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## Nurses' opinion, experiences and suggested remedial measures related to family integration in neonatal units of a tertiary care hospital, India

Geetanjali Kalyan<sup>1</sup>, Sushma Saini<sup>2</sup>, Praveen Kumar<sup>3</sup>, Sandhya Ghai<sup>4</sup> and Sukhwinder Kaur<sup>5</sup><sup>1</sup>National Institute of Nursing Education, India<sup>2</sup>PGIMER, Chandigarh

**Aim:** The study aims to find out the nurses' opinions, experiences and suggested remedial measures related to family integration in neonatal units of a tertiary care hospital, India.

**Method:** The study was conducted at neonatal units (level 3/step down unit), of a tertiary care center, India. The 20 nurses working in the neonatal care were included. The ethical clearance was obtained from institute's ethics committee. The written informed consent was taken, and five focus group discussions were conducted with 20 nurses in a group of 3-5 members for approximately 25-45 minutes. The data was saturated at five focus group discussions. All the interviews were recorded and thematic analysis was done.

**Result:** Major themes related to their opinion were, family is important and prior absolute need to involve families, family involvement will increase weight, bonding, feeding and support the mother. Current experiences revealed that more focus is on mother, minimal involvement of father, teaching is offered in gradual manner, father is never taught and most of the information about baby condition is provided by doctors. They also experienced some barriers during family involvement such as level of parental education, exhausted physical and emotional state of mother, limited involvement of father, shortage of time, staff and gender bias. The participants were also asked about the perceived barriers if integration process would be enhanced in unit. In that context the main concerns were about time and content of classes, varying teaching ability of every nurse, issues related to involvement of father, resistance to include fathers, difficult to coordinate the timing and fear of overcrowding. The remedial measures suggested were to involve families from antenatal period, family members other than parents should be included, need to structure integration process, counsel families before admission, provide information and counsel mother weekly, need to divide work and organize regular teaching session for family.

**Conclusion:** Nurses had positive attitude about family integration and they want it to be more structured and organized. At the same time, they were also concerned about time and content of classes, individual differences in teaching skills, division of work, coordination related issues and overcrowding.

### Biography

Geetanjali Kalyan has completed her Masters in Pediatric Nursing from All India Institute of Nursing Education, New Delhi. She is currently working as Faculty at National Institute of Nursing Education, PGIMER, India and is also pursuing her PhD in Social and Behavioral Sciences as an in-service candidate. She has more than 35 publications including research, review and book chapters in reputed journals/books. She has been serving as a Member of Editorial and Reviewer Board of reputed journals.

geetss2@gmail.com

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