



Awareness of Parents on Sexual Abuse Among Down Syndrome Children

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ABSTRACT

It is highly recommended that age-appropriate education in protective behavior begin in childhood and be reinforced throughout the life of the person with Down syndrome. Individual with Down syndrome must be taught the boundaries of normal Physical interactions in the social sphere, as we as the designating trusted individuals in settings that are frequented with whom to prevention training. In this regards these research had taken place, to participate in awareness program, with Simple Random Awareness of parents on sexual abuse among Down Syndrome Children sampling of 100 parents of children with Down syndrome will be collected through descriptive survey using a standard awareness inventory whether this parents are aware of educating their children about this Sexual appeal and how to overcome the physical need. It gives an idea about the importance of sex education and it should be imparted to Down syndrome children at early stage.

KEYWORDS : Sexual abuse, Down Syndrome, parents awareness and protection of children with DS & MR.

INTRODUCTION

Down syndrome is a genetic variation that affects one out of 800 to 1,000 babies born. Although all children are unique in their patterns of development, children born with Down syndrome learn differently. They have more variations in their intellectual, language, and movement development.

Symptoms of Down syndrome

The symptoms of Down syndrome can vary a great deal. However, these are some of most common symptoms of Down syndrome:

- Decreased muscle tone and loose joints
- Upward slant of the eyes
- Flattened face
- Depressed nasal bridge with smaller nose
- Mental retardation
- Small mouth
- Abnormally-shaped ears

Some children with Down syndrome also have visual, hearing, heart, and gastrointestinal problems. Many of these can now be corrected through medical interventions. With appropriate medical care, early intervention, education, and support throughout their lives, many adults with Down syndrome enjoy meaningful work and recreational opportunities. They may even live independent in the community.

The genetics of first comprehensive description of child with down syndrome was published in 1866 by John Langdon Down, MD. His description still guides doctors who often make the clinical diagnosis shortly after birth. Because there is considerable variation in physical characteristics among children with Down syndrome, doctors confirm the diagnosis with genetic or chromosomal testing. The genetic basis of Down syndrome was identified in 1959 by Jerome Lejeune and colleagues who found that Down syndrome was due to triplication of the 21st chromosome.

We are born with 46 chromosomes half are contributed by the mother and half contributed by the father, to equal 23 pairs. In Down syndrome, though, there are 47 chromosomes with an extra, or third, copy of chromosome 21, instead of two. That is why the scientific term down syndrome is "Trisomy 21".

Today, through a blood test, physicians look at the Karyotype to look for genetic abnormalities. A Karyotype is created by staining the chromosomes with dye and photographing them through a microscope.

- Sexual abuse is any type of sexual activity including inappropriate touching, vaginal, anal or oral penetration, rape or attempted rape, child molestation.
- As human beings, individuals with Down syndrome have the right to emotionally satisfying and culturally appropriate sexual expression.
- Sexual abuse is common among Down Syndrome children

NEED AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

- Most of parents and community people are not aware of the prevalence of sexual abuse among Down syndrome, its possibility, its signs, and treatment procedures.
- Down syndrome like normal children has emotions and feelings. These children have sexual feelings and needs affection from others. So this will lead to sexual abuse.
- The rapid increase of this problem and lesser studies on it has prompted the investigator to conduct a detailed study on that topic to reach useful conclusions to the family

Scope of the study

- Get an idea about how many parents aware about the concept of sexual abuse.
- Give information to social workers and special educators.
- Give awareness classes to the parents and school authorities.
- This study may find a way to prevent the occurrence of sexual abuse among Down syndrome children.
- It gives an idea about the importance of sex education and it should be imparted to Down syndrome children at early stage.

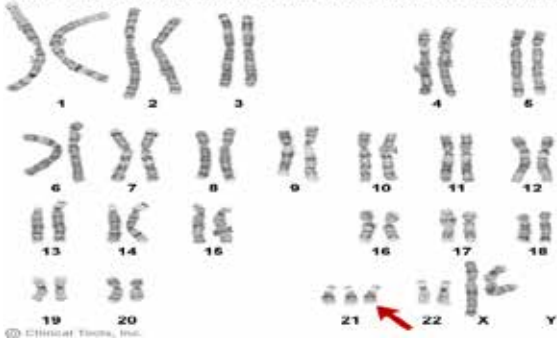
Statement of the problem

The present study attempts to probe the level of awareness regarding the concepts, signs, its possibilities, treatment procedures and legal action of sexual abuse among Down syndrome children. And also tries to analyze the awareness of parents with respect to certain selected socio demographical variable. Thus the study is entitled as "Awareness of parents on sexual abuse among children with down syndrome".

Operational Definition

- **Awareness:** The term awareness in this research refers to the knowledge and understanding of parents on sexual abuse among Down syndrome.
- **Parents:** Parents means father or mother of the children with Down syndrome
- **Sexual abuse:** sexual abuse as a act directed towards children with down syndrome involving threat or violence.
- **Down syndrome:** Down syndrome is a common chromosome disorder due to an extra chromosome number 21.

Karyotype From a Female With Down Syndrome (47,XX,+21)



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OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

General

To analyze the awareness of parents of Down syndrome on sexual abuse.

Specific

- To find out the level of awareness of parents on different concepts included in sexual abuse.
- To find out the level of awareness of parents regarding the factors which increase the possibilities of sexual abuse among Down syndrome
- To find out the level of awareness of parents regarding the signs of sexual abuse among Down syndrome.
- To find out the level of awareness of parents regarding the treatment procedures for Down syndrome
- To find out the level of awareness of parents regarding the legal actions for sexual abuse.

HYPOTHESIS

Null Hypothesis will be tested i.e., There is no significant relation between level of awareness of parents on sexual abuse among Down syndrome children with respect to selected socio demographic variable.

METHODOLOGY IN BRIEF

Simple Random sampling of 100 parents will be collected through descriptive survey using a standard awareness inventory. For data analysis standard descriptive statistical method will be used.

CONCLUSION

The present study revealed that few parents are aware on sexual abuse among Down syndrome children. Parents are first teacher, helper, facilitator and service provider to the children with Down syndrome. They play the key role in giving the proper information to the child and to protect them from the entire allegation of the surrounding people.