

A Study To Assess The Knowledge Regarding Child Abuse Among Mother's In Selected Residential Areas Of Delhi-NCR

Jyotsna Jacob¹, Kanika Kumar²

¹(Assistant Professor, Amity College of Nursing, Gurugram)

²(Tutor, Amity College of Nursing, Gurugram)

Corresponding Author: Jyotsna Jacob

Abstract: Child abuse is a significant problem that requires an effective means of prevention. Child abuse encompasses a spectrum of abusive actions or acts of commission and lack of action or acts of omission of children. It is a broad concept therefore it has 4 subtypes that represent the existing pattern of child abuse globally and they are physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect and psychological abuse. The objectives of the study were to assess the level of knowledge regarding child abuse among mothers and to find association between the knowledge of mothers and selected baseline data. Hence a descriptive study was adopted for the study to collect data from 100 mothers selected by convenient sampling technique. The study was conducted in selected residential areas of Delhi-NCR. The tools used for data collection was structured knowledge questionnaire to assess knowledge regarding child abuse. The analysis of the study revealed that most of the mothers (60%) had good level of knowledge regarding child abuse, about (37%) of them had average knowledge and only 3% of mothers had poor level of knowledge.

Keywords - Child abuse; knowledge; mothers

Date of Submission: 17-11-2018

Date of acceptance: 02-12-2018

I. Introduction

According to WHO: "Child abuse or maltreatment constitutes all forms of physical and/or emotional ill-treatment, sexual abuse, neglect or negligent treatment or commercial or other exploitation, resulting in actual or potential harm to the child's health, survival, development or dignity in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power. This can include parents' caretakers using extreme and bizarre form of punishment such as confinement in a closet or dark room or being tied to a chair for long periods of time or threatening or terrorizing a child. Less severe acts, but no less damaging is belittling or rejection treatment. Despite the absence of reliable global estimates for the prevalence of it as data, especially from low- and middle-income countries, various international studies reveal that approximately 20% of women and 5-10% of men report being sexually abused as children, while 25-50% of all children report being physically abused.

UN report releases shocking child abuse statistics in Australia during 2006. It is estimated that from the approximate 4 million population under the age of 14 years up to 600,000 Australian children have been abused. According to report in 2013, Child Sexual Assault in Juvenile Justice Homes, the Asian Centre for Human Rights said that sexual offences against children in India have reached epidemic proportion. The report stated that more than 48,000 child rape cases were recorded from 2001 to 2011 and that India saw an increase of 336% of child rape cases from 2001 (2,113 cases) to 2011 (7,112 cases).

Child sexual abuse can occur in a variety of places, including home, school or work places. Most child abuse occurs within the family. Risk factors include one parent child, broken families, family issues, work frustration, a parental history of childhood abuse, and domestic violence. Child neglect and mistreatment is also more common in families living in poverty and among young parents who are drug or alcohol abusers. Although it is certainly true that child abuse occurs outside the home, most often children are abused by a caregiver or someone they know, not a stranger. High prevalence levels of child abuse, neglect and labor is primarily attributable to the fact that primary education for children is not compulsory in India. Children away from school invariably perform work of some sort, either at home or outside and at wages that are often exploitative.

Prevention of child abuse is an inevitable part of the society. The impact of child maltreatment can be profound. Child abuse has negative outcome in children and adolescents that can extend into adulthood. Abused children often suffer physical injuries and stress that may disrupt early brain development. Children who are abused or neglected are at higher risk for health problems such as depression, alcoholism, drug abuse, smoking, sexual promiscuity, suicide and certain chronic diseases.

Out of the many parental causes of child abuse, the first reason is lack of knowledge among them. Parents tend to apply harsh form of disciplinary actions without knowing it actually is an abuse. Due to the

absence of knowledge, the parents, especially mothers show reluctance to report cases to authorities concerned with health care or legal protection. Hence mother's knowledge and family involvement in child's well-being and development plays a major role in prevention of child abuse. If parents have knowledge regarding child abuse, they can detect the signs of it and can prevent its occurrence by educating the child. The researcher has realized the increased incidence of child abuse, its serious long-term effects in life and deficiency of knowledge among mothers regarding prevention of child abuse. Hence the researcher felt the need to select this study and to assess the knowledge of mothers regarding prevention of child abuse.

II. Research Methodology

Research design

In this study non experimental simple descriptive research design is used.

Subjects and setting

In this study the sample was the mothers of children with 1-14 years of age residing in selected residential areas of Delhi-NCR.

Sample size and technique

The mothers were selected for the study by convenient sampling technique. The sample in the study consisted of hundred mothers who met the inclusion criteria.

Inclusion criteria:

- i. Mothers with children of age 1-14 years
- ii. Mothers who understand languages English and Hindi.
- iii. Mothers willing to participate in the study.

Exclusion criteria:

Mothers with psychological and physically illness.

Description of Tool

The tools used in the study are divided into two sections. **Section A:** Socio demographic characteristics of the mothers in relation to their age, education, occupation, socio-economic status, number of children, and previous source knowledge.

Section B: Structured knowledge questionnaire on prevention on child abuse with 21 items, which depicted the distribution of items in to three major areas: Concepts of child abuse (43%), signs and symptoms of child abuse (9%), prevention of child abuse (48%)

Validity and reliability

Content validity was done by 7 experts from the field of psychology and nursing. The reliability of the questionnaire was found by test re test method and Karl Pearson's correlation coefficient formula was found to be 0.88, which indicated that the tool was reliable

III. Result

Sample characteristics

The data revealed that highest (42%) of the mothers are in the age group of 20-25 years and about 28% of them were in the age group of 25-30 years. Majorities (44%) of the mothers were with 2 children, 41% of the mothers with 1 child, and only 2% mothers with more than 3 children. On viewing the educational status, maximum (46%) of them had senior secondary and only (4%) of them were illiterate. However, 41% of them were graduate & post graduate. According to their occupational status, the maximum (357%) of them were having private job and only 16% of them were housewives. The source of information, majority (69%) of the mothers had gained knowledge through newspapers, 59% of the mothers gained knowledge through television, 40% of the mothers had gained knowledge through internet, only 27% of the mothers gained knowledge through school programs.

Assessment of level of knowledge regarding child abuse

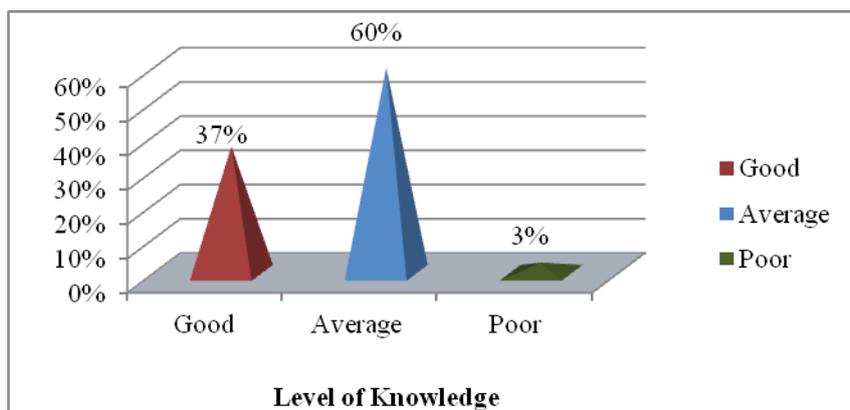


Figure 1: Pyramidal diagram showing the level of knowledge regarding child abuse among mothers

The data presented in figure 1 showed that majority of the mothers (60%) had average level of knowledge; about 30% of the mothers had good level of knowledge whereas only 3% had poor knowledge level. The overall mean knowledge score of mothers on prevention of child abuse is 16.72 ± 2.947 .

The study also revealed that there was no significant association was found between subjective well being and selected demographic variables.

IV. Discussion

The analysis of the study revealed that most of the mothers (60%) had good level of knowledge regarding child abuse, about (37%) of them had average knowledge and only 3% of mothers had poor level of knowledge. A similar study was conducted to assess the knowledge, attitudes and practice of child sexual abuse prevention education among parents. 385 parents of Grade 3 pupils from four schools in the northeast part of China were given self-administered anonymous questionnaires. Among this sample, more than 80% of parents approved of school child sexual abuse prevention education. However, at the same time, 47.3% of parents expressed some concern that this education may induce the children to learn too much about 'sex'. Only 4.2% of parents had provided books or other materials about child sexual abuse prevention for their children. The parents' knowledge on child sexual abuse prevention was inadequate.

Another study was conducted in India to assess the knowledge and attitude of parents on child abuse with the view to develop and evaluate self instructional guidelines on child abuse in selected government schools of Delhi. The findings revealed that there was a gain in knowledge and attitude scores indicated that printed material in the form of self-instructional guidelines was effective in increasing the knowledge and developing a positive attitude towards child abuse.

A child is a tender human being which needs support in all forms for its all-round development. It is very pathetic that many parents unknowingly abuse their child sometimes. They do not differentiate between the methods of disciplining the child and the form of abuse and neglect. Most of the situation they ignore to take preventive measures where their children could be a victim of child abuse. Thus, we affirmed the need for making parents aware about child abuse and how it can be prevented.

References

- [1]. A Fifi and et al. child abuse and health related quality of life in adult hood. 2007.Oct: 195(10) P : 797-804
- [2]. World Health Organization, International Society for Prevention of child maltreatment: a guide to taking action and generating evidence. 2006, Who and ISPCAN. p. 89.
- [3]. Managing child abuse, A handbook for medical officers. 2004, World Health Organization, Regional office of South East Asia: New delhi, India.
- [4]. What is child abuse? Child matters - educating to prevent child abuse, Childmatters.org.nz 2016.
- [5]. Adolescents in India :A profile, September (2000),United nations population fund ,New Delhi

Jyotsna Jacob. "A Study To Assess The Knowledge Regarding Child Abuse Among Mother's In Selected Residential Areas Of Delhi-Ncr" IOSR Journal of Nursing and Health Science (IOSR-JNHS) , vol. 7, no.6 , 2018, pp. 29-31.