

**Deanship of Graduate Studies  
Al-Quds University**



**The Effect of Adequacy of Ante-natal Care on Birth  
Weight in Gaza Governorates**

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# **The Effect of Adequacy of Ante-natal Care on Birth Weight in Gaza Governorates**

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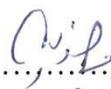
### Thesis Approval

## The Effect of Adequacy of Ante-natal Care on Birth Weight in Gaza Governorates

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Jerusalem – Palestine

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## **Dedication**

This work is dedicated to my father who did everything easy for me, my mother who is a model of great strength and love and praying for me every time.

My husband, my sons whose support, encouragement, and love made this endeavor possible.

## **Declaration**

I certify that this thesis submitted for the degree of Master, is the result of my own research, except where otherwise acknowledged, and that this study (or any part of the same) has not been submitted for a higher degree to any other university or institution.

**Signed**

**Maryam Shaath**

**Date: / / 2018**

## **Acknowledgment**

First of all, praise to Allah, the lord of the world, and peace and blessings of Allah be upon the noblest of all Prophets and messengers, our prophet Mohammed, all thanks for Allah who granted me the help and capability to complete this thesis.

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**Maryam Shaath**

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## **Abstract**

Antenatal care plays an important role in the prevention of low birth weight (LBW). Timely and accurate antenatal care is believed to be an important factor in preventing pregnancy complications. This study aimed to assess the effect of adequacy of ante-natal care on birth weight in Gaza Governorates. The study adopted case-control design on 138 mothers (69 cases from babies those who have low birth weight, and 69 of those who have normal baby weight) taken by convenient sampling method from Nasser medical complex and Shifa medical complex. The researcher used a questionnaire as a tool for data collection. Different statistical procedures were used for data analysis including percentages, mean, Chi-square, fisher exact test, multiple and simple logistic regression. Logistic regression analysis was used to predict the probability that the infant would have low birth weight. Variables with  $p < 0.25$  which applied to all mothers in this study and which have statistical significance association with birth weight were selected as predictors. They were: eclampsia, still birth, abortion, mothers' work, and medications during pregnancy, history of obstetric risks, abruptio placenta, para, gestational diabetes mellitus, specialist, adequacy of received services, and place of ANC, chronic health problems, family size, and physician as a health care provider. Adequacy of received services had an effect on birth weight and there was a difference between case and control, but this difference did not reach to a significant association ( $p\text{-value} = .08$ ) The study results revealed that the mothers who have eclampsia during pregnancy have increased the odds to deliver babies with low birth weight The study results revealed that the mothers who had eclampsia were more likely to get baby with low birth weight five times than the mothers had not the case. Mothers who had previous abortion more than one time were more likely to get baby with low birth weight two times and half than the mothers never have abortion. Employed Mothers were at higher risk to get low birth weight three times and half than unemployed mothers. The study concluded that the adequacy of antenatal care have a positive effect on birth weight, but not crucial effect as other factors played this role of effect such as abortion, eclampsia, and maternal occupation. The researcher recommends conducting preventing and treatment measures for the mothers who have abortion and eclampsia. Further studies are needed in future to include and detect other factors related to prenatal care which may have effect on birth weight

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## List of Abbreviations

ANC	Antenatal Care
LBW	Low Birth Weight
MOH	Ministry of Health
PHC	Primary Health Care
UNICEF	The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UNRWA	United Nation Relief and Work Agency
WHO	World Health Organization
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organization
LMICs	Low and Middle Income Countries
PNCC	Prenatal Care Coordination
SPSS	Statistical Package for the Social Sciences
PHCs	Palestinian Health Care System.
EBCOG	European Board and College of Obstetrics and Gynecology
APNCU	Adequacy of Prenatal Care Utilization Index