



The Birth Weight of Newborn Babies in Kolkata is Associated with the Socio-economic Status and Nutritional Status of Mothers

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KEYWORDS Low Birth Weight. Nutritional Status. Nutrients Deficiency. Pregnant Women Socio-economic Status

ABSTRACT The birth weight of a baby may be influenced by several factors. The present study has been undertaken to assess the association between the birth weight of babies born in a government hospital in Kolkata and the nutritional status of mother and/or the SES of the family. In the present study the mean birth weight was found to be 2.56 kg, and 33.3 percent of the newborns were found to be low birth weight (LBW). The pregnant mothers were suffering from deficiencies in the intake of energy, protein, calcium and iron during 3rd trimester. The percent deficiencies of these nutrients and the post delivery body weight and BMI of mothers were found to be correlated with the birth weight of babies. The SES of the family along with the monthly income of the family, education level of parents and percent deficiency of energy during 3rd trimester were associated with the birth weight. Thus, the study indicates that the birth weight of the babies is associated with the SES and deficiency in the intake of energy, iron, calcium, protein during pregnancy.