

KNOWLEDGE REGARDING CHILD ABUSE AMONG MOTHERS OF UNDER FIVE CHILDREN IN SELECTED RURAL AREAS OF CHOLANAGAR, BANGALORE

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ABSTRACT

Child abuse comprises an act of violence, psychological abuse, neglect, physical abuse or sexual abuse perpetrated against children. Globally, a huge proportion of children self-report events of abuse, with prevalence rates of sexual abuse, physical abuse, emotional abuse, physical neglect and emotional neglect being 12.7%, 22.6%, 36.3%, 16.3% and 18.4%, respectively. Quantitative Research Approach was used for the current study. Research design was Pre - experimental one group pre-test post-test design. The sample of the study was Mothers of under five children from selected Cholanagar rural community area of Bangalore, who will fulfill the inclusion criteria. The sample size was 100 Mothers of under 5-year children from Cholanagar rural community area of Bangalore. Probability purposive sampling technique was performed for the study.

Key Words: Knowledge, child abuse, under five children.

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INTRODUCTION

Childhood is a fundamental stage in life that establishes and forms one's personality. According to Erikson's theory of psychosocial development, innovation versus guilt occurs during the preschool years, when children develop their social world and learn to behave purposefully to deal with challenges. The behaviors normally presented by children at this stage include sleep disorders, nutritional problems, toilet problems, urinary incontinence, gender identity development, mood swings, selfishness, and stubbornness. These characteristics mainly appear due to changes in the capabilities of 3-6-year-old children may cause behavioral changes and child abuse in parents. (Shahla khosravan 2018)

Child abuse is widespread and can occur in any cultural, ethnic, or income group. Child abuse can be physical, emotional, verbal, or sexual. It can also result from neglect. Outcomes of child abuse can result in both short and long-term injury or even death. Some children may be unaware that they are victims of child abuse. Child abuse is a kind of domestic violence that involves all forms of physical, emotional, and sexual maltreatment and negligence of children under the age of 18 which potentially or damages all aspects of their health. The prevalence of sexual and physical child abuse has respectively been estimated to be about 4 per 1000 cases (Dorothy R 2002) Parents normally tend to be perfect and are concerned about their child's development; however, they sometimes give themselves the right to punish their children in whatever manner they prefer and cause the most common type of domestic violence, i.e., child abuse. The lack of the knowledge, skills, and competence necessary for the care of children and meeting their safety, developmental, and nutritional needs are the most common factors contributing to child abuse and impaired parenting, which involves all families, not just high-risk families. (Wise Deborah 2011)

Children are vulnerable and need love, care, shelter, and protection from their caretakers for appropriate growth and development. Abuses against these tender beings often blight their childhood, leading to inability in reaching their full potential—both physically and mentally. [Lissauer T, Carroll W, 2017]

Though child maltreatment has existed for many centuries, contemporary societies have either remained in denial or have been snail-paced to acknowledge them as issues. India houses the second largest child population—India houses 19% of the total children worldwide and 18% among them are below 18 years old. [Subramaniyan VK, Mital A, Rao C, Chandra G, 2017]

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

E A Ancy et al 2016 conducted a study on Assess the Effectiveness of Structured Teaching Programme on Knowledge Regarding Child Abuse and its Prevention among the mothers of Under Five Children. Results: The Pretest level of knowledge was assessed and found that 15(50%) of mothers have average knowledge, 14(46.66%) of mothers have poor knowledge whereas only 1(3.34%) have good knowledge on prevention of child abuse. Comprehensive structured teaching was administered for the mother and after one week the post-test knowledge level was assessed which was 7.123* at df 29, highly significant at 0.05 level, which indicates that there is a significant improvement in knowledge of mothers regarding child abuse after undergoing structured teaching.

Şenol, F. B., & Üstündağ, A. (2021) aimed to increase parents' knowledge and awareness during the COVID-19 pandemic. They used social media applications and programs to reach parents with children between the ages of 4-6. The study had a pre-test, post-test, and control group design with 67 parents. The experimental group received the "Child Neglect and Abuse WhatsApp and Online Education Program" through messages and online training sessions. The control group did not receive any intervention. Data was collected using various scales. The results were analyzed using statistical tests. Overall, the study aimed to assess the effectiveness of the education program on parents' knowledge and awareness of child neglect and abuse..

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Quantitative Research Approach was used for the current study. Research design was pre-experimental one group pre-test post-test design. The sample of the study was Mothers of under five children from selected Cholanagar rural community area of Bangalore, who will fulfill the inclusion criteria. The sample size was 100 Mothers of under 5-year children from cholanagar rural community area of Bangalore. Probability purposive sampling technique was performed for the study.

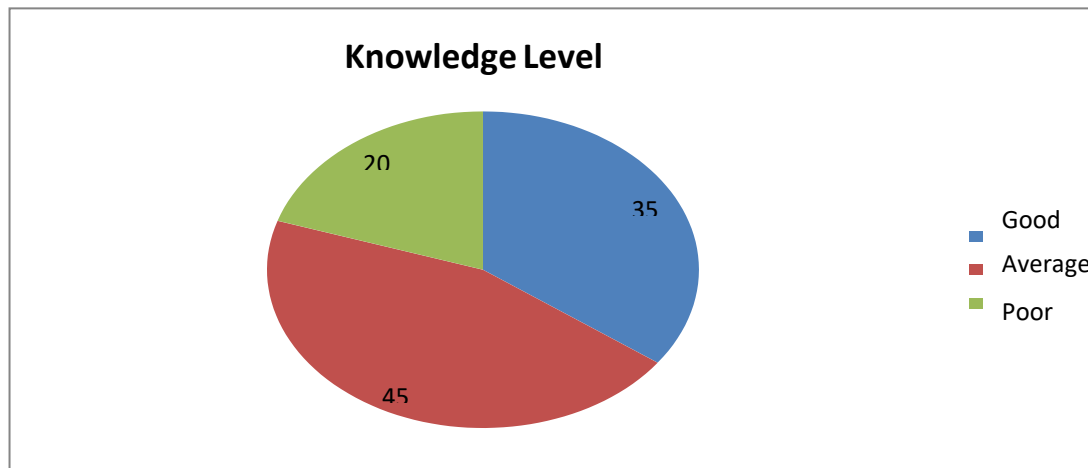
DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

OBJECTIVE: To assess the knowledge regarding child abuse among mothers of under five children

The distribution of knowledge regarding child abuse among these mothers is categorized as good, average, and poor. Here's a professional-looking distribution table:

Table .1 Assessment of the knowledge regarding child abuse among mothers of under five children

Knowledge Level	Frequency
Good	35
Average	45
Poor	20
Total	100

**Calculation of the mean, median, and mode for this data:**

Mean=Total Frequency $\sum$ Frequency $\times$ Score Mean=100(35 $\times$ 3)+(45 $\times$ 2)+(20 $\times$ 1)

Mean=2.15

Median: Since the data is already arranged in order of magnitude, the median is the middle value. In this case, since there are 100 data points, the median will be the average of the 50th and 51st values, which are in the "Average" category.

Median=2

Mode: The mode is the value that appears most frequently in the data. In this case, the mode is "Average" as it has the highest frequency.

Therefore, for this distribution, the mean knowledge level is 2.15 (approximately), the median is 2, and the mode is "Average." These statistics provide a summary of the knowledge distribution among the mothers in the study.

CONCLUSION

These findings will serve as a baseline to assess the knowledge regarding child abuse among mothers of under five children. Child abuse is widespread and can occur in any cultural, ethnic or income group. Mothers should have knowledge regarding child abuse so that they can protect their under five children.

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