

“Maternal Sociodemographic Factors Influencing Low Birth Babies: A Hospital Based Study.”

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Abstract

Introduction: Birth weight is known to influence the survival and development of neonates. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), Low Birth-Weight (LBW) is weight at birth that is less than 2.5 kg. A LBW infant can be born too small (small for gestational age), too early (preterm) or both. Several epidemiological studies have shown that neonates with LBW have a disproportionately higher mortality compared to those with weight higher than 2.5 kg. Non-seasonal factors such as increasing maternal age, socio-economic factors, have been associated with LBW by several researchers. Interventions to reduce LBW will require an understanding of the associated fetal, maternal, prevailing environmental and socio-demographic factors.

Objectives:

1. To study the maternal sociodemographic factors.
 2. To determine the association between maternal sociodemographic factors and Low birth weight babies.
- Methodology:** A hospital based cross-sectional study done over a period of (1/3/2023 to 31/3/2023) one month duration in a Tertiary care Hospital with a time bound Sampling technique. Mothers of low-birth-weight babies were included as study population. A self-administered, pre tested questionnaire was used for data collection. Data entered in Microsoft excel 2019 and analyzed using IBM: SPSS trial version. Chi square test was used for categorical variables.

Results: Female neonates (55%) had more LBW than Male neonates (45%), Illiterate mothers (28%) had more LBW babies than Literate mothers (72%), Maternal Age, Weight had significant association with low-birth-weight babies. ($p < 0.05$).

Conclusion: Low birth weight is prone to increased respiratory, cognitive, neurological and psychological dysfunction. From this study, Maternal Age, Weight had significant association with low-birth-weight babies. Hence, it is mandatory to educate the women of reproductive age about the impact of mother's nutritional status on the neonate.

Keywords: Hospital, Low birth weight, Maternal age, Sociodemographic

Date of Submission: 08-04-2025

Date of Acceptance: 18-04-2025
