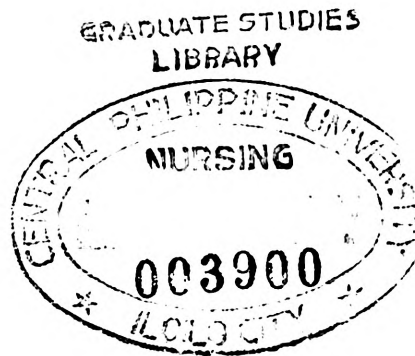


**FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH INFANT FEEDING PRACTICE AMONG THE
EMPLOYED MOTHERS HAVING CHILDREN 0-24 MONTHS IN SELECTED
PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN ROXAS CITY**



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**LEA P. ALAYON
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by

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ABSTRACT

The main objective of this study was to determine the factors associated with the infant feeding practice among the employed mothers in selected private and public schools in Roxas City. It attempted to find out whether personal characteristics of the mothers, namely: age, educational attainment, monthly income, number of children ever born and work status are associated with their feeding practice.

It is likewise determined whether health related characteristics of the mothers, namely: place of delivery, health services availed, obtained information from mass media on infant feeding, and support received, are associated to their infant feeding practice.

This study employed one-shot survey using a self-administered questionnaire. The study sample consisted of 40 mothers from four selected private and public schools in Roxas City namely: Capiz National High School, Capiz Institute of Technology, Colegio

Dela Purisima Concepcion and Filamer Christian college. Frequency distribution, percentage, means and Cramer's V were used as statistical tools.

The studies revealed that majority of mothers were in their middle age years (26-35 years) with an average monthly income of 13,398.00. Mostly of the respondents are highly educated and occupying a teaching job.

Majority of the respondents had their deliveries in the hospitals and availed some of the health services for pregnant women. In terms of obtained information from mass media on infant feeding, majority of the respondents had watched television and read newspaper. Almost all mothers claimed that they had received emotional support from their husbands and families.

A greater proportion of mothers studied had used mixed feeding regimen, followed by bottle-feeding and there were few who breastfed their babies.

Association analysis revealed that infant feeding practice significantly vary when respondents/mothers are classified according to age, educational attainment, income, number of children ever born and work status.

The infant feeding practices, on the other hand, are not significantly related to the following health related characteristics, such as place of delivery, health services availed, mass media exposure on information about infant feeding and support received.

The researcher recommends to GOs, NGOs and proper government agencies especially the Department of Health to further strengthen the Mother and Baby Friendly Initiative particularly on Rooming-In and Breastfeeding policies among public and private hospitals.

Conclusions

Age, educational attainment, income, number of children is significantly associated with infant feeding practices. The older the mother, they tend to mix feed their babies.

The higher the educational attainment of the mothers, the more likely that they practice mixed feeding.

The higher the income, the greater their tendency to bottle-feed and mixed feed.

The more children the women had delivered the greater their tendency to practice breastfeeding alternately with bottle-feeding.

Place of delivery, health services availed, obtained information from mass media on infant feeding and support are not significantly associated with infant feeding practice. This means that place of delivery, health services availed, obtained information from mass media on infant feeding and support received have nothing to do with their infant feeding practice.

Recommendations

1. The Mother and Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative should be evaluated and monitored.. Strength and weaknesses of the program should be reassessed to further improve the program to increase compliance.
2. The Department of Health should assess the implementation of Breastfeeding Policy in accredited hospitals.To increase the number of are accredited Mother and Baby Friendly Hospitals the DOH should give priority to this program.
The Task Force on Breastfeeding should closely monitor implementation of the project.

3. Nurse educators, NGOs and GOs should reach out to mother who have high-income, well-educated and encourage them to breastfeed.
4. Administrators, health educators and local government units concerned should further strengthen their information, education, communication and motivation drive on breastfeeding to increase compliance and utilization of breastfeeding. Mother's classes should be conducted not only for the under privileged, but also to those who are educated, wealthy and well-informed individuals.
5. The researcher recommends for further researches related to breastfeeding the following:
 - a. A study on the internal motives and physiological factors influencing breastfeeding.
 - b. An Evaluation of Mother and Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative..
 - c. The Role of the Husbands and their Participation on Breastfeeding Decision.
 - d. The Effects of Breastfeeding to the Mother, Baby and the whole Family.