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ORIGINAL RESEARCH

Prevalence and associated factors of perinatal asphyxia among newborns in Dilla University referral hospital, Southern Ethiopia– 2017

This article was published in the following Dove Press journal: Pediatric Health, Medicine and Therapeutics

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¹Department of Midwifery, College of Health Science and Medicine, Dilla University, Dilla, Ethiopia; ²Department of Nursing, College of Health Sciences, Mekelle University, Mekelle, Tigray, Ethiopia **Background:** Globally, perinatal asphyxia is a significant contributing factor for neonatal morbidity and mortality. Thus, this study was aimed to assess the prevalence and associated factors with perinatal asphyxia among newborns in Dilla University referral hospital.

Methods: A cross-sectional study was conducted among newborns in Dilla University referral hospital, Ethiopia from February to April 2017. Systematic random sampling techniques were used to enroll a total of 262 study subjects. Multivariate logistic regression analysis was used to identify factors associated with the perinatal asphyxia among newborns.

Result: Of the newborns, 32.8% had perinatal asphyxia, and factors associated significantly were anemia during pregnancy (adjusted OR=2.99, 95%CI: 1.07–8.35), chronic hypertension (adjusted OR=4.89, 95%CI: 1.16–20.72), meconium-stained amniotic fluid (adjusted OR=3.59, 95%CI: 1.74–7.42), and low birth weight newborns (adjusted OR=3.31, 95%CI: 1.308–8.37).

Conclusion: Maternal anemia during pregnancy, chronic hypertension, meconium stained amniotic fluid, and low birth weight were significantly associated with perinatal asphyxia. Therefore, early screening and appropriate intervention during pregnancy, and intrapartum might reduce perinatal asphyxia among newborns.

Keywords: perinatal asphyxia, newborn, Dilla, Ethiopia

Background

Globally, perinatal asphyxia has significantly contributed to neonatal morbidity and mortality. Perinatal asphyxia is defined as the inability of the newborn to initiate and sustain adequate respiration after delivery.^{1,2} In developing countries neonatal mortality rate constitutes 42% of under-5 deaths.^{3,4} According to a World Health Organization report, perinatal asphyxia is the third leading cause of under-5 child deaths (11%) following preterm birth (17%) and pneumonia (15%).^{5,6}

In developing countries, neonatal deaths accounted for 52% of all under-5 child mortality in South Asia, 53% in Latin America and Caribbean, and 34% in sub-Saharan Africa due to preventable causes including perinatal asphyxia.^{7,8}

In Ethiopia, perinatal asphyxia is one of the leading causes of neonatal mortality, constituting 34%.⁸ A study revealed that perinatal asphyxia can lead to physical, mental and social incapability in newborns due to severe hypoxic-ischemic organ damage.⁹

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Studies showed that mother's age less than 20 years, mother's illiteracy, multiple pregnancy, and gestational age were the determinants of perinatal asphyxia.^{10,11} Perinatal asphyxia was associated with maternal anemia during pregnancy, pregnancy-induced hypertension, antepartum hemorrhage, antenatal care visits less than 3 and lack of ultrasound checkup.^{12,13}

The literature revealed that neonatal and intrapartumrelated factors like breech presentation, mode of delivery, meconium-stained amniotic fluid (MSAF), prolonged rupture of membrane, prolonged labor, activity, pulse, grimace, appearance and respiration (APGAR) score<7, birth weight, and prematurity of the newborn were found to be significant factors for birth asphyxia.^{12,13}

According to the Ethiopian demographic health survey 2016, the reduction in neonatal mortality was comparatively low. The international community agreed to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 deaths per 1,000 live births by 2030.^{12–14}

In most developing countries, a small number of data are available on risk factors associated with perinatal asphyxia. There is a lack of evidence showing that maternal and neonatal factors play an important role in the occurrence of birth asphyxia.^{15–21}

However, perinatal asphyxia has a high contribution to neonatal morbidity and mortality. There are insufficient studies conducted on perinatal asphyxia in the study area. Therefore, this study was aimed to assess the prevalence and associated factors with identifying determinants of perinatal asphyxia among newborns at Dilla University referral hospital, Southern Ethiopia, 2017.

Materials and methods

Study design and period

This cross-sectional study was conducted from February to April 2017 in Dilla University referral hospital, southern Ethiopia.

Sampling procedure

A total of 262 postnatal mothers who have live newborns were enrolled using a systematic random sampling technique.

Inclusion and exclusion criteria

All live newborns during the data collection period were included in the study, but newborns with congenital anomalies were excluded.

Data collection and quality assurance

An interviewer-administered structured questionnaire was used to obtain information on socio-demographic characteristics and obstetric history and related risk factors. To assure data quality, training was given for data collectors, the questionnaires were checked for completeness before data entry by the principal investigator.

Data processing and analysis

Data were analyzed using SPSS version 22 software (IBM Corporation, Armonk, NY, USA). A binary logistic regression was done to examine association of dependent and independent variables, and variables with *p*-value <0.2 were entered into multivariate logistic regression analysis. The variables with *p*-value <0.05 in the multivariate analysis were significantly associated with the outcome variable.

Operational definition

Perinatal asphyxia is the inability of a newborn to initiate and sustain respiration, by scoring an APGAR score less than 7 persistently for more than 5 min after delivery.

Study variables

The dependent variable of this study was perinatal asphyxia, and independent variables were categorized maternal socio-demographic and obstetric characteristics.

Ethical consideration

Ethical clearance was obtained from the College of Health Sciences, Mekelle University. The permission was found from Dilla University referral hospital medical director office. An informed written consent was obtained from all mothers of the newborns that were included for the study.

Results

Maternal socio-demographic and obstetric characteristics

From total (N=262), 256 study participants responded to a questionnaire (response rate was 97.7%). More than three quarters of the study subjects were literate and 106 (41.4%) of them were housewives. Two hundred and twenty-nine (89.5%) of mothers had a singleton pregnancy, and 144 (56.3%) of them were multiparous (Table 1).

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Variables	Categories	Frequency	Percent
Mother's age	≤19 years	24	9.4
	20–24 years	76	29.7
	25–29 years	80	31.3
	30–34 years	61	23.8
	≥35 years	15	5.9
Maternal	Housewife	106	41.4
occupation	Merchant	45	17.6
	Private employee	46	18.0
	Government	41	16.0
	employee		
	Others*	18	7.0
Maternal educa-	Unable to read and	63	24.6
tional status	write		
	Primary	67	26.2
	Secondary	67	26.2
	College/university	59	23.0
Current preg-	Singleton	229	89.5
nancy status	Multiple (>2)	27	10.5
Parity	Primipara	112	43.8
	Multipara	144	56.3
Duration of cur-	<37 weeks	66	25.8
rent pregnancy	>42 weeks	33	12.9
	37–42 weeks	157	61.3
History of	Miscarriage	35	13.7
adverse preg-	Still birth	28	10.9
nancy outcome	Child death	22	8.6
	No any history of	171	66.8
	bad pregnancy		
	outcome		

Table I Socio-demographic and obstetric history of mothers ofnewborns at Dilla University referral hospital, Southern Ethiopia2017 (n=256)

Neonatal characteristics

In the study, 129 (50.4%) women who participated delivered female neonates and 45 (17.6%) of newborns were low birth weight. Based on gestation age 66 (25.8%) of neonates were delivered at preterm; 157 (61.3%) born at term and 33 (12.9%) at post-term (Table 2).

Magnitude of perinatal asphyxia

The number of neonates assessed as perinatal asphyxia immediately after delivery was 84 (32.8%) and 172 (67.2%) neonates delivered were assessed as non-asphyxiated (Figure 1).

Factors associated with perinatal asphyxia

Multivariate logistic regressions analysis showed that anemia during pregnancy, chronic hypertension, meconiumstained amniotic fluid, and low birth weight were significantly associated factors with neonatal asphyxia among newborns.

Neonates delivered from mothers who had anemia during pregnancy were 3 times more likely to be asphyxiated as compared to neonates from mothers who were non-anemic during pregnancy (adjusted OR=2.992, 95%CI: 1.073–8.35) and neonates from mothers who had chronic hypertension were about 5 times more likely to be asphyxiated compared to those newborns from mothers who encountered no hypertension (adjusted OR=4.9, 95%CI: 1.16–20.7).

Neonates who were delivered with meconium-stained amniotic fluid were 3.5 times more likely to have perinatal

Variables	Categories	Frequency	Percent (%)
Sex of the newborn	Male	23	48.0
	Female	33	52.0
Weight of the newborn at birth	<2.5 kg	45	17.6
	2.5–3.5 kg	136	53.1
	3.5–4.0 kg	62	24.2
	>4.0 kg	13	5.1
Birth weight class of the newborn	Very low birth weight	12	4.7
	Low birth weight	43	16.8
	Normal weight	201	78.5
Class of the newborn based on gestational age	Preterm	66	25.8
	Post term	33	12.9
	Term	157	61.3

Note: *Others: students, farmers.



Figure I Breathing status of neonates immediately after delivery who were born at Dilla University referral hospital Southern Ethiopia, 2017 [n=256].

asphyxia as compared to those neonates delivered with clear amniotic fluid (adjusted OR=3.5, 95%CI: 1.739, 7.4), and low birth weight newborns were 3 times more likely to develop perinatal asphyxia compared to normal weight newborns (adjusted OR=3.309, 95% CI: 1.308, 8.368) (Table 3).

Discussion

The prevalence of perinatal asphyxia among newborns was 32.8%. This finding is higher than those of other studies conducted in India (6.6%), Nigeria (21.1%), Cameroon (8.5%), and also at hospitals in Jimma (11.1%), and Addis Ababa (16.2%) in Ethiopia, respectively.^{6,12,14,21} This finding inconsistency may be due to the difference in the study population, study area and time.

In this study, perinatal asphyxia was significantly associated with maternal anemia during pregnancy, maternal chronic hypertension, meconium-stained amniotic fluid and low birth weight of newborns.

In this study, anemia during pregnancy was found to be significantly associated with perinatal asphyxia. This is consistent with other study findings in rural districts of Pakistan and India.^{18,20} Anemia during pregnancy might affect fetal development and complicate the birth. Thus, having antenatal follow up during pregnancy may prevent anemia.

In this study, maternal history of chronic hypertension was found to be significantly associated with perinatal asphyxia. Neonates from mothers with chronic hypertension were found to be asphyxiated compared to newborns from mothers who encountered no disease during pregnancy. This finding is in line with other studies that reported chronic hypertension was found to be a risk factor for perinatal asphyxia in Ethiopia, Cameroon, and India.^{14,20,22} This might be maternal hypertension directly affect the fetal wellbeing in the uterus, which directly contributes to neonatal asphyxia at birth.

This study showed that meconium-stained amniotic fluid was a significantly associated factor with perinatal asphyxia. Newborns who were delivered with meconium-stained amniotic fluid were found to be asphyxiated when compared to those neonates delivered with clear amniotic fluid. This finding is in agreement with other studies that have found the meconium-stained amniotic fluid was a risk factor for perinatal asphyxia.^{13,23} This is because when amniotic fluid is stained due to different factors, there is a risk of fetal distress which might lead the newborn to be asphyxiated at birth.

Low birth weight was found to be a significant factor for perinatal asphyxia in this study. This finding is in corroboration with previous study findings in Ethiopia, Tanzania, and Indonesia, but it is inconsistent with a study conducted in Nigeria.^{9,11,12,18,22,23} This finding discrepancy might be due to the difference in the socio-economic status of the study population and the study time.

The limitation of this study was there was selection bias because only neonates delivered at the hospital were included. It is known that many mothers gave birth at home with risk; those neonates were not incorporated in this study. Thus, it may not represent the whole rural area.

Conclusion

Of the newborns, 32.8% had perinatal asphyxia, and factors significantly associated were anemia during

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Table 3 Associated factors with	perinatal asphyxia amon	g newborns at Dilla Universit	ty referral hospital, southe	rn Ethiopia, 2017 (n=256)
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Yes (n=84)No (n=172)OR (95%Cl)OR (95%Cl)Complication/illnesses during pregnancy Amenia16144.134(1.836, 9.309) 2.992(1.073, 8.349)0.036*Preeclampsia/cdampsia10182.010(0.849, 4.755)2.001(0.643, 6.229)0.231*Chronic hypertension874.134(1.400, 12.213)4.894(1.156, 20.721)0.031*AFH1175.685(2.048, 15.779)3.230(8.32, 12.565)0.090No illness34123RefRef0.20Volume of amniotic fluid443.360(0.783, 14.411)1.199(0.177, 8.107)0.220Pohydydramnios14153.136(1.335, 7.369)1.179(0.375, 3.707)0.779Normal2584RefRefNon-vaginal (CS)0.208(0.844, 5.165)0.111Duration of labor20242.731(1.355, 5.506)2.088(0.844, 5.165)0.111Ypes of complecation371.238(0.304, 5.041)0.374 (0.062, 2.241)0.823Ypes of complecation371.238(0.304, 5.041)0.374 (0.062, 2.241)0.823Poter Ref8151.541 (0.003, 3377)0.210 (0.056, 0.788)0.021You complication371.238(0.304, 5.041)0.374 (0.062, 2.241)0.822Convulsion371.238(0.304, 5.041)0.374 (0.062, 2.241)0.822You complication371.238(0.304, 5.041)0.374 (0.062, 2.241)0.822Fever8151.541 (0.603, 3377) </th <th>Variables</th> <th colspan="2">Asphyxia</th> <th>Crude</th> <th>Adjusted</th> <th>P-value</th>	Variables	Asphyxia		Crude	Adjusted	P-value
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Chronic hypertension 8 7 4.134(1.400, 12.213) 4.894(1.155, 20.721) 0.031* APH 11 7 5.685(2.048, 15.779) 3.233(0.832, 12.565) 0.090 PROM 5 3 6.029(1.37, 26.510) 3.381(0.658, 24.067) 0.132 No illness 34 123 Ref Ref 0.132 Polyhydramnios 4 4 3.360(0.783, 14.411) 1.199(0.177, 8.107) 0.852 Oligohydramnios 14 15 3.136(1.335, 7.369) 1.179(0.375, 3.707) 0.779 Normal 25 84 Ref Ref Net SVD 36 118 Ref Ref Net Juration of labor 20 24 2.731(1.355, 5.506) 2.088(0.844, 5.165) 0.111 Duration of labor 39 53 1.946(1.137, 3.330) 1.065(0.531, 2.218) 0.823 <12 hrs (not prolonged)	Preeclampsia/eclampsia	10	18	2.010(0.849, 4.755)	2.001 (0.643, 6.229)	0.231
APH 11 7 5.685(2.048, 15.77) 3.23(0.832, 12.56) 0.090 PROM 5 3 6.029(1.371, 26.10) 3.981(0.658, 24.067) 0.132 No illness 34 123 Ref Ref Volume of anniotic fluid 1 69 1.997(1.106, 3.604) 1.618(0.750, 3.493) 0.220 Polyhydramnios 4 4 3.360(0.783, 14.411) 1.199(0.177, 8.107) 0.852 Oligohydramnios 14 15 3.136(1.335, 7.369) 1.179(0.375, 3.707) 0.852 Normal 25 84 Ref Ref . . Non-vaginal (C/S) 20 24 2.731(1.355, 5.506) 2.088(0.844, 5.165) 0.111 Duration of labor	Chronic hypertension	8	7	4.134(1.400, 12.213)	4.894(1.156, 20.721)	0.031*
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No illness 34 123 Ref Ref Volume of anniotic fluid - 69 1.997(1.106, 3.604) 1.618(0.750, 3.493) 0.220 Polyhydramnios 4 4 3.360(0.783, 14.41) 1.1990(177, 8.107) 0.852 Oligohydramnios 14 15 3.136(1.335, 7.369) 1.179(0.375, 3.707) 0.779 Normal 25 84 Ref Ref 7 1.816(0.778, 4.243) 0.168 SVD 36 118 Ref Ref 1.816(0.778, 4.243) 0.168 Non-vaginal (C/S) 20 24 2.731(1.355, 5.506) 2088(0.844, 5.165) 0.111 Duration of labor 39 53 1.946(1.137, 3.330) 1.085(0.531, 2.218) 0.823 212 hrs (prolonged) 45 119 Ref Ref 1.238(0.304, 5.044) 0.374 (0.062, 2.241) 0.282 Convulsion 3 7 1.238(0.304, 5.044) 0.374 (0.062, 2.241) 0.282 Abnormal presentation 9 10 2.600(0.979, 6.907) 0.609 (0.169,2.199	PROM	5	3	6.029(1.371, 26.510)	3.981 (0.658, 24.067)	0.132
Volume of anniotic fluid Image: Problem in the problem	No illness	34	123	Ref	Ref	
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Oligohydramnios 14 15 3.136(1.335, 7.369) 1.179(0.375, 3.707) 0.779 Normal 25 84 Ref Ref Ref 0.779 Mode of delivery 36 118 Ref Ref Ref 0.779 SVD 36 118 Ref Ref Ref 0.168 Assisted vaginal delivery 28 30 3.059(1.620, 5.779) 1.816(0.778, 4.243) 0.168 Non-vaginal (C/S) 20 24 2.731(1.355, 5.506) 2.088(0.844, 5.165) 0.111 Duration of labor - - Ref Ref 0.823 <12 hrs (not prolonged)	Polyhydramnios	4	4	3.360(0.783, 14.411)	1.199(0.177, 8.107)	0.852
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Duration of labor >12 hrs (prolonged) 39 45 53 119 1.946(1.137, 3.330) Ref 1.085(0.531, 2.218) Ref 0.823 Types of complication Convulsion 3 7 1.238(0.304, 5.044) 0.374 (0.062, 2.241) 0.282 Ever 8 15 1.541(0.603, 3.937) 0.210 (0.056, 0.788) 0.021 Excessive bleeding 15 12 3.611(1.546, 8.436) 0.886 (0.277, 2.834) 0.838 Abnormal presentation 9 10 2.600(0.979, 6.907) 0.609 (0.169, 2.199) 0.449 Abnormal cord present 13 24 1.565(0.722, 3.393) 1.017 (0.377, 2.744) 0.974 Color of AF 28 120 Ref Ref Ref Ref Bloody stained 8 9 3810(1.350, 10.750) 1.940(0.488, 7.710) 0.347 GA of the NB at birth 7 15 18 3.131(1.428, 6.868) 2.426(0.905, 6.504 0.078 Preterm 36 30 4.509(2.430, 8.367) 2.278(0.957, 5.422) 0.063 Birth weight 33 124 8	Non-vaginal (C/S)	20	24	2.731(1.355, 5.506)	2.088(0.844, 5.165)	0.111
>12 hrs (prolonged) 39 53 1.946(1.137, 3.330) 1.085(0.531, 2.218) 0.823 <12 hrs (not prolonged)	Duration of labor					
<12 hrs (not prolonged) 45 119 Ref Ref Types of complication 3 7 1.238(0.304, 5.044) 0.374 (0.062, 2.241) 0.282 Fever 8 15 1.541(0.603, 3.937) 0.210 (0.056, 0.788) 0.021 Excessive bleeding 15 12 3.611(1.546, 8.436) 0.886 (0.277, 2.834) 0.838 Abnormal presentation 9 10 2.600(0.979, 6.907) 0.609 (0.169,2.199) 0.449 Abnormal cord present 13 24 1.565(0.722, 3.393) 1.017 (0.377, 2.744) 0.974 No complication 36 104 Ref Ref Clear 28 120 Ref Ref Meconium stained 48 43 4.784(2.674, 8.561) 3.593(1.739, 7.424) 0.001* Bloody stained 8 9 3.810(1.350, 10.750) 1.940(0.488, 7.710) 0.347 GA of the NB at birth 7 33 124 Ref 2.426(0.905, 6.504 0.078 Term	>12 hrs (prolonged)	39	53	1.946(1.137, 3.330)	1.085(0.531, 2.218)	0.823
Types of complication 3 7 1.238(0.304, 5.044) 0.374 (0.062, 2.241) 0.282 Fever 8 15 1.541(0.603, 3.937) 0.210 (0.056, 0.788) 0.021 Excessive bleeding 15 12 3.611(1.546, 8.436) 0.886 (0.277, 2.834) 0.838 Abnormal presentation 9 10 2.600(0.979, 6.907) 0.609 (0.169,2.199) 0.449 Abnormal cord present 13 24 1.565(0.722, 3.393) 1.017 (0.377, 2.744) 0.974 No complication 36 104 Ref Ref 1.503(1.739, 7.424) 0.001* Bloody stained 8 9 3.810(1.350, 10.750) 1.940(0.488, 7.710) 0.347 GA of the NB at birth 7 15 18 3.131(1.428, 6.868) 2.426(0.905, 6.504 0.078 Term 33 124 Ref Ref 0.01* 0.063 Birth weight 15 18 3.131(1.428, 6.868) 2.426(0.905, 6.504 0.078 Term 33 124 Ref Ref 0.406	<12 hrs (not prolonged)	45	119	Ref	Ref	
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Excessive bleeding Abnormal presentation 15 12 3.611(1.546, 8.436) 0.886 (0.277, 2.834) 0.838 Abnormal presentation 9 10 2.600(0.979, 6.907) 0.609 (0.169,2.199) 0.449 Abnormal cord present 13 24 1.565(0.722, 3.393) 1.017 (0.377, 2.744) 0.974 No complication 36 104 Ref Ref 0.001 Color of AF 28 120 Ref Ref 0.017 (0.377, 2.744) 0.01* Bloody stained 48 43 4.784(2.674, 8.561) 3.593(1.739, 7.424) 0.001* GA of the NB at birth 8 9 3.810(1.350, 10.750) 1.940(0.488, 7.710) 0.347 Ferm 36 30 4.509(2.430, 8.367) 2.278(0.957, 5.422) 0.063 Post term 15 18 3.131(1.428, 6.868) 2.426(0.905, 6.504 0.078 Term 33 124 Ref Ref 0.011* 0.865(0.279, 3.266) 0.541(0.103, 2.844) 0.468	Fever	8	15	1.541(0.603, 3.937)	0.210 (0.056, 0.788)	0.021
Abnormal presentation 9 10 2.600(0.979, 6.907) 0.609 (0.169,2.199) 0.449 Abnormal cord present 13 24 1.565(0.722, 3.393) 1.017 (0.377, 2.744) 0.974 No complication 36 104 Ref Ref Ref 0.001* Color of AF 28 120 Ref Ref 0.001* Bloody stained 48 43 4.784(2.674, 8.561) 3.593(1.739, 7.424) 0.001* GA of the NB at birth 8 9 3.810(1.350, 10.750) 1.940(0.488, 7.710) 0.347 Preterm 36 30 4.509(2.430, 8.367) 2.278(0.957, 5.422) 0.063 Post term 15 18 3.131(1.428, 6.868) 2.426(0.905, 6.504 0.078 Term 33 124 Ref Ref 0.011* 0.011* Macrosomia/big baby (>2.5 kg) 30 15 5.765(2.872, 11.572) 3.309(1.308, 8.368) 0.011*	Excessive bleeding	15	12	3.611(1.546, 8.436)	0.886 (0.277, 2.834)	0.838
Abnormal cord present 13 24 1.565(0.722, 3.393) 1.017 (0.377, 2.744) 0.974 No complication 36 104 Ref Ref Ref 0 Color of AF 28 120 Ref Ref 0.001* Meconium stained 48 43 4.784(2.674, 8.561) 3.593(1.739, 7.424) 0.001* Bloody stained 8 9 3.810(1.350, 10.750) 1.940(0.488, 7.710) 0.347 GA of the NB at birth 7 7 7 36 30 4.509(2.430, 8.367) 2.278(0.957, 5.422) 0.063 Post term 36 30 4.509(2.430, 8.367) 2.278(0.905, 6.504 0.078 Term 36 30 4.509(2.430, 8.367) 2.278(0.905, 6.504 0.078 Birth weight 15 18 3.131(1.428, 6.868) 2.426(0.905, 6.504 0.078 Birth weight 2 30 15 5.765(2.872, 11.572) 3.309(1.308, 8.368) 0.011* Macrosomia/bir baby (>4 kg) 3 10 0.865(0.272, 3.266) 0.541(0.103, 2.844) 0.468	Abnormal presentation	9	10	2.600(0.979, 6.907)	0.609 (0.169,2.199)	0.449
No complication 36 104 Ref Ref Color of AF 28 120 Ref Ref Ref Clear 28 120 Ref Ref 3.593(1.739, 7.424) 0.001* Bloody stained 48 43 4.784(2.674, 8.561) 3.593(1.739, 7.424) 0.001* GA of the NB at birth 8 9 3.810(1.350, 10.750) 1.940(0.488, 7.710) 0.347 GA of the NB at birth 7 7 7 7 0.001* 0.0063 Post term 36 30 4.509(2.430, 8.367) 2.278(0.957, 5.422) 0.063 Post term 15 18 3.131(1.428, 6.868) 2.426(0.905, 6.504 0.078 Term 33 124 Ref Ref 0.011* Low birth weight (<2.5 kg)	Abnormal cord present	13	24	1.565(0.722, 3.393)	1.017 (0.377, 2.744)	0.974
Color of AF 28 120 Ref Ref Ref Meconium stained 48 43 4.784(2.674, 8.561) 3.593(1.739, 7.424) 0.001* Bloody stained 8 9 3.810(1.350, 10.750) 1.940(0.488, 7.710) 0.347 GA of the NB at birth 9 3.0 4.509(2.430, 8.367) 2.278(0.957, 5.422) 0.063 Post term 15 18 3.131(1.428, 6.868) 2.426(0.905, 6.504 0.078 Term 33 124 Ref Ref 0.011* Birth weight 9 15 5.765(2.872, 11.572) 3.309(1.308, 8.368) 0.011* Macrosomia/big baby (≥4 kg) 3 10 0.865(0.279, 3.266) 0.541(0.103, 2.844) 0.468	No complication	36	104	Ref	Ref	
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GA of the NB at birth 36 30 4.509(2.430, 8.367) 2.278(0.957, 5.422) 0.063 Post term 15 18 3.131(1.428, 6.868) 2.426(0.905, 6.504 0.078 Term 33 124 Ref Ref 0.063 Birth weight 30 15 5.765(2.872, 11.572) 3.309(1.308, 8.368) 0.011* Macrosomia/big baby (≥4 kg) 3 10 0.865(0.229, 3.266) 0.541(0.103, 2.844) 0.468	Bloody stained	8	9	3.810(1.350, 10.750)	1.940(0.488, 7.710)	0.347
Preterm 36 30 4.509(2.430, 8.367) 2.278(0.957, 5.422) 0.063 Post term 15 18 3.131(1.428, 6.868) 2.426(0.905, 6.504 0.078 Term 33 124 Ref Ref 0.061 Birth weight 15 15 5.765(2.872, 11.572) 3.309(1.308, 8.368) 0.011* Macrosomia/big baby (≥4 kg) 3 10 0.865(0.229, 3.266) 0.541(0.103, 2.844) 0.468	GA of the NB at birth					
Post term Term 15 18 3.131(1.428, 6.868) 2.426(0.905, 6.504) 0.078 Birth weight Low birth weight (<2.5 kg)	Preterm	36	30	4.509(2.430, 8.367)	2.278(0.957, 5.422)	0.063
Term 33 124 Ref Ref Birth weight Low birth weight (<2.5 kg)	Post term	15	18	3.131(1.428, 6.868)	2.426(0.905, 6.504	0.078
Birth weight 30 15 5.765(2.872, 11.572) 3.309(1.308, 8.368) 0.011* Macrosomia/big baby (>4 kg) 3 10 0.865(0.229, 3.266) 0.541(0.103, 2.844) 0.468	Term	33	124	Ref	Ref	
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Macrosomia/big baby (>4 kg) 3 10 0.865(0.229, 3.266) 0.541(0.103, 2.844) 0.468	Low birth weight (<2.5 kg)	30	15	5.765(2.872, 11.572)	3.309(1.308, 8.368)	0.011*
	Macrosomia/big baby (>4 kg)	3	10	0.865(0.229, 3.266)	0.541(0.103, 2.844)	0.468

Note: *P<0.05.

Abbreviatoins: APH, antepartum hemorrhage; PROM, premature rupture of membrane; AF, amniotic fluid; SVD, spontaneous vaginal delivery; C/S, cesarean section; GA, gestational age; NB, newborn; Ref, reference.

pregnancy, chronic hypertension, meconium-stained amniotic fluid, and low birth weight. Therefore, early screening during pregnancy and providing health care is mandatory in order to reduce perinatal asphyxia among newborns.

Abbreviation list

ANC, Antenatal care; DURH, Dilla University Referral Hospital; EDHS, Ethiopian Demographic and Health Survey; LBW, low birth weight; MCH, maternal and child health; MSAF, meconium-stained amniotic fluid;

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NICU, neonatal intensive care unit; NMR, neonatal

mortality rate; PMR, perinatal mortality rate; PROM,

prolonged rupture of membranes; SDG, sustainable

We would like to thank all our study participants for their

All authors contributed toward data analysis, drafting and

revising the paper, gave final approval of the version to be

published, and agree to be accountable for all aspects of

The authors report no conflicts of interest in this work.

goals;

Peoples;

patience and for participating in this research.

SNNPR,

UNICEF,

South

United

Nations

Nation

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Disclosure

References

Children's Fund.

Acknowledgments

Author contributions

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invited to submit their work as well as healthcare researchers and patient support groups. The manuscript management system is completely online and includes a very quick and fair peer-review system. Visit http://www.dovepress.com/testimonials.php to read real quotes from published authors.