

## Abstract

This case-control research was designed to study the relationship and effects of predisposing factors, enabling factors and reinforcing factors on diarrheal preventive and curative behaviors of mothers. The study group included 400 mothers of 1-6 months admitted with diarrhea. The control group were 400 babies with the same age range from well baby clinic. Results of the study showed that the mean scores on diarrheal knowledge and beliefs in childrearing of mothers were significantly different at 0.05 and 0.01 respectively. However it was not significantly different on diarrheal preventive behaviors. Predisposing factors, enabling factors and reinforcing

factors were positively related to diarrheal preventive behaviors at 0.01 but were not related to diarrheal curative behaviors. The factors predicted diarrheal preventive behaviors were diarrheal knowledge, beliefs in childrearing, food sanitation, environmental sanitation and spouse's education. The factors predicted curative behaviors were beliefs in childrearing, diarrheal knowledge and family income.