

2nd International Conference on

Reproductive Health and Medicine

June 26-27, 2017 London, UK

The role of Tamang mothers-in law in promoting breastfeeding in Makwanpur District, Nepal

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A qualitative study was conducted with the aim to explore the perinatal roles of Tamang mothers-in law in Nepal. 31 mothers-in laws were involved through semi-structured interviews and focus group discussion during May to July 2001. The data analyse showed that the mothers-in law saw themselves as key providers and decision makers in perinatal care practices. They held colostrum in high regard, used no pre-lacteals and supported early initiation of breastfeeding. This was in contrast to widespread reports from the area. Traditional patterns of promotive and preventive care were recognised. However, the sequences of newborn care identified highlighted practices that may increase the risk of hypothermia and infection. These directly relate to practices around bathing and wrapping. Twin themes of protection and provision runs through the data and may counterpoint the concepts of prevention and promotion that underpin allopathic health care.

Biography

Hilde Masvie Ydstebø completed her MSc in Mother and Child Health at International Perinatal Care Unit, Institute of Child Health, University College London in 2001. She is both a Public Health Nurse and a Psychiatric Nurse. She has been involved in health work both in rural Ethiopia for 11 years and in rural Tanzania for 3 years and is now working with migration health among refugees in Norway.

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