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Knowledge and Attitude towards Partograph Recording, Interpretation and Documentation Status by Health Professionals in Samdrup Jongkhar District, Bhutan

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Introduction: Partograph is a graphical chart, which monitors the progress of labour, maternal and fetal wellbeing and assists health workers in decision-making. Studies have pointed out inefficiencies in recording and interpretation of partograph.

Objective: The study aimed to assess the knowledge and attitude of the health professionals and evaluate the partograph documentation status in Samdrup Jongkhar District, Bhutan.

Methods: A cross sectional study was conducted using a self-administered questionnaire among 56 health workers to assess their knowledge and attitude towards recording and interpretation of partographs. Pretest, conducted to obtain the baseline score. An educational session was conducted which was followed by a post-test to obtain the end-line scores and compared using paired sample T-test. Partographs compiled for the last five years (2013-2017) were evaluated parameter wise and recorded as complete, incomplete or blank.

Results: Over one-third (37.5%) of the participants reported that lack of refresher courses as the key challenge in use of partographs. Majority (80.4%) of them had a poor level of knowledge at pretest, which reduced to 7.1% at posttest. Paired sample T-test detected significant difference in the knowledge scores (mean diff: 5.7) between the pretest and the posttest. Only 9.6% of the partographs found to be complete.

Conclusion: Refresher courses are essential at regular intervals to improve partograph recording and interpretation. Regular monitoring by the concerned authorities is required to improve the documentation status.

Key words: Knowledge and attitude, partographs interpretation, Samdrup Jongkhar, Bhutan