

Title: "Hondurain Experience with the Kangaroo Mother Method 1992 – 1998"

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The "Kangaroo Mother" method was implemented in Honduras since August 1992, after a trip made one week in Bogotá at the mother Infant Institute of Santafé in a program paid by UNICEF.

This short but very helpful experience was enriched by being attended by the founders of "Kangaroo Mother Program" Dr. Héctor Martínez Gómez and Dr. Edgar Rey Sanabria.

In Honduras this method was implemented. Simultaneously in two different hospitals in the capital. The School Hospital (S.H), which is a general hospital with 20,000 newborns every year and in the Honduran Social Security hospital with some 7,000 newborns every year.

This could be done due to the coincidence that one of the doctors worked simultaneously in both hospitals with the help of a breast feeding technique and nursery personnel.

At the beginning a program Committee of "Kangaroo mother" in both hospitals was created, due to a team work interdisciplinary with excellent results.

Up to now December 1998, there have been 1598 newborns incorporated to the program, with a prevalence of the mother and the newborn of less than 2000 grams.

During all this time, special training courses have been provided for medical and nursery staff inside the mentioned hospitals and others like La Paz and Santa Bárbara achieving the expansion of the program in three Departments (states).

The impact that this method has created in different aspects is widely known, mainly:

1. An increment in **EXCLUSIVE MOTHER BREAST FEEDING** (up to the six months of life) of 40% to the social Security and of 70% of the School Hospital.
2. Dismissal of hospital day stay in 25% to the social Security and 50% to the school hospital.
3. Institutional savings for more than a quarter million of dollars.
4. A reduction in the ambulatory mortality rate from 7-4% (School Hospital) and from 6-1% (Social Security).
5. Helps the coordination between different institutions.
6. Motivates the family solidarity in the care of the newborn.
7. Helps family unity.
8. Introduction of the method in the curriculum of medicine and nursing.
9. National and International recognition of the method.
10. Extraordinary advances in perinatal attention.
11. Wide area for investigation.

Difficulties in the implementation of Kangaroo Mother Method:

1. At the beginning the incorporation of this program generated resistance of medical and nursery personnel by considering it as excessive work.
2. Capacitation error
 - Inadequate selection of personnel.
 - Insufficient capacitation of personnel.
1. Inadequate coordination between UNICEF and the Public Health Ministry.
2. Due to the developing of the Kangaroo Mother method in an operative level, we do not have still a compromise from health authorities.

3. The new government doesn't give continuation to the policies took by the previous health authorities.
4. Shortage of an own economical budget.
5. UNICEF has included the Kangaroo method as part of the breast feeding program.
6. There is not enough human resourses mainly nurses.
7. Overload of managment funtion for the coodinator.