

Effectiveness of Structured Teaching Program on Knowledge and Attitude on Prevention of Child Abuse among Mothers at Selected Community

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Abstract

Objectives/Aim: Increased violence against young people encompasses all forms of violence occurring between ages 1 to 18 years old. This violence can be mitigated through the implementation of preventive measures. Efforts to prevent and address violence against children necessitate society, healthcare workers, and various organizations to systematically tackle risk and protective factors across the four interconnected levels of risk. Child abuse prevention is an integral aspect of society. The study's objectives are to assess mothers' knowledge and attitudes concerning child abuse prevention, identify correlations between their knowledge and attitudes, and examine associations between knowledge and attitudes and selected demographic variables. **Materials and Methods:** An Evaluative Research Approach and a Quasi-Experimental Research Design were adopted for this study. A Convenience sampling technique was used to select a sample size of 100 participants. The tools utilized for the study included demographic questions and a questionnaire assessing mothers' knowledge and attitudes about child abuse prevention for children under 18 years old. Data collection spanned two weeks. The collected data was compiled, analyzed, and interpreted using descriptive statistics in alignment with the study's objectives. The findings reveal the levels of knowledge and attitudes concerning child abuse prevention among mothers with children under 18 years of age. **Conclusion:** The purpose of this study was to assess the knowledge and attitude among mothers having children under the age of 18 years. The above findings shows that mothers had a poor level of knowledge and moderately favourable attitudes regarding the prevention of child abuse. On the whole, carrying out the present study was truly an enriching experience for the investigator. It also helped a great deal in exploring and improving the knowledge of both researcher and the respondents.

Keywords: structured teaching program, child abuse, mothers, community.

Introduction

The increased Violence against young people includes all types of violence, that occurs between 1-18years old. This violence may be manifest as child maltreatment including sexual and emotional abuse, neglect or physical violence often perpetrated by parents or other authority figures. Both genders (boys or girls) are at same risk of physical assault and emotional neglect and abuse. Females are at greater risk of sexual abuse or violence, which can often lead to unwanted pregnancies or sexually transmitted diseases. As young people in this age group reach adolescence, peer violence and intimate partner violence, in addition to child maltreatment, become highly prevalent. Violence against children can be prevented by implementing preventive measures. Preventing and addressing violence against children requires the efforts of society, healthcare workers and other organizations to systematically address the risk and protective factors at all four interrelated levels of risk (individual, relationship, community, society).

In May 2016, the World Health Assembly endorsed the first ever WHO Global Plan of Action, which focuses on strengthening the roles of the health system within a national multisectoral response to combat child neglect and interpersonal violence, particularly against girls, women, and children.

The implementation of the Online Child Abuse Database Management System aims to go beyond addressing the impact of child abuse by identifying its root causes and ways to prevent it. This application is designed to track statistics based on reports of child abuse and help reduce crime rates. It centralizes a database of all scheme-related information. This computerized system verifies and generates reports of incidents involving abusive parents and physical or sexual abuse. The Child Abuse application will also maintain vital information about child abuse laws and provide details about at-risk children. It addresses challenges such as proper documentation, which includes preventing the misplacement of vital information or cases due to the large volume of work handled, duplicated efforts, inconsistencies in activities, and the time spent searching for files or reports needed for processing

Statement of the Problem:

Effectiveness of structured teaching program on knowledge and attitude on prevention of child abuse among mothers at selected community

Objectives of the Study:

- Assess the level of knowledge and attitude regarding prevention of child abuse among mothers.
- Find the correlation between the level of knowledge and attitude regarding prevention of child abuse among mothers.
- Find out the association of knowledge and attitude with selected demographic variables.

Material and Method

The study adopted on evaluative research approach. The study was conducted in selected community area. The inclusion criteria were people who were willing to participate in the study, People who are at the time of data collection and exclusion criteria was those mothers who were not available on the time of data collection.

The tool had three parts:

Part 1 Demographic profile

Part 2 Knowledge questionnaire for mothers regarding child abuse and its prevention

Part 3 Attitude scale to find the attitude of mothers regarding child abuse and its prevention

The data collection was done in 1week through printed forms. The study was initiated after obtaining IHEC Approval, prior permission from Principal, Chettinad College of Nursing.

Results and Discussion

Section I

Table 1: Frequency and percentage distribution of demographic variables of the mothers having children under 18 years.

N=100

Demographic Variables	No	%
Age of the mother [in years]		
20-25	25	25
26-30	26	26
31-35	35	35
36-40	14	14
Education of the mother		
primary education	20	20
Secondary education	36	36
Graduated	23	23
Uneducated	21	21
Occupation		
daily wages	34	34
government job	16	16
private job	23	23
Unemployed	27	27
Family monthly income		
less than 10000	36	36
10000 to 20000	41	41
more than 20000	23	23
Number of child in the family		
One	36	36
Two child	44	44
Three and more child	20	20
Type of the family		
nuclear family	57	57
joint family	43	43
Ever talked with childrens about child abuse		
Yes	40	40
No	60	60

The table 1 shows that majority of mothers 35(35%) were in the age group of 31 to 35 years, 36(36%) had secondary education, 34(34%) were daily wages, 41(41%) had a family monthly income of 10000 to 20000, 44(44%) had two children in the family, 57(57%) belonged to nuclear family and 60(60%) of mothers didn't talk about child abuse with the children.

Section II

Table 2: Frequency and percentage distribution of level of knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse among mothers having children under 18 years.

N = 100

Level of knowledge	Distribution of mother	
	F	%
Poor [$<50\%$]	83	83
Average [$51 \pm 75\%$]	8	8
Good [$>75\%$]	9	9

The table 2 shows that majority of mothers 83(83%) had poor knowledge, 9(9%) had good knowledge and 8(8%) had average knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse among mothers having children under 18 years.

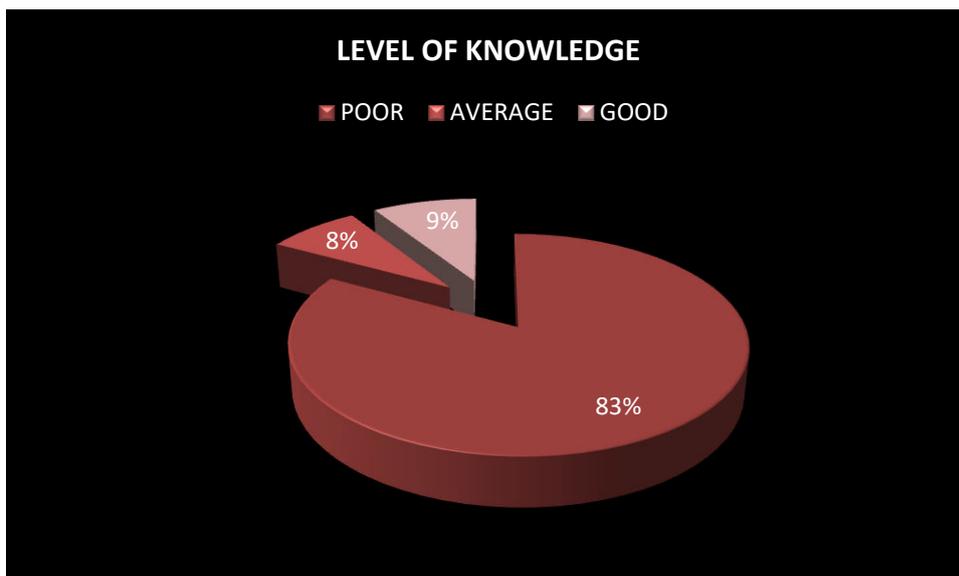
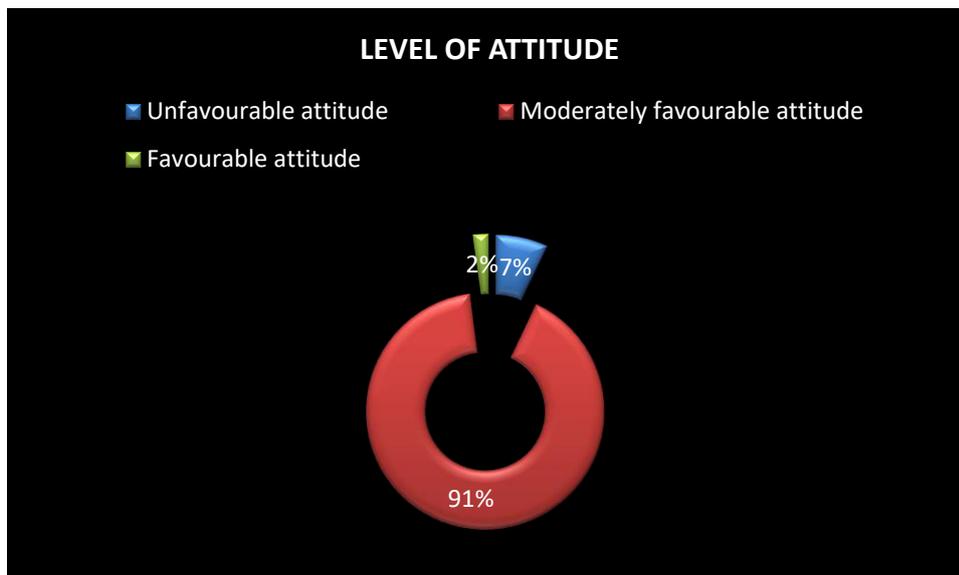


Table 3: Frequency and percentage distribution of level of attitude regarding prevention of child abuse among mothers having children under 18 years.

N = 100

Level of attitude	Distribution of mother	
	F	%
Unfavourable attitude [0-17]	7	7
Moderately favourable attitude[18-36]	91	91
Favourable attitude [37-50]	2	2

The table 3 shows that majority of mothers 91(91%) had moderately favourable attitude, 7(7%) had unfavourable attitude and 2(2%) had favourable attitude regarding prevention of child abuse among mothers having children under 18 years.



Section III

Table 4: Correlation between level of knowledge and attitude regarding prevention of child abuse among mothers having children under 18 years

N = 100

Variable	Overall Score	Mean	S.D	'r' value
Knowledge	20	5.72	3.698	r=0.046
Attitude	50	24.60	6.366	

**p<0.01, S ± Significant

The table 4 shows that the mean score of knowledge was 5.72 ± 3.698 and the mean score of attitude was 24.60 ± 6.366 . The calculated Karl Pearson's value of $r=0.046$ shows a moderate positive correlation and it was found to be statistically significant at $p<0.01$ level.

Section IV

Table 5: Association of level of knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse among mothers having school age children with their selected demographic variables

N = 100

Demographic Variables	Poor [<50%]		Average [51 ± 75%]		Good [>75%]		Chi Square Value
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	
Age of the mother [in years]							
20-25	21	21.0	2	2.0	2	2.0	$\chi^2=2.698$ d.f = 6 p = 0.845 N.S
26-30	21	21.0	3	3.0	2	2.0	
31-35	30	30.0	1	1.0	4	4.0	
36-40	11	11.0	2	2.0	1	1.0	
Education of the mother							

primary education	16	16.0	2	2.0	2	2.0	$\chi^2=2.716$ d.f = 6 p = 0.843 N.S
Secondary education	32	32.0	2	2.0	2	2.0	
Graduated	17	17.0	3	3.0	3	3.0	
Uneducated	18	18.0	1	1.0	2	2.0	
Occupation							
daily wages	27	27.0	4	4.0	3	3.0	$\chi^2=8.187$ d.f = 6 p = 0.224 N.S
government job	12	12.0	0	0.0	4	4.0	
private job	20	20.0	2	2.0	1	1.0	
Unemployed	24	24.0	2	2.0	1	1.0	
Family monthly income							
less than 10000	32	32.0	3	3.0	1	1.0	$\chi^2=6.393$ d.f = 4 p = 0.171 N.S
10000 to 20000	32	32.0	5	5.0	4	4.0	
more than 20000	19	19.0	0	0.0	4	4.0	
Number of child in the family							
One child	29	29.0	4	4.0	3	3.0	$\chi^2=9.962$ d.f = 4 p = 0.041 S
Two child	41	41.0	0	0.0	3	3.0	
Three and more	13	13.0	4	4.0	3	3.0	
Type of the family							
nuclear family	45	45.0	5	5.0	7	7.0	$\chi^2=1.946$ d.f = 2 p = 0.377 N.S
joint family	38	38.0	3	3.0	2	2.0	
Ever talked with children about child abuse							
Yes	33	33.0	3	3.0	4	4.0	$\chi^2=0.097$ d.f = 2 p = 0.952N.S
No	50	50.0	5	5.0	5	5.0	

*p<0.05, S ± Significant, N.S ± Not Significant

The table 5 shows that the demographic variables number of child in the family had shown statistically significant association with level of knowledge at p<0.05 level and the other demographic variables had shown statistically non significant association with level of knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse among mothers having children under 18 years of age

Table 6: Association of level of attitude regarding prevention of child abuse among mothers having children under 18 years of age with their selected demographic variables.

N = 100

DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES	Unfavourable [<50%]		Moderately Favourable [51 ± 75%]		Favourable [>75%]		CHI SQUARE VALUE
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	
Age of the mother [in years]							
20-25	3	3.0	22	22.0	0	0.0	$\chi^2 = 8.042$ d.f = 6 p = 0.235 N.S
26-30	0	0.0	26	26.0	0	0.0	
31-35	4	4.0	30	30.0	1	1.0	
36-40	0	0.0	13	13.0	1	1.0	
Education of the mother							
primary education	1		19		0		$\chi^2 = 4.469$ d.f = 6 p = 0.613 N.S
Secondary education	4		31		1		
Graduated	2		20		1		
Uneducated	0		21		0		
Occupation							
daily wages	2		32		0		$\chi^2 = 5.311$ d.f = 6 p = 0.504 N.S
government job	1		14		1		
private job	3		19		1		
Unemployed	1		26		0		
Family monthly income							
less than 10000	2		34		0		$\chi^2 = 7.141$ d.f = 4 p = 0.128 N.S
10000 to 20000	3		38		0		
more than 20000	2		19		2		

Number of child in the family							
One child	2		32		2		$\chi^2=3.965$ d.f = 4 p = 0.410 N.S
Two child	3		41		0		
Three and more	2		18		0		
Type of the family							
nuclear family	6		50		1		$\chi^2=2.552$ d.f = 2 p = 0.279 N.S
joint family	1		41		1		
Ever talked with children about child abuse							
Yes	4		35		1		$\chi^2=1.030$ d.f = 2 p = 0.597N.S
No	3		56		1		

N.S ± Not Significant

The table 6 shows that none of the demographic variables had shown statistically significant association with level of attitude regarding prevention of child abuse among mothers having children under the age of 18 years

Discussion

The chapter presents the discussion of the data analyzed based on the study's objectives. The primary aim of the study was to assess the level of knowledge and attitude regarding the prevention of child abuse among mothers with children under the age of 18 years. The results are discussed below in alignment with the study's objectives.

The Majority of mothers 83(83%) had poor knowledge, 9(9%) had good knowledge and 8(8%) had average knowledge concerning the prevention of child abuse among mothers with children under 18 years.

In terms of attitude, the Majority of mothers 91(91%) had moderately favourable attitude, 7(7%) had an unfavourable attitude and 2(2%) had a favourable attitude regarding the prevention of child abuse among mothers with children under 18 years.

The Correlation between knowledge and attitude showed a mean score and standard deviation of 5.72 ± 3.698 and 24.60 ± 6.366 respectively. The calculated karlpearson correlation between knowledge and

attitude was $r=0.046$, indicating a moderately positive correlation. This correlation was found to be statistically significant with a p -value < 0.01 .

The data findings revealed a statistically significant association between the level of knowledge and the number of children in the family at a significance level of $p < 0.05$.

Regarding attitude, no significant association was found with demographic variables, as indicated by the calculated chi-square value, which was less than the table value at a significance level of $p < 0.05$.

Conclusion:

The purpose of this study was to assess the knowledge and attitude among mothers with children under the age of 18 years. The above findings indicate that the mothers had a poor level of knowledge and a moderately favorable attitude regarding the prevention of child abuse. Overall, conducting the present study was truly an enriching experience for the investigator. It also contributed significantly to the exploration and enhancement of the knowledge of both the researcher and the respondents.

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Conflict Of Interest

Conflict of interest: nil

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Ethical clearance: Chettinad Academy of Research and Education, Institutional Human Ethics Committee on 17.01.2023.

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