

A STUDY TO ASSESS THE KNOWLEDGE OF MOTHERS REGARDING PREVENTION OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AT KILA RAIPUR, DISTRICT LUDHIANA, PUNJAB

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Abstract

The descriptive study was conducted among 30 mothers of Kila Raipur, District Ludhiana, Punjab. The study refers to the mothers who are having children below 15 years old. Quantitative approach and descriptive research design were used. Data were collected through a self-structured knowledge questionnaire to assess the knowledge of mothers regarding prevention of child sexual abuse. Findings of the study revealed that (95%) mothers had average knowledge and (5%) mothers had adequate knowledge regarding prevention of child sexual abuse. Among all other demographic variables only source of information giving significant relationship with knowledge level regarding prevention of child sexual abuse.

Keywords: Child Sexual Abuse, Knowledge, Mothers

INTRODUCTION

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. Child abuse has serious physical and psycho-social consequences which adversely affect the health and overall well-being of a child.

Child abuse is not just an individual or familial problem. Children who survive abuse grow up more likely to negatively impact our society in many ways, which may be in form of violence, crime, drugs abuse and disease. Child abuse is a community problem and unless the community is aware of the issue, the extent of the problem and of their role in stopping and preventing child abuse, more and more children, families and communities will suffer.

The US department of health and human services drawing from reports from state child protective service agencies estimated that, 12 in 1000 children were abused resulting in a total of 905,000 child victims. By far the most common type of child abuse was neglect rates of child abuse in the US per 1000 children in 2006. Neglect 7.6% physical abuse 2.0% sexual abuse 1.1% emotional and psychological abuse 0.9%. The world health organization reported approximately 31,000 deaths attributed to homicide among children less than 15 years of age. Each year more than 40 million children around the world abused below the age of 15 suffer from abuse and neglect.

In the Indian society the mother plays a significant role in upbringing the child. If mothers have knowledge regarding child abuse, she can detect the signs and prevent the occurrence of child abuse. Actions can be taken to create awareness thereby protecting the rights of the child and pave the path for a better, healthy and safe future for our children.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To assess the knowledge of mothers regarding prevention of child sexual abuse.
- To find out the association between the knowledge of mothers regarding prevention of child sexual abuse with the selected socio – demographic variables.

METHODOLOGY

Quantitative approach and descriptive research group research design is used. The study will be conducted at Kila Raipur, District Ludhiana, Punjab. The target population will be mothers having children below 15 years of age in Kila Raipur, District Ludhiana, Punjab. The sample size for the study was 30 mothers of selected village Kila Raipur, District Ludhiana, Punjab. Data has been collected through forms within 10 days' time period of the month of February 2021.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

Major Findings are:

Findings related to sample characteristics of infertile women:

Regarding majority that the age group of students 17(37%) were 19-20 years, 15 (50%) were 21-22 years, 4 (14%) were 23-24years. No of children 10 (34%) were in one, 15 (50%) were in two, 5 (17%) were in more. Education of mothers 5 (17%) were in primary, 10 (34%) were in secondary, 13 (44%) were in higher education, 2 (7%) in illiterate. Type of family 7 (28%) were in nuclear family, 23 (77%) were in joint family.

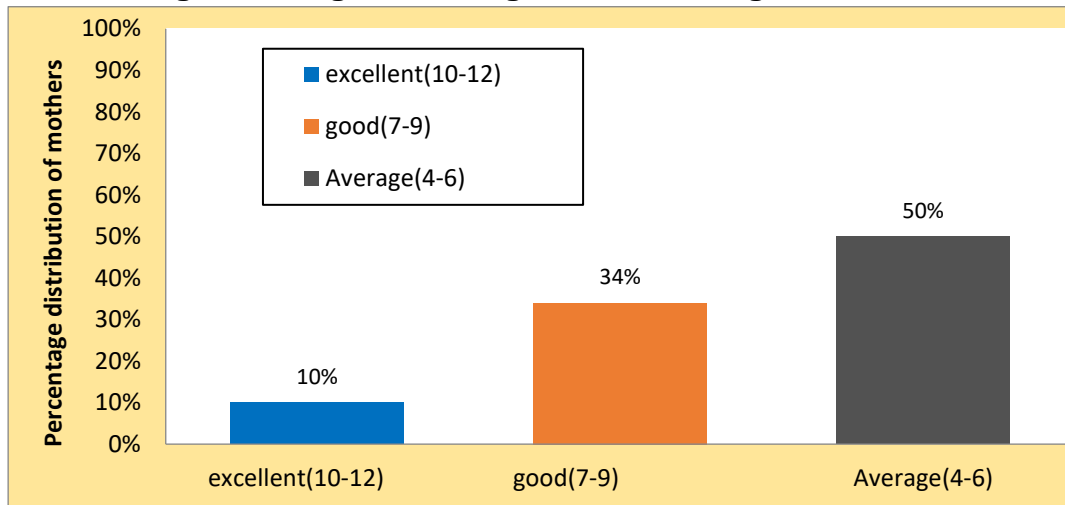
Table 1: Frequency and percentage of knowledge of mothers regarding prevention of child sexual abuse

N=30

Level of knowledge	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Excellent (10-12)	3	10
Good(7-9)	10	34
Average (4-6)	15	50
Poor(0-3)	2	7

Table 1: depicts that majority 3 (10%) mothers had excellent knowledge, 10 (34%) mothers had good knowledge, 15(50%) mothers had average knowledge and only mothers 2 (7) had poor knowledge.

Fig 1: Bar Diagram showing level of knowledge of mothers



Association between the knowledge of mothers with selected demographical variables

There is an association between the knowledge of mothers found to be statistically significant ($p < 0.05$) whereas the association of knowledge with the remaining socio demographic variables did not reach the level of statistical significance ($p > 0.05$).

DISCUSSION

Jagraj Singh et.al conducted a comparative study to assess the knowledge regarding child abuse among parents residing in selected rural and urban areas of Jalandhar, Punjab. Total 100 parents are selected with purposive sampling technique i.e. 50 from rural and 50 from urban area. Self-structured knowledge questionnaire containing 34 questions was used to collect data. Results depicted that mean knowledge score of parents (rural areas) and parents (urban areas) were $19.64 + 5.44$ and $24.22 + 5.81$ respectively. Hence it was inferred that parents residing in urban areas had more knowledge regarding child abuse than parents residing in rural areas.

Mahnaz Jabraeili et.al conducted a cross-sectional study to determine the mothers attitudes toward child abuse among mothers referring health centers of Tabriz. In this study 261 mothers referred to the 13 health centers of Tabriz with children aged 2-12, they were selected by multistage method and their attitudes were assessed by using a questionnaire within 2 months. The results showed that the mean score of total attitude toward child abuse was significantly higher than the middle and was significantly associated with mothers’ educational level, employment status, number of children they have, and economic status.

LIMITATION OF STUDY

The study sample was confined only to the mothers. Only women’s who fulfil the inclusion criteria are included in this study, there are several limitations of this study. Future analysis to determine the relationship between demographic characteristics.

CONCLUSION

The conclusion gives a brief account of present study. The study finding concluded that majority 3(10%) mothers had excellent knowledge, 10 (34%) mothers had good knowledge, 15(50%) mothers had average knowledge and only mothers 2(7) had poor knowledge. It is concluded that majority of the subjects have average knowledge of mothers regarding prevention of child sexual abuse in selected rural areas of Khanna, Punjab.

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