

Thesis Title Factors Influencing Birth Weight in
Adolescent Pregnancy

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ABSTRACT

This study was aimed to find the incidence of low birth weight infant and the relationship between birth weight and some influential factors in adolescent pregnancy. And the multiple regression analysis was also used in order to explain the variation in birth weight. The factors as the independent variables were maternal age, years of maternal education, family income, supported income, marital status, years from menarche to this conception, gravida, birth spacing, complication of pregnancy, gestational age at delivery, gestational age at the first prenatal visit, times of prenatal visit, weight change during pregnancy, addictive use, pregnancy desire, relation to husband and sex of the child.

This crosssectional survey studied in 201 mothers under 20 years of age who delivered at Rajavithi Hospital during 27 April to 15 June 1989. Data was collected by using the questionnaire which was constructed by the researcher in interviewing and then the marital relationship questionnaire was answered by the adolescent mothers.

The result revealed that the incidence of low birth weight in adolescent pregnancy was 17.4 percent. The family income and gravida had negative significant correlation with birth weight ($p\text{-value} < 0.05$) but the prenatal visit, weight change during pregnancy and gestational age at delivery had positive significant correlation with birth weight ($p\text{-value} < 0.05$). The other factors had no statistically correlation with birth weight. The stepwise multiple regression analysis showed the gestational age, weight change during pregnancy and family income were accounted for 46.22 percent variation in birth weight ($p\text{-value} < 0.05$). The regression equation was as follow

$$\text{Birth weight} = (-508.3713) + 84.8122 \text{ gestational age at delivery} + 22.7043 \text{ weight change during pregnancy} + (-0.0163) \text{ family income.}$$