

Title of the abstract**Barriers and enablers of kangaroo mother care services in India****Authors**

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Background:

Despite KMC being a game changer, the uptake and implementation of KMC in India has been slow. Understanding the barriers and enablers of KMC will aid in the scale up of KMC.

Methodology:

An evaluation of KMC was conducted in 2013 in 10 purposively sampled teaching institutes with staff trained in KMC. A consultant-led team interviewed key informants and observed services. A short survey questionnaire (SSQ) was also mailed to key neonatologists across the country. The SSQ addressed various aspects of KMC implementation, including assessment of strengths and barriers. Purposive and snowball sampling strategies were used.

Results:

Ninety-eight (98) of the 135 respondents completed the question on strengths regarding KMC implementation and 97 the question on barriers to the implementation of KMC.

Factors that appeared to be perceived as barriers in more facilities were the lack of sufficient space, inadequate human resources and problems related to client responses to KMC. However, there were many more positive responses related to training for staff and staff attitudes and readiness towards KMC practice. The main themes and sub-themes identified were:

- Higher-level support from administrators
- Staff availability
- Staff readiness – training; attitudes, observed effects of KMC
- Infrastructure – space; equipment (beds, chairs, KMC wraps / “bags”); audio-visual and educational materials, TV); access of caregivers to babies
- Clients – preparedness, motivation, confidence, education and socio-economic status; home situation

Conclusions:

Barriers and enablers could be seen as two sides of the same coin. Scale up of KMC needs to address these barriers and strengthen the enablers.