

KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDE REGARDING CHILD ABUSE AMONG RURAL MOTHERS- A DESCRIPTIVE STUDY

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Abstract

The researchers conducted Descriptive Study to Assess the Knowledge and Attitude regarding Child Abuse among selected mothers of rural areas of Varanasi India. With the study objectives to assess the knowledge of mothers on child abuse, to assess the attitude of mothers on child abuse, To associate the level of knowledge on child abuse and demographic variable and to associate the level of attitude on child abuse and demographic variable. The study was conducted among 150 purposefully selected mothers of the selected rural areas in Varanasi India. After getting informed consent from the research participants, the levels of knowledge and on child abuse were collected using a validated tool. After organizing and analyzing the data the study results shows that 48% of the sample had inadequate knowledge, 34% had moderate knowledge & 18% had adequate knowledge. On assessing the attitude of the samples on child abuse the researchers understood that 2% of the sample had highly negative attitude, 2% sample had negative attitude, 18.6% sample had neutral attitude, 70% sample had positive attitude & 7.3% sample had highly positive attitude. The researchers associated the demographic variables with the knowledge on child abuse and there was no significant association at $p < 0.05$ and on associating the attitude on child abuse and the demographic variables there was no significant association at $p < 0.05$. The study concludes that the need for understanding the importance of protection of children against abuse is the need of the hour. Though the general attitude on the word "abuse" is positive yet on inquiring the knowledge there is a latency which has to be overcome to secure the future of our children and the country.

Keywords: Child abuse, Knowledge, Attitude, Varanasi

INTRODUCTION

Child abuse or child maltreatment is physical, sexual, and psychological maltreatment or neglect of a child or children, especially by a parent or a caregiver. Child abuse may include any act or failure to act by a parent or a care giver that results in actual or potential harm to a child, and can occur in a child's home, or in the organizations, schools or communities the child interacts with.. Child abuse is considered an act of commission in which intentional physical, mental or emotional harm is inflicted on a child by a parents or other person, it may include repeated injuries or unexplained cuts, bruises, fractures, burns or scars harsh punishment or sexual abuse or exploitation Physical abuse of a child is when a parents or caregiver causes any non-accidental physical injury to a child.

The number of cases registered for child abuse raised from 8,904 in the year 2014 to 14,913 in the year 2015, under the POSCO act. Sexual offences and kidnapping accounts for 81% of the

crime against minors.

Uttar Pradesh emerged as the state with highest child abuse cases (3,078), Preventive measures designed to ward off strangers were found to be ineffective as most of the offenders were either relatives, acquaintances or somebody they trust. Followed by Madhya Pradesh (1,687), Tamil Nadu (1,544), Karnataka (1,480) and Gujarat (1,416). According to recent released NCRB data, 32,608 cases were reported in 2017 while 39,827 cases were reported in 2018 under the protection of children from sexual offence Act (POCSO).

Nearly 3 in 4 children - or 300 million children - aged 2-4 years regularly suffer physical punishment and/or psychological violence at the hands of parents and caregivers. One in 5 women and 1 in 13 men report having been sexually abused as a child aged 0-17 years. 120 million girls and young women under 20 years of age have suffered some form of forced sexual contact.

Nonetheless, international studies reveal that nearly 3 in 4 children aged 2-4 years regularly suffer physical punishment and/or psychological violence at the hands of parents and caregivers, and 1 in 5 women and 1 in 13 men report having been sexually abused as a child.

METHODOLOGY

The researchers conducted a descriptive study to assess the knowledge and attitude of child abuse among 150 purposefully selected mothers of selected rural areas in Varanasi India. On calculating the sample size with one sample study method (dichotomous) with confidence level 99%, Margin of error 10%, Population Proportion 50%, and a population size 1000, the sample size was calculated to 143 samples with 10% attrition rate the sample size was finalized to 143±10 samples. Around 150 samples were conveniently selected for the study after obtaining informed consent from the study participants. After the study got approved from the institutional ethical committee (Ethical Approval letter no. API/ACN/Misc./2019-2020/356). After an extensive literature review survey questions were formulated and organized in sections of knowledge and attitude. Before administering the questionnaire to the study population, the face validity of the questionnaire was ensured by a committee of experts in research methodology, child health nursing, Community and Sociology. A pilot study was conducted on 30 pilot participants for ensuring the clarity and reliability of the questionnaire. Cronbach's alpha was used to evaluate the reliability which was found to be >0.72. The researchers randomly approached the subjects in each department and distributed the questionnaires. Complete anonymity was maintained to protect participants' identity and to ensure confidentiality of data.

Along with the basic demographic questions, the self-administered tool consisted of 2 important sections i.e. section -I consisted of 35 questions related to the knowledge. If the score is more than 75% then it was considered adequate knowledge, if the score is between 50-74% then it is considered moderately adequate knowledge and if it is less than 50% then it is considered inadequate knowledge.

Section-II consists of 15 statements to assess the attitude with 5-point likert scale. If the score is between 17-31 it is highly negative attitude, 32-45 is negative attitude, 46-59 is neutral attitude,

60-73 is positive attitude and 74-85 is highly positive attitude.

Before the collection of data, permission was obtained from the principal of Apex College of Nursing and Gram Pradhan (Sarpanch) of selected village of Varanasi District. The researchers then introduced themselves, took required oral and written consent from the study samples and gave instructions regarding tool. Each sample was given 20- 30 minutes to complete the questionnaire. Data analysis – The data was summarized, organized, tabulated & analyze according to the objectives of the study by using descriptive (frequency and percentage) and an inferential statistics (chi-square).

RESULTS

Data were collected, organized and analyzed according to the objectives laid down by the researchers. Out of the 150sample, 3 basic demographic details were collected 36.6% were mothers of age group 29-33years, 39.3% were mothers are high school and 76.6%were mothers are non-working.

SI NO.	DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES	OPTIONS	NUMBER	PERCENTAGES
1	Age	a)18-23years	14	9.35%
		b)24-28years	42	28%
		c)29-33years	55	36.6%
		d)34-38years	26	17.3%
		e)above 39years	12	8%
2	Education of mothers	a)Primary school	34	22.6%
		b)High school	59	39.3%
		c)Diploma	6	4%
		d)Graduate	47	31.3%
		e)P.G.& Above	4	2.6%
3	Occupation	Working	35	23.3%
		Nonworking	115	76.6%

On assessing the knowledge of the sample on child abuse the researchers understood that 48% of the sample had inadequate knowledge, 34% had moderate knowledge & 18% had adequate knowledge.

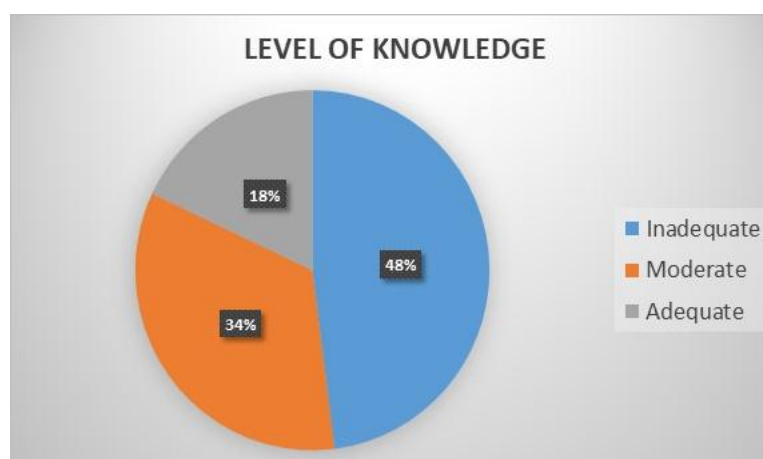


Figure: 1 Distribution of Level of knowledge on child abuse

On assessing the attitude of the samples on child abuse the researchers understood that 2% of the sample had highly negative attitude, 2% sample had negative attitude,18.6% sample had neutral attitude, 70% sample had positive attitude & 7.3% sample had highly positive attitude.

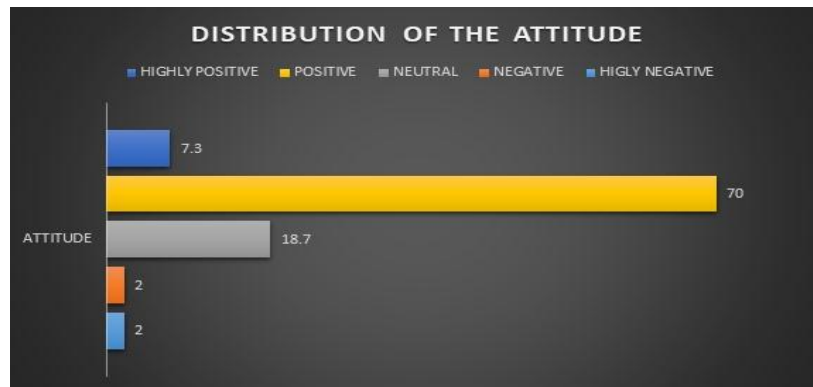


Fig. 2 – Distribution of The Attitude On Child Abuse

On associating the age and the knowledge on child abuse of the study participants the χ^2 value is 0.2273 and p-value is 0.99. There is no significant association between the age and the knowledge on child abuse. On associating the age and the knowledge on child abuse of the study participants the χ^2 value is 0.2956 and p-value is 0.99. There is no significant association between the education and the knowledge on child abuse. On associating the occupation and the knowledge on child abuse of the study participants the χ^2 value is 0.0228 and p-value is 0.98. There is no significant association between the age and the knowledge on child abuse.

On associating the age and the attitude on child abuse of the study participants the χ^2 value is 5.6522 and p-value is 0.99. There is no significant association between the age and the attitude on child abuse. On associating the age and the attitude on child abuse of the study participants the χ^2 value is 21.0004 and p-value is 0.178. There is no significant association between the education and the attitude on child abuse. On associating the occupation and the attitude on child abuse of the study participants the χ^2 value is 0.4 and p-value is 0.9824. There is no significant association between the age and the attitude on child abuse.

CONCLUSION

The study was conducted among 150 purposefully selected mothers of the selected rural areas in Varanasi India. The levels of knowledge and on child abuse were collected using a validated tool. After organizing and analyzing the data the study shows that 48% of the sample had inadequate knowledge and 70% sample had positive attitude. The researchers associated the demographic variables with the knowledge on child abuse and there was no significant association at $p < 0.05$ and on associating the attitude on child abuse and the demographic variables there was no significant association at $p < 0.05$.

The study concludes that the need for understanding the importance of protection of children against abuse is the need of the hour. Though the general attitude on the word abuse is positive yet on inquiring the knowledge there is a latency which has to be overcome to secure the future of our children and the country.

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