

ABSTRACT

Globally, 2.6 million newborns expired in 2016. It meant that 7,000 newborns died every day. The biggest number of newborn deaths took place in Southern Asia and it was 39% of total deaths. The neonatal mortality rate decreased by 49% from 37 deaths per 1000 live births in 1990 to 19 in 2016. In Myanmar, neonatal mortality rate also fell by 48% from 48 deaths per 1000 live births in 1990 to 25 in 2016.

Hospital based cross sectional descriptive study with both quantitative and qualitative approaches were conducted at Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) of Yangon Central Women's Hospital (CWH) during September – October, 2018. It was carried out to assess the neonatal mortality trend, to describe the mortality proportion among the baby admitted, to identify the primary leading causes of mortality, and to explore the strengths & weaknesses of health care services given at NICU.

Within five years duration (2013 - 2017), the proportion of death among admitted baby was in the range of 6.97% to 10.36%. Neonatal mortality rate gradually increased up to 20.0 per thousand live births in 2017 from 14.7 in 2013. Primary leading causes of mortality are asphyxia, immaturity, infection, malformation & others. "Immaturity" took the first position in three consecutive years (2015 – 2017) and second position in two consecutive years (2013 & 2014). However, "Infection" took the fifth position in three consecutive years (2013 – 2015), third and second position in 2016 and 2017 respectively.

Well-functioning cleaning system on materials and proper hand washing practice were strengths for infection control. Presence of many varieties of machines (ventilators, incubators, warmers beds, etc.) and establishment of proper maintenance system were also strengths of NICU.

Human resource limitation especially well-trained nurses who had neonatal special training were big challenges for NICU.