) bathing infants more than once. In addition 34% of mothers change clothes for their premature infants once every day, while minority of them (4%) of them changing clothes twice a week.

Table (8): Distribution of the Studied Mothers according to their Practical Knowledge about Diaper Care

Mothers' Practical Knowledge about Diaper Care	Total N.= 200 (100.0)	
	No.	**%**
- Changing Diaper of Premature Infant		
▪ When it become wet	33	16.5
▪ Once per day	15	7.5
▪ After urination or defecation	152	76.0
- Dealing with Dirty Diaper		
▪ Leave for dry	11	5.5
▪ Wash by water only	17	8.5
▪ Wash by water and soap	127	63.5
▪ Boiling and exposed to sun rays	19	9.5
▪ Not used	26	13.0
- Care of Diaper Rash		
▪ Using ointment or cream	74	37.0
▪ Wash with water and soap	86	43.0
▪ Using baby oil	28	14.0
▪ Talc powder	10	5.0
▪ No care	2	1.0

This table shows that more than two thirds of mothers (76%) are changing diaper immediately after any urination or defecation, while 7.5% of them are changing diaper once a day. In addition more than half of mothers (63.5%) are washing diaper by clean water and soap and exposed to sun rays, while 5.5% of them leave diaper to dry and then reuse it. This table also shows that 43% of mothers protect their children from diaper rash by applying good hygiene and using warm water and soap, while 1% of them not caring.

Table (9): Distribution of the Studied Mothers According to their Knowledge about Immunization

Mothers' Knowledge about Immunization of Premature Infants	Total N.= 200 (100.0)	
	No.	**%**
- Meaning of immunization		
▪ Correct	64	32.0
▪ Incorrect	136	68.0
- Schedule of immunization		
▪ Correct	52	26.0
▪ Incorrect	148	74.0

Regarding to mothers' knowledge about premature infants' immunization, this table shows that the majority of mothers 68% and 74% are having incorrect knowledge about meaning of immunization and schedule of immunization respectively.

Table (10): Distribution of the Studied Mothers according to their Knowledge about Sleeping Patterns of Their Premature Infants

Mothers' Knowledge about Sleeping Patterns for Premature Infants	Total N.= 200 (100.0)	
	No.	**%**
- Number of Sleeping Hours		
▪ From 4: < 8 hours	14	7.0
▪ From 8: < 12hours	20	10.0
▪ From 12: < 16 hours	25	12.5
▪ From 16: < 20 hours	54	27.0
▪ More than 20 hours	10	5.0
▪ Don't know	77	38.5
- Appropriate Sleeping Position		
▪ On the abdomen	71	35.5
▪ On the back	59	29.5
▪ On both sides	60	30.0
▪ Don't know	10	5.0

Regarding mothers' knowledge about sleeping patterns of their premature infants, this table shows that 38.5% of them do not know the appropriate number of sleeping hours for these infants, while 5 % of them said the appropriate number of sleeping hours is more than 20 hours. This table also illustrate that 29.5% of mothers are putting their infants in an appropriate sleeping position (on back), while 5% of them don't know the appropriate position.

Table (11): Distribution of the Studied Mothers according to their Knowledge about Prevention of Infection for their Premature Infants

Mothers' Knowledge about Prevention of Infection for Premature Infants	Total N.= 200 (100.0)	
	No.	**%**
- **Prevention of Infection through:**		
▪ Cord care	9	4.5
▪ Eye care	10	5.0
▪ Not exposed to infected persons	6	3.0
▪ Bathing & hygiene	2	1.0
▪ Breast-feeding	12	6.0
▪ All of the above	161	80.5

Regarding mothers' knowledge about Prevention of Infection for their Premature Infants, this table shows that the majority of mothers (80.5%) recognize correctly how to protect their infants from infection by applying; cord care, eye care, good hygiene, breast feeding, and not exposed to infected persons.

Table (12): Distribution of the Studied Mothers according to their Practical Knowledge about Crying of Premature Infants

Mothers' Knowledge about Premature Infants' Crying	Total N.= 200 (100.0)	
	No.	**%**
- Reasons for Crying of premature Infant		
▪ Correct	179	89.5
▪ Incorrect	21	10.5
- Care during Infants' Crying		
▪ Correct	137	68.5
▪ Incorrect	63	31.5

Regarding mothers' practical knowledge about crying of their Premature Infants, this table shows that the majority of mothers (89.5%) recognize correctly causes of infants' crying. This table also shows that two thirds of mothers (68.5%) caring for their infants' crying correctly.

Table (13): Distribution of the Studied Mothers according to their Practical Knowledge about Dealing with Health Problems of Premature Infants

Mothers' Knowledge about Premature Infants' Health Status	Total N.= 200 (100.0)	
	No.	**%**
- Care during constipation		
▪ Correct	117	58.5
▪ Incorrect	83	41.5
- Care during vomiting		
▪ Correct	134	67.0
▪ Incorrect	66	33.0

Regarding mothers' knowledge about dealing with health problems of their premature infants, this table shows that more than half of mothers (58.5%) are dealing correctly when constipation occurs for their premature infants. This table also shows that two thirds of mothers (67%) dealing correctly when vomiting occurs for their premature infants.

Table (14): Distribution of the Studied Mothers according to their Knowledge about Normal weight of Premature Infants

Mothers' Knowledge about Premature Infants' Weight	**Total N.= 200 (100.0)**	
	No.	**%**
- Normal Weight of Premature infant		
▪ Less than 2500 grams	44	22.0
▪ From 2500 to less than 3000 grams	28	14.0
▪ From 3000 to 3500 grams	36	18.0
▪ Don't know	92	46.0
Weighting premature infant		
▪ During periodical medical follow-up	147	73.5
▪ During immunization	23	11.5
▪ No care	30	15.0

Regarding mothers' knowledge about normal weight of premature infants, this table shows that 46.0% of mothers don't know normal weight of premature infant, while 22% recognize that this weight is less than 2500 grams. This table also shows that 73.5% of mothers weight their infants during periodical medical follow-up, while 15% of them are not caring with the infants' weight.

Table (15): Distribution of the Studied Mothers According to their Practical Knowledge about Feeding of Premature Infants

Mothers' Knowledge about Feeding of Premature Infants	Total N.= 200 (100.0)	
	No.	%
- Method of feeding		
▪ Exclusive Breast Feeding	112	56.0
▪ Artificial Feeding	2	1.0
▪ Mixed	86	43.0
- Waking the infant for feeding		
▪ Yes	81	40.5
▪ No	119	59.5
- Time of feeding of premature infant		
▪ At Scheduled time	49	24.5
▪ As the infant need	151	75.5
- Eructation of premature infant after feeding		
▪ Yes	139	69.5
▪ No	19	9.5
▪ Sometimes	42	21.0
- Position of the Premature Infant after Feeding		
▪ Right side	91	45.5
▪ Left side	48	24.0
▪ On the abdomen	32	16.0
▪ On the back	21	10.5
▪ No care	8	4.0

Regarding mothers' knowledge about feeding of their Premature Infants, this table shows that more than half of the mothers (56%) fed their infants by exclusive breast-feeding, while 1% of them fed infants by artificial feeding. This table also shows that more than half of the mothers (59.5%) not wake-up their infants for feeding. In addition, the majority of mothers (75.5%) fed their infants according to their infants' need. This table also illustrates that about

two thirds (69.5%) of mothers eructate their infants after feeding. This table also shows that 45.5% of mothers are putting their infants after feeding on right side, while 16% of them putting their infants in the abdomen.

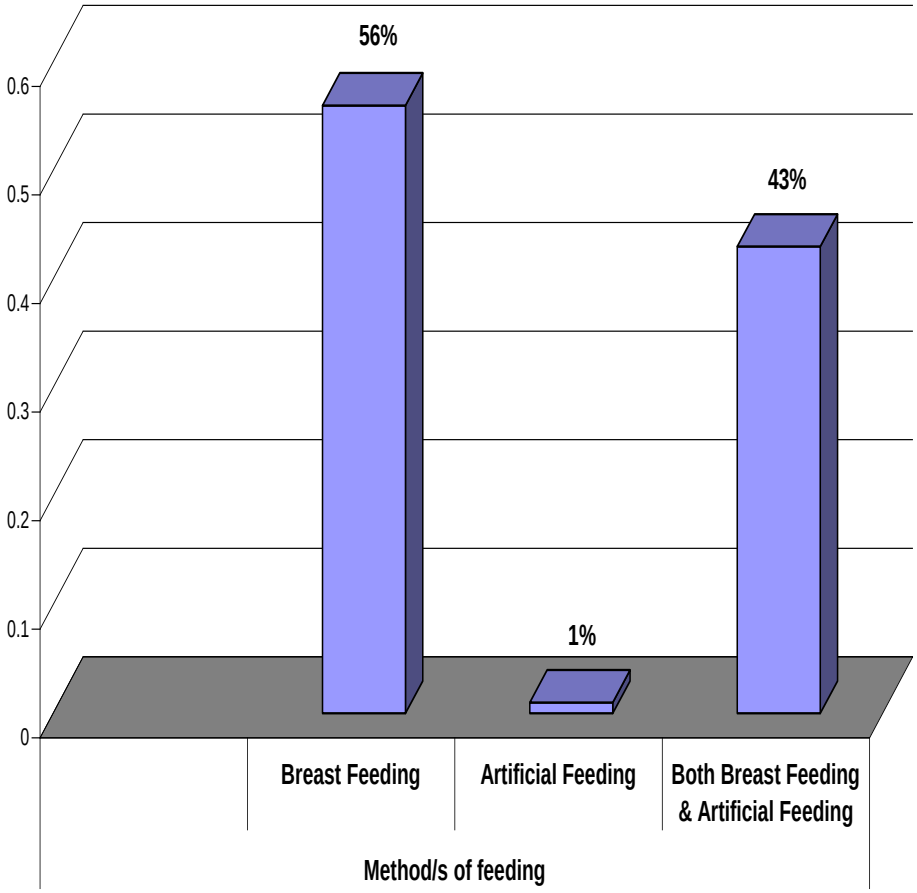

Fig.(4): Distribution of The studided Mothers Acording to Patterns of Fedding for Their Premature Infants.

Table (16): Distribution of the Studied Mothers According to their Knowledge about Breast Feeding of Premature Infants

Mothers' Knowledge about Breast Feeding of Premature Infants	Total N.= 198 (100.0)	
	No.	%
- Feed from two breasts at one feeding		
▪ Yes	148	74.7
▪ No	50	25.3
- Breast care before feeding		
▪ Yes	116	58.0
▪ No	30	15.0
▪ Sometimes	54	27.0
- Pulling Areola		
▪ Put little finger beside mouth and pulling it	83	41.5
▪ Pull it directly	62	31.0
▪ keep the areola until the infant leave it	55	27.5

Regarding mothers' knowledge about breast feeding of Premature Infants, this table shows that the majority of the mothers (74.7%) feed the infant from two breasts at one feeding, while 25.5% of them fed from one breast only. This table also illustrates that more than half of the mothers (58%) clean their breast before feeding, while 15% of them not caring with their breasts. This table also shows that 41.5% of mothers demonstrated putting little finger in infants' mouth when pulling areola, while 31% of them pulling areola directly and 27.5% of them wait until the infant leave areola.

Table (17): Distribution of the Studied Mothers according to their Practical Knowledge about Preparation of Bottle Feeding For Their Premature Infants

Mothers' Knowledge about Bottle Feeding Preparation	Total N.= 88 (100.0)	
	No.	%
- Appropriate method for preparation of formula		
▪ Know	26	29.5
▪ Do not know	62	70.5
- Water Used For Formula Preparation		
▪ Boiling then cool at every feeding time	87	43.5
▪ Boiling once a day	50	25.0
▪ Warming only before feeding	30	15.0
▪ Water from the tap	15	7.5
▪ Mineral water	18	9.0
- Dealing with remaining milk in the bottle		
▪ Protect in refrigerator until hungry	6	3.0
▪ Not used (discarded immediately after feeding)	170	85.0
▪ Force infant for feeding the total milk	24	12

Regarding mothers' practical knowledge about bottle feeding preparation for Premature Infants, this table shows that more than two thirds the mothers (70.5%) do not know the appropriate formula preparation. This table also shows that 43.5% of mothers prepare formula by using boiling water then leave it to become warm at every feeding time, while 7.5% of them using tape water. This table also clarify that the majority of mothers (85%) discard the remaining milk immediately after feeding, while 3% of them keep milk in the refrigerator for another feeding.

Table (18): Distribution of the Studied Mothers according to their Practical Knowledge about Caring of Bottle Feeding For Premature Infants

Mothers' Knowledge about care of Bottle Feeding	Total N.= 88 (100)	
	No.	**%**
- Care of bottle feeding		
▪ By water only	3	3.4
▪ Water and soap	4	4.5
▪ Water and salt	16	18.2
▪ Boiling water	12	13.6
▪ Boiling at container filled with water	51	58.0
▪ Sand and water	2	2.3
- Frequency of boiling bottle feeding		
▪ Before each feeding	32	36.7
▪ Once per day	24	27.2
▪ Twice a day	10	11.2
▪ Once every two days	12	13.6
▪ Once every week	6	6.8
▪ Never boiling	4	4.5

Regarding mothers' practical knowledge about care of bottle feeding, this table shows that more than half of mothers (58%) clean bottle by boiling it in container filled with boiling water, while minority of them (3.4%) using tape water only, and 2.3% of them are using sand and water for care. This table also shows that 36.7% of mothers boiling the bottle before every feeding, while 4.5% of them never boiling the bottle of feeding.

Table (19): Distribution of the Studied Mothers according to their Knowledge about Feeding Problems for their Premature Infants

Mothers' Knowledge about Feeding Problems	**Total N.= 200 (100.0)**	
	No.	**%**
- Feeding Problems		
▪ Weakness of the sucking	8	4
▪ Weak ability to close the mouth around the nipple	2	1.0
▪ Suffocation	3	1.5
▪ Closure of mouth strongly around the nipple	2	1.0
▪ Nipple problems	18	9.0
▪ All of the above	167	83.5
- Dealing with Weak Sucking	**Total N.= 175 (100.0)**	
	No.	**%**
▪ Using a dropper or syringe for feeding	73	41.7
▪ Go to the hospital	66	37.7
▪ Give feeding alternatives	21	12.0
▪ No care	15	8.6

Regarding mothers' knowledge about feeding problems for Premature Infants, this table shows that the majority of mothers (83.5%) know feeding problems that may facing premature infants which include; weakness of the sucking, weak ability to close the mouth around the nipple, suffocation, closure of mouth strongly around the nipple, and nipple problems. This table also shows that 41.7% of mothers can deal correctly with weak sucking for premature infants by using methods such as using syringe or dropper for giving breast milk to their premature infants.

Table (20): Distribution of the Studied Mothers according to their Knowledge about Signs of Illness for their Premature Infants

Mothers' Knowledge about Signs of illness for Premature Infant	**Total N.= 200 (100.0)**	
	No.	**%**
▪ convulsion	3	1.5
▪ hypothermia	5	2.5
▪ cyanosis	4	2.0
▪ hyperthermia	7	3.5
▪ respiratory disorders	5	2.5
▪ infection	3	1.5
▪ all of the above	173	86.5

Regarding mothers' knowledge about dangerous signs of illness for premature infants, this table shows that the majority of mothers (86.5%) recognize correctly signs which must be immediately reported to the physician as soon as they occur after discharge of the infant from the hospital, which includes; convulsion, hypothermia, cyanosis, hyperthermia, respiratory disorders, and infection.

Table (21): Distribution of the Studied Mothers according to their Knowledge about Importance of Medical Follow-Up for their Premature Infants

Mothers' Knowledge about **Importance of Medical Follow-Up**	**Total N.= 200 (100.0)**	
	No.	**%**
- Importance of medical follow-up		
▪ Changing drugs for the infant	41	20.5
▪ Detection of complications	24	12.0
▪ Follow growth and development of the infant	24	12.0
▪ All of the above	109	54.5
▪ Don't know	2	1.0

Regarding mothers' knowledge about premature infants' medical follow-up, this table shows that more than half of mothers (54.5%) understand the importance of medical follow-up for their infants after discharge from NICU to change drugs according to infants' health condition, to detect complications that might face the infant, and to follow the growth and development of the infant.

PART (III): Relations between Mothers' Theoretical knowledge and their Socio-Demographic Characteristics

Table (22): Distribution of the Studied Mothers according to Socio-Demographic Characteristics and Their knowledge about Concept of Premature Infants

Socio-demographic characteristics of mothers	knowledge				Total		r	P
	Correct		Incorrect					
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%		
Total	**124**	**100.0**	**76**	**100.0**	**200**	**100.0**		
- Age in years:								
▪ < 20	14	35.9	25	64.1	39	100.0	0.197*	<0.001
▪ 20< 25	37	64.9	20	35.1	57	100.0		
▪ 25<30	58	78.4	16	21.6	74	100.0		
▪ 30 +	15	50.0	15	50	30	100.0		
-level of education:								
▪ Illiterate	2	15.4	11	84.6	13	100.0	0.537**	<0.001
▪ Basic education	12	20.1	34	79.9	46	100.0		
▪ Secondary & high education	110	78.0	31	22.0	141	100.0		
-Working status:								
▪ House wife	94	56.6	72	43.4	166	100.0	0.138	<0.001
▪ Working	30	88.2	4	11.8	34	100.0		

This table shows that there is a highly statistically significant differences relation (P < 0.001) between mothers' age and their knowledge, where 35.9% of mothers whose ages are less than 20 years having correct knowledge, while 78.4% of them between 25 < 30 years having correct knowledge. Meanwhile this table reveals that there is a statistical significant (p< 0.001) differences between mothers' level of education, and working status in relation their knowledge.

Table (23): Distribution of the Studied Mothers according to Socio-Demographic Characteristics and Their Knowledge about Care of Premature Infants

Socio-demographic characteristics of mothers	Practical knowledge				Total		r	P
	Satisfactory		Unsatisfactory					
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%		
Total	**46**	**100.0**	**154**	**100.0**	**200**	**100.0**		
- Age in years:								
▪ < 20	9	23.8	30	76.2	39	100.0	0.648**	<0.001
▪ 20< 25	10	17.5	47	82.5	57	100.0		
▪ 25<30	15	20.3	59	79.7	74	100.0		
▪ 30 +	12	40.0	18	60.0	30	100.0		
-level of education:								
▪ Illiterate	1	7.7	12	92.3	13	100.0	0.255**	<0.001
▪ Basic education	7	15.2	39	84.8	46	100.0		
▪ Secondary & high education	38	27.0	103	73.0	141	100.0		
-Working status:								
▪ House wife	20	12.0	146	88.0	166	100.0	0.142	<0.050
▪ Working	26	76.5	8	23.5	34	100.0		

Regarding premature infants' care in relation to socio-demographic characteristics of the studied mothers, this table shows that there is a highly statistically significant (r= 0.648, P < 0.001) difference in relation to mothers' age, as 20.3 % of mothers whose ages ranging from 25 to less than 30 years having satisfactory practical knowledge. Also, this table shows that there is a highly statistical significant (r = 0.255, P < 0.001) difference related to mothers' practical knowledge. While there is a no statistically significant relation between working status and mothers' practical knowledge. (r = 0.142, P < 0.05).

Table (24): Distribution of the studied mothers according to gender and birth order of their premature infants and their Care

Socio-demographic characteristics of premature infant	Practical knowledge				Total		r	P
	Satisfactory		Unsatisfactory					
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%		
Total	**46**	**100.0**	**154**	**100.0**	**200**	**100.0**		
- Gender:								
▪ Male	22	19.0	94	81.0	116	100.0	0.426	<0.005
▪ Female	24	28.6	60	71.4	84	100.0		
- Birth order:								
▪ First	4	4.4	87	95.6	91	100.0	0.197^{**}	<0.001
▪ Second	5	8.6	53	91.4	58	100.0		
▪ Third	28	68.3	13	31.7	41	100.0		
▪ More than the third	9	90.0	1	10.0	10	100.0		

Regarding premature infants' gender and birth order in relation to practical knowledge of the studied mothers, this table shows that there is a highly statistically significant (r= 0.197, P < 0.001) difference in relation to mothers' knowledge and birth order of the premature infant, it was found that 68.3% of mothers whose premature infants were the third in order having satisfactory practical knowledge. Also, this table shows that there is a non significant relation between gender of premature infant and mothers' practical knowledge. (r = 0.142, P < 0.005).