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PROPORTION OF CAESAREAN DELIVERIES AND MATERNAL AND NEONATAL FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH IT AMONG MOTHERS DELIVERED IN TEACHING HOSPITAL KALUTARA

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Background: Caesarean section is a commonly used surgical procedure performed in obstetrics. Generally, the cesarean section is performed under special maternal and fetal indications. However, it is globally acknowledged that the rates of caesarean section delivery are increasing gradually, due to various maternal and neonatal factors. However, cesarean section entails specific short-term and long-term complications for both mother and baby. This study was conducted to assess the proportion of cesarean delivery and maternal and neonatal factors associated with it among mothers delivered in obstetric wards of Teaching Hospital Kalutara.

Methods: A descriptive Cross-sectional study was done in the obstetric wards in Teaching Hospital Kalutara, with the participation of 271 post-natal mothers. The study duration was from February 2023 to October 2023. The mothers were selected by convenient sampling and an interviewer administered questionnaire was used to obtain data from those who gave the informed written consent. Data were collected during the postpartum period. Data were analyzed using a Statistical Package for Social Sciences (IBM SPSS 25).

Results: The majority of the mothers underwent normal vaginal delivery (n=160, 59%) while 103 mothers (38%) underwent caesarian section. The commonest indication for cesarean sections was having a previous section (n=53,51.45%). Maternal factors that had a significant association with cesarean delivery were maternal age (p<0.001, df=1, X^2=22.800), obstetric complications (p=0.001, df=1, X^2=10.118), and past cesarean section (p<0.001, df=1, X^2=107.463). Neonatal factors which were birth weight (p=0.001, df=1, X^2=10.118), fetal anomalies (p=0.070, df=1, X^2=3.286), gestational age (p=0.017, df=1, X^2=5.699), multiple pregnancies (p=0.002, df=1, X^2=10.008) had a significant association with caesarean delivery.

Conclusion: The study concluded that the caesarean deliveries had significant association with maternal age, obstetric complications during current pregnancy, past cesarean section, birth weight, gestational age, and multiple pregnancies. Since our study is limited to a particular area, a better approximation of the proportion and factors associated with cesarean delivery could be obtained through a widely distributed study in multiple districts.

Keywords: Proportion, Cesarean delivery, Maternal factors, Neonatal factors, Kalutara