

KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDE OF MOTHERS TOWARDS THE PREVENTION OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

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Abstract

Objectives: To determine the correlation between knowledge and attitude of mothers of school-going children regarding the prevention of child sexual abuse to develop an informational booklet.

Methods: A quantitative research approach with a correlational descriptive design was used to conduct the current study. A 100 numbers of mothers having school-going children were selected by purposive sampling technique at Shyampur, Khordha, Odisha. A self-structured knowledge and attitudinal tool were used to find out the knowledge and attitude of mothers towards the prevention of child sexual abuse and their relationship.

Result: As per the statistical analysis 54%, 34%, 12% of mothers having average, good and poor level of knowledge on prevention of child sexual abuse respectively whereas 52%, 27%, 19% and 2% of mothers were having negative, positive, strongly positive and strongly negative attitude towards prevention of "child sexual abuse" respectively.

The findings from co relational analysis show that there was a significant positive relationship between the knowledge and attitude of mothers towards prevention of "child sexual abuse" as the 'r' value is 0.284 at p-value 0.004.

Conclusion: The study concluded that, mothers are having some knowledge towards the prevention of child sexual abuse but also possessing some degree of negative attitude towards the same which can be enhanced through information booklets and different awareness programs.

Keywords: Knowledge, attitude, prevention of child sexual abuse

Introduction

The major and social global problem is child abuse and which has been distributed to all the socio-economic class in both developed and developing countries.⁵and there are many social issues which may badly put an impact on them which includes childhood education, poverty, child employment and harassment and as they can't make their own decision, they must be legally cared by their parents.³

The current significant global issues are child abuse and which is having a serious effect on a child's mental, physical health, well-being and growth all through their lives. As per the WHO mostly based on child abuse prevention, child abuse is of four different types such as sexual abuse, physical violence, psychological exploitation, and child neglect.⁷ This can result from parents 'and caretaker's extreme and weird forms of punishment such as confinement to dimmed space or bind to a chair for a prolonged time or frightening a child. International study reveals that about 5-10 % of men and 20% of women report being sexually battered as children, at the same time physically abused children are about 25–50% despite of low reliable global estimation for the prevalence of it as data.⁶

Child sexual abuse" is a kind of child maltreatment in which a child will be used as a sexual stimulation by an adult or older adolescent.³Child sexual abuse can take place in a variety of places such as home, school, or workplaces. Within the family or in-home environment most of the child abuse occurs. Risk factors include single parent-child, disturbed families, improper family system, work dissatisfaction, a parental history of childhood abuse, and domestic brutality. Child neglect and mistreatment are also more frequent in families living with low economic status and among young parents with substance or alcohol abusers. Child abuse prevention is an inevitable element of the society. The impact of child ill-treatment can be profound. Child mistreatment harms children and adolescents that can lengthen into adulthood. Badly treated children frequently undergo physical injuries and psychological stress that may affect early brain development. Abused children are at higher risk for health issues such as depression, alcoholism, substance abuse, smoking, sexual promiscuity, suicide or self-harm, and certain chronic diseases.⁶

It is essential to recognize that child sexual abuse has a severe effect on the child's physical and psychological wellbeing and development during their lives as Child sexual abuse is terrifyingly

on the peak. In child protection practices the parents and other members should be aggressively involved in the primary level of child sexual abuse prevention.⁷

Government of India study on child abuse (UNICEF) the findings of the Study on Child Abuse indicate that a very large number of children in India are not even safe in their homes. Research reveals that the prevalence of child abuse is very lower among school-going children in contrast to those who do not go to school. Therefore to decrease the rate of abuse all pain must be taken to make sure that everyone should go to the school and that the school's environment must be protective, safe, violence-free, and stress must be put on to eradicate the physical punishment. So all nursing professionals must be responsible to recognize and report the cases and in the meantime, every parent has a major role to identify maltreatment of the child, try to understand their Psychological and behavioral condition also in the home the family members especially mothers must pay attention towards the child. So here the researcher took interest to know the knowledge and attitude of the mothers towards the prevention of child sexual abuse.¹⁰ From the extensive literature review, it is found that there is Increased concern about high rates of child sexual abuse has led to the demand for more prevention programs .²

Methodology

A descriptive study with a quantitative approach was conducted among the mothers who have school-going children belong to Shyampur Village, Odisha, Bhubaneswar. Data were collected by using a simple random sampling technique, a sample of 100 mothers using a self-structured demographic Performa and knowledge and attitude assessment questionnaire. Based on a literature review of studies self-structured Questionnaires were formulated by the investigator to assess the mother's knowledge and attitude about the prevention of child sexual abuse and their relationship. After obtaining the ethical clearance from the Institutional Review Board, study purposes were explained to the participant, informed written consent was obtained and self-structured questionnaires were administered. The respondent's participation was voluntary and the assessment was anonymous. Data of all the participants were kept private. Respondents were asked to answer a pretested predesigned tool. Tool validation was done by subject experts. Small scale version study was conducted with 20 samples and was found to be practicable with the reliability of 0.8 by using Cronbach alpha. The data were analyzed by using SPSS version 20. Descriptive statistics were applied to explain the socio demographical data, and to illustrate the

mother's attitude and knowledge towards prevention of "child sexual abuse" and inferential statistics was applied to assess the demographic association with knowledge and attitude.

Result

Total 100 numbers of mothers participated in the study among them most of the samples were housewife (84%) ages between 21-30 years (62%), under metric (38%), belonging to Hinduism (93%), having a nuclear family (67%) and two numbers of children (47%) with previous source of knowledge on prevention of child sexual abuse (88%) from mass media. (Table 1) Data analysis on mother's knowledge towards the prevention of child sexual abuse shows that maximum mothers having average, good, poor (54%, 34%, 12%) level of knowledge respectively. (Figure-1). Data on mother's attitudes towards the prevention of child sexual abuse find that maximum mothers having negative, positive, strongly positive, and strongly negative attitudes (52%, 27%, 19%,2%) respectively. (Figure 2). The findings from co relational analysis show that there was a significant positive co-relationship between the "knowledge and attitude" of mothers on prevention of" child sexual abuse as the" 'r' value is 0.284 at p-value 0.004. (Table 2)

Discussion

In the present study mother's knowledge towards prevention of "child sexual abuse" shows that mother's having average, good, poor (54%, 34%, 12%) level of knowledge respectively which is congruent with another two studies done by Alzoubi (2018) and Chen J (2007) which stated that majority of mothers were having adequate knowledge about child sexual abuse and it's prevention practices.^{1,4} In the current study, another one aspect is the attitude of mothers towards child sexual abuse prevention shows that majority of the mothers having negative, positive, strongly positive and strongly negative attitude (52%, 27%, 19%,2%) respectively which is contrast with one study done by Melkwa (2016) the study findings reveal that 379(98.7%) of parents had a positive attitude towards playing a greater role in child sexual abuse prevention.⁹

The findings from co relational analysis shows that there was significant positive co-relationship between the "knowledge and attitude" of mothers on prevention of "child sexual abuse" as the 'r' value is 0.284 at p-value 0.004 the study result is similar with another study by R.Punithavathi (2016) Correlation between the knowledge and attitude is a moderately positive correlation as the 'r' value is 0.503 shows statistically significant.⁸

Conclusion

The study concluded that, mothers are having some knowledge towards the prevention of child sexual abuse but also possessing some degree of negative attitude towards the same which can be enhanced through information booklets and different awareness programs. Perception and knowledge of mothers in preventing child sexual abuse has an important role. As per the current research findings, awareness of mothers is very essential about different aspects of child sexual abuse which includes types, “signs and symptoms” of child sexual abuse, and probable convicts. More attention should be focused on those who have a low socio-economic status and have lower educational background. All the efforts must be made to develop their knowledge and perception about the prevention of child sexual abuse. Hence there is a need for further research on this subject with larger samples which would generalize the understanding. It can be more beneficial if Child sexual abuse prevention will be added in the school curriculum and different awareness programs can be arranged at the school level to prevent child sexual abuse. Mass media communication like TV and newspaper can be introduced in the organization which gives support in child sexual abuse cases can add to the utilization of these services

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Ethical statement: This study was approved by the institutional ethical committee and the prior consent was taken before the collection of samples.

Conflict of interest: The author declares that there is no conflict of interest.

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Table 1. Socio-demographic data

N=100	
Age in (Yrs)	%
21-30	62
31-40	36
41-50	2
>50	Nil
Education	
Illiterate	14
Under metric	38
Metric	36
Graduate and above	12
Religion	
Hindu	93
Muslim	5
Christian	2
Others	Nil
Number of Child	
1	46

2	47
3	7
>3	Nil
Type of Family	
Nuclear	67
Joint	33
Extended	Nil
Occupation	
Government job	8
Private Job	2
Self employee	6
Housewife	84
Previous source of knowledge on child sexual abuse	
Book	1
Internet	11
Mass media	88

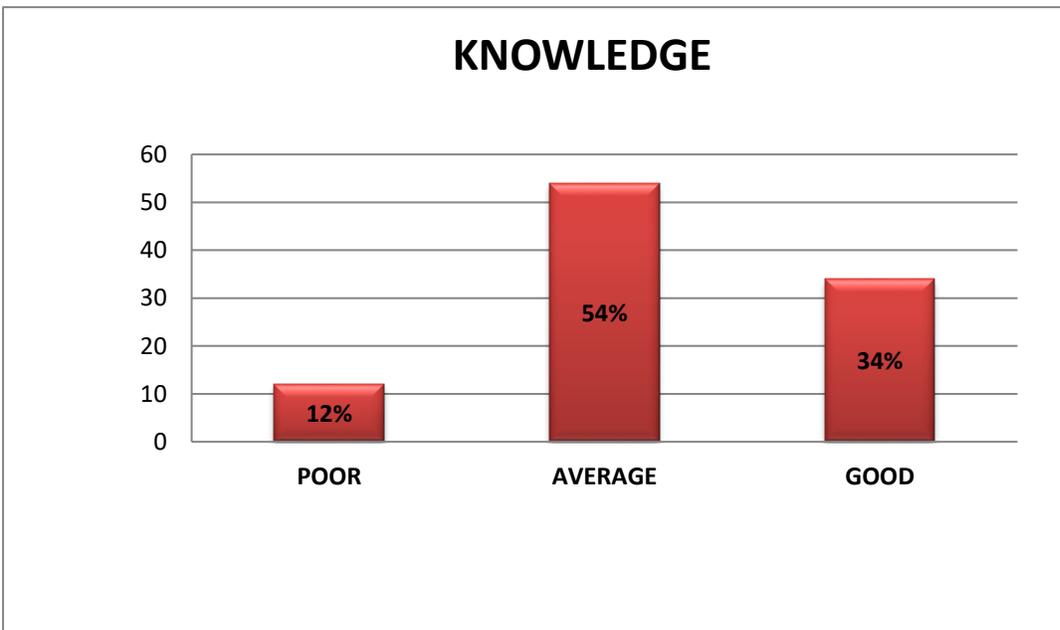


Figure 1. Percentage distribution of knowledge

Table 2:Correlation between knowledge and attitude.

SL NO	ITEMS	R VALUE	DF	P VALUE	INFERENCE
1	Knowledge	.283941	99	0.0040	Very statistically significant. (positive correlate.)
2	attitude				

Figure 2 Percentage distribution of Attitude

