



KNOWLEDGE ON MOTHERS OF UNDER-FIVE CHILDREN REGARDING ORAL REHYDRATION THERAPY(ORS).

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ABSTRACT

Now a days diarrhea is one of the leading cause of child mortality in children below five years of age. Diarrhea will leads to dehydration in children so it is considered as a serious problem. A descriptive study was conducted to assess the knowledge regarding oral rehydration therapy among mothers of under five children in pediatric OPD of Upasana Hospital, Kollam. Descriptive research design was used. A structured questionnaire consisting of 25 questions were given to 60 mothers of under five children and data were collected. Results showed that the majority of mothers (43%) belongs to the age group of 25 – 29 years. Most of the mothers (32%) have educational qualification of pre degree. Among the study participants 63% of mothers have average knowledge about ORS therapy. There is significant association between knowledge score and educational level of mothers ($P > 0.05$). The study has brought out the fact that the level of knowledge regarding ORS therapy among mothers of under five children can prevent the risk of dehydration in children.

KEYWORDS : Knowledge; Ors Therapy; Mothers Of Underfive Children

INTRODUCTION

Children are the major part of our country so each one is responsible to protect their health. Mothers play an important role for caring of a baby. Mothers are the foremost providers of primary care for their children. Their understanding of basic nutrition and health measures strongly influences the health of their children.

Now a days diarrhea is one of the leading cause of child mortality in children below five years of age. Diarrhea will leads to dehydration in children. So it is considered as one of the serious problem in children. Maintenance of hydration and electrolyte is the appropriate management for diarrhea. The mortality rate has been brought down to less than 1% by effective rehydration therapy. Oral rehydration therapy is a type of fluid replacement used to prevent and treat dehydration, especially that related to diarrhea. It involves drinking water with modest amounts of sugar and salts, specifically sodium and potassium.

Between 1980 and 2006 ORT decreased the number of worldwide deaths from 5 million a year to 3 million a years. Deaths from diarrhea were the leading cause of infant mortality in the developing world until ORT was introduced. It is now the second leading cause of mortality for under five children; accounting for 17% of all deaths.

ORT is part of UNICEF, GOBI programme, a low cost programme to increase child survival in developing countries, including growth monitoring, ORT, breastfeeding and immunization. Despite the success and effectiveness of ORT, its uptake has recently slowed and even reversed in some developing countries. This raises concerns for increased mortality from diarrhea and highlights the need for effective community level behavioural change and global funding and policy. So the investigator decided to conduct a study to assess the knowledge regarding ORS therapy among mothers of under five children in pediatric out patient department of Upasana Hospital, Kollam

A descriptive study was conducted at Department of community medicine, V.M. Medical college and Satdavjang Hospital, in Newdelhi. The objective of the study was to assess the knowledge and attitude of mothers about oral rehydration solution out of total 457 mothers interviewed, 210 used oral rehydration solution. Only 38.7% of the mothers were able to feed the correct method of preparation and 416 had the knowledge about the exact quantity of ORS to given the child suffering from diarrhea 69.8% of the mothers had knowledge regarding the role. Among the ORS users most of them had the

correct knowledge regarding role of ORS during diarrhea (89.5%) and (67.6%) know how to prepare ORS. The study established that poor literacy status limits the ability of mothers to utilize ORS properly for preventing diarrheal induced dehydration.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

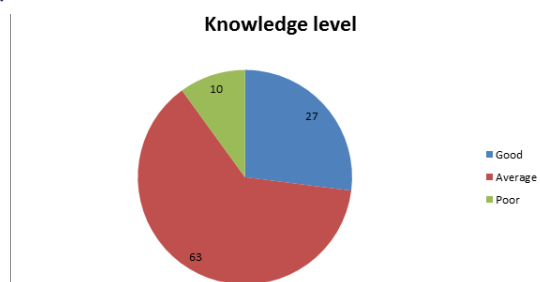
The study followed a descriptive research design using a quantitative approach. Formal permission was obtained from institutional research committee and ethical committee and department of public instruction. Data were collected over a period of 4 weeks. A total of 60 mothers satisfying the inclusion criteria were selected by consecutive sampling technique from selected hospital of Kollam district. The purpose of the study was well explained to the study subjects and informed written consent was obtained from samples. The investigator maintained good interpersonal relationship with the subjects and confidentiality was maintained for each subjects. socio-personal proforma - to assess the socio personal variables of the subject, Structured questionnaire - to assess the knowledge on mothers regarding ORS therapy.

RESULTS

A. SAMPLE CHARACTERISTICS

Majority (43%) of the subjects were in the age group of 25-29 years and 27% of subjects were in the age group of 20-24 years and 17% of subjects were in the age group of 30-34 years. Only 13% were in the age group of 35-39 years. Majority (48%) were included in Hindu religion, 25% were Christians and only 27% were included to Muslim religion. Majority (32%) of the mothers had an educational qualification of Pre degree, 30% had Graduation, 25% had SSLC and only 13% had Post graduation. Majority (60%) of mother's were housewives, 18% were doing private job and government jobs respectively, and only 3% were coolies. Majority (73%) of the subjects have previous knowledge regarding ORS therapy, 27% of mothers not having previous information on ORS therapy.

A) KNOWLEDGE REGARDING ORS THERAPY



B. ASSOCIATION BETWEEN LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE WITH DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLE

n=60

Sl no	Variables	Degrees of freedom	Chi square value	Level of significance
1	Age	4	0.767	P<0.05
2	Religion	2	1.37446	P<0.05
3	Education	4	15.1929	P>0.05
4	Occupation	3	7.764	P<0.05

The study found that 63% of mothers are having average knowledge and only 27% have good knowledge regarding oral rehydration therapy.

Association between emotional intelligence with selected demographic variables.

The study revealed that the level of knowledge had a significant association with mother's education ($X^2 = 15.192$, $P < 0.05$). Hence the hypothesis is supported. However there is no significant association of Knowledge score with other selected demographic variables such as age, religion and occupation.

DISCUSSION

The present study was designed to assess the knowledge regarding ORS therapy among mothers of under five children in pediatric OPD Upasana Hospital, Kollam.

SOCIO DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

In the present study among 60 samples 43% of samples belongs to the age group of 25-29 years. 38% of the participants were Hindus, 32% were passed pre degree, 61% mothers were house wives, 73% have previous knowledge about ORS. Both 27% have information from magazines and medical camps.

LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE

Majority of the participants 63% have average knowledge regarding ORS therapy, 27% have good knowledge regarding ORS therapy, and 10% have poor knowledge regarding ORS therapy.

Association between knowledge scores and selected demographic variables.

There is significant association between knowledge score and education. And there is no significant association between knowledge score and other demographic variables such as age, religion, occupation.

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