



SECTION 3

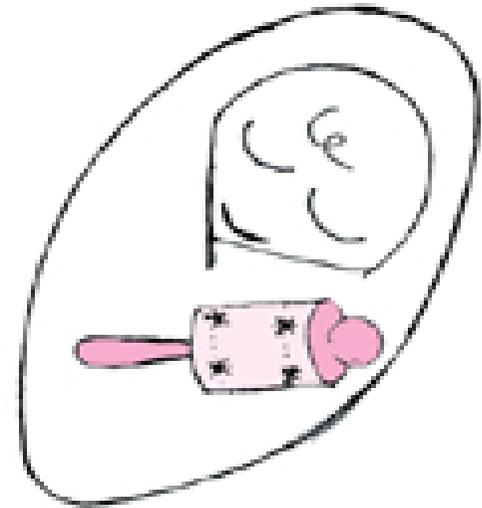
Basic Clinical Interventions for Maternal and Newborn Complications

Session 6-3: Birth Registration

Every child has a right to a name and nationality.

- Article 7, Section 1 of the Convention of the Rights of the Child states that:

“The child shall be registered immediately after birth and shall have the right from birth to a name, the right to acquire a nationality and, as far as possible, the right to know and be cared for by her or his parents.”



Birth registration

- the official recording of the birth of a child by some administrative level of the state and coordinated by a particular branch of government. It is a permanent and official record of a child's existence.



Importance of birth registration

- Gives identity to a person
- It not only gives a child a recognized legal existence and identity, it is the sign that a child 'belongs' to a family, a community and a nation.
- Ticket to citizenship, without it a person does not officially exist and lacks legal access to the privileges and protection of a nation.



Importance of birth registration



- Opens door for accessing other fundamental rights such as:
 - Right to education and health
 - Right to family environment
 - Protection against exploitation and abuse
 - Juvenile justice
 - State benefits and participation in the society
- The registration of a child's birth enables that child to obtain a birth certificate.
- A fully registered birth and the accompanying birth certificate help a child secure the right to his or her origins, to a nationality and also help to safeguard other human rights.

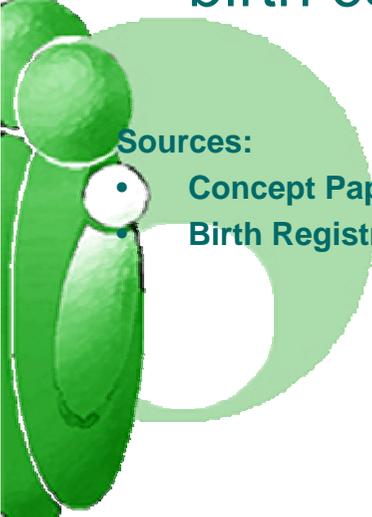
Importance of birth certificate

- A birth certificate is the most visible evidence of a government's legal recognition of the existence of a child as a member of society.
- If a child is not registered at birth and has no birth record, he or she will not have a birth certificate with that all-important proof of their name and their relationship with their parents and the state.
- Indeed, a birth certificate is the document that generally determines the nationality of the child, as many countries grant nationality according to place of birth.



Responsibilities of the midwives

- Get information from the parents for the filling-up of the birth registration form.
- Follow-up the filing of the birth certificate.
- Ensure that the mother gets a copy of the registered birth certificate.



Sources:

- **Concept Paper on Birth and Death Registration.** Downloaded at www.pria.org/downloadfile/birthdeath1.pdf
- **Birth Registration - Right From the Start** Downloaded at www.unicef-icdc.org/publications/pfd/digest9e.pdf