

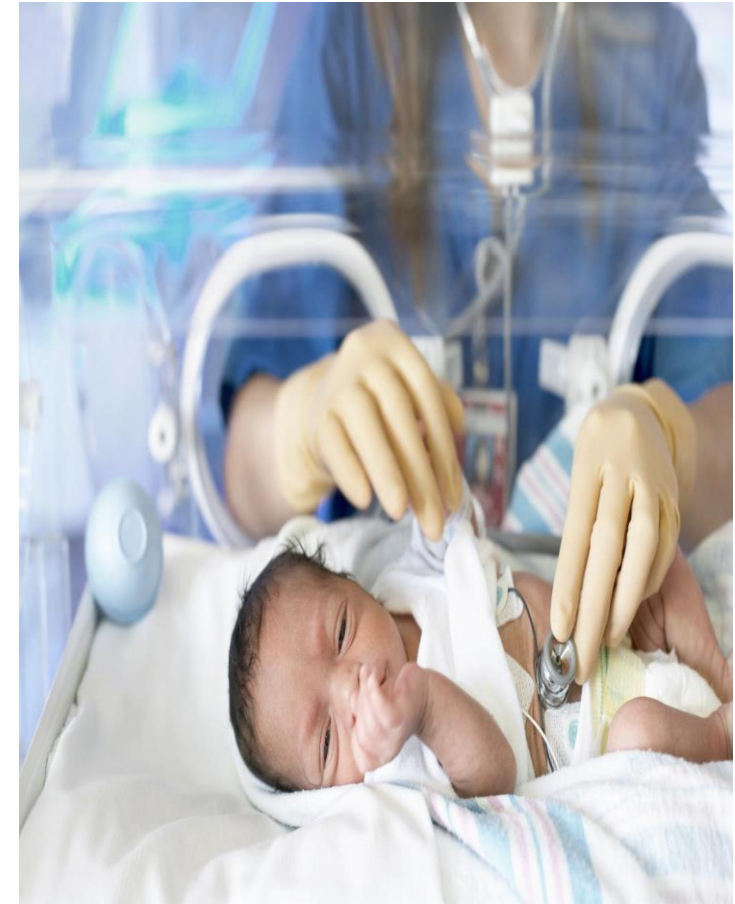
# **INTRODUCTION TO HUMAN DEVELOPMENT II**

## **UNIT 2**

### **LESSON 4 – COMPLICATIONS DURING CHILD BIRTH**

# COMPLICATIONS DURING CHILD BIRTH

- **Pre term infants or premature infants** are born prior to 38 weeks after conception . Because they do not have time to develop fully, preterm infants are at high risk for illness and death.
- The danger largely depends on the child's weight at birth.
- The average newborn weighs between 2.5 to 3.5 kgs , low birth weight infants weigh less than 2.5 kgs.
- Such neonates are highly vulnerable to infection and because their lungs are not fully developed , they have problems taking in oxygen. As a consequence they may face , respiratory distress syndrome with potentially fatal consequences.
- To deal with respiratory distress syndrome, low birthweight infants are often placed in incubators (enclosures) where temperature and oxygen content are carefully monitored.



- Preterm neonates are unusually sensitive to the sights, sounds and sensations they experience and their breathing may be interrupted. They often are unable to move smoothly, with uncoordinated arm and leg movements that can be a cause of worry for parents.
- Despite the difficulties they face at birth, the majority of preterm infants eventually develop normally. However, they develop more slowly and may be susceptible to subtle problems later.
- **Very low Birth Weight Infants:**
- These infants weigh less than 1.2 kgs or have been in the womb for less than 30 weeks.
- They are tiny in size, their eyes may be fused shut and their skin is darkened red in colour.
- They need a lot of medical care to survive.

- A baby born earlier than 25 weeks has less than a 50-50 chance of survival.
- Young mothers are more prone to deliver prematurely than older ones.
- Frequent deliveries also tend to have a preterm or low birthweight infant than a woman whose reproductive system has had a chance to recover.
- Fathers age matters too. Wives of older fathers are more likely to have preterm deliveries.
- Factors that affect the general health of the mother- nutritious , medical care, stress, economic support etc all are related to prematurity and low birth weight.

- **Post mature babies:**

- A baby who spends extra time in the womb ie those still unborn after 2 weeks mothers due date face risks.
- Labor is riskier if the foetus is nearly the size of 1 month old infant that has to make its way through the birth canal.

- **Labor that does not progress**

- Sometimes contractions weaken, the cervix does not dilate enough or in a timely manner, or the infant's descent in the birth canal does not proceed smoothly. If labor is not progressing, a health care provider may give the woman medications to increase contractions and speed up labor, or the woman may need a cesarean delivery.

- **Problems with the umbilical cord:**

- The umbilical cord may get caught on an arm or leg as the infant travels through the birth canal. Typically, a doctor intervenes if the cord becomes wrapped around the infant's neck, is compressed, or comes out before the infant.

- **Perineal tears:**

- A woman's vagina and the surrounding tissues are likely to tear during the delivery process. Sometimes these tears heal on their own. If a tear is more serious or the woman is unable to deliver, she is given a surgical cut between the vagina and anus to facilitate the baby to come out .

Thus, the Complications at Birth.