



Introduction

Pneumonia is considered one of the most serious lower respiratory tract infections in pediatric age group and one of the common causes of morbidity and mortality in children under 5 years of age. Moreover it is the leading reason for hospitalization and death among children especially in developing countries (*McIntosh et al., 2011*).

The global incidence of pneumonia among children less than five years of age is 156 million new cases annually, 151 million episodes are in the developing world, while, 11-20 million cases of children are severe and require hospitalization. Furthermore, approximately 3 million of children under 5 years die each year from pneumonia, which represents 19% of all pediatric death (*World Health Organization (W.H.O.), 2007*).

The incidence of pneumonia among children aged under five years in Egypt accounts 2 million cases (*Ministry of Health and Population, 2007*). Meanwhile, *Ali (2007)* stated that pneumonia in Egypt is responsible for 34% of all deaths reported from acute respiratory infection and it is one of the most frequent reasons of illness in infancy .

Nursing care of children with pneumonia is depending on their age, type of pneumonia and severity of illness. Pediatric nurse can manage child with pneumonia through assessment for respiratory condition, giving adequate hydration, promoting airway clearance, easing the work of breathing, managing the fever, and finally providing support to child and his family (*Hockenberry & Wilson et al., 2011*).



The nurse should observe child's condition after providing care in order to evaluate such improvement. Nurse not only acts as a care provider but also educator for children and their families. Therefore, assessing the level of knowledge and practice is very important to enhance and maintain competency of nursing care for children suffering from pneumonia, which may be associated with the rate of morbidity and mortality (*Wong & Hockenberry, 2011*). Therefore, this study aimed to assess nursing care provided to children suffering from pneumonia.

Justification of the Problem

Pneumonia is a substantial cause of morbidity and mortality in childhood (particularly among children under 5 years of age). Throughout the world, pneumonia is estimated to cause approximately 4 million deaths among children worldwide. Currently, the incidence of community acquired pneumonia in developed countries is estimated to be 0.026 episodes per child-year compared to 0.280 episodes per child-year in developing countries (*Kilegman et al., 2007*).

Therefore, this study not only aims to assess the practices of nurses during their actual clinical performance, but also to assess their knowledge as a trial to discover the weakness areas in both of knowledge and practice that faces the nurses during providing the care for children with pneumonia.
