



IS THERE A DIFFERENCE IN KNOWLEDGE REGARDING CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AMONG CHILDREN OF RURAL AND URBAN COMMUNITY.

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Childhood is the most important phase of human development in which most of the foundation for one's personality develops. Child sexual abuse (CSA) is a very devastating childhood event with significant long-term and often lifelong consequences. Most children and families do not report cases of abuse and exploitation because of lack of awareness, stigma, fear, and lack of trust in the authorities.

Material and method: An analytical study was conducted during Jan 2018 on children selected using simple random sampling from government schools of rural and urban community and administered a knowledge questionnaire.

Results: Mean knowledge score of children in rural and urban community were 9.82 ± 2.49 & 7.44 ± 3.30 respectively and mean percentage was 65.46% & 49.6%. This difference in the mean scores was statistically significant at $p < 0.001$ level, indicating that children studying in schools of rural areas had more knowledge than children studying in schools of urban community.

Conclusion: The findings of the study reveals that knowledge of children regarding CSA is not adequate. Hence creating awareness of CSA among children is essential to reduce the prevalence of CSA.

KEYWORDS : Child sexual abuse, knowledge, children

INTRODUCTION

The issue of CSA is intricate and challenging to study. A variety of adult psychiatric disorders, including major depression, personality disorders, and self-harming behaviours have been linked to childhood sexual abuse.

Sexual violence against children is a gross violation of children's rights. It can take the form of sexual abuse, harassment, rape or sexual exploitation etc. Increasingly, the internet and mobile phones also put children at risk of sexual violence.

NEED OF THE STUDY

A few cases of abuse we see in the news are only a small part of the problem as many cases are not reported.

In our country most often the victims make no noise about their traumatic experience, which encourages offenders. So this secrecy has to be broken by making the children aware about CSA, its prevention and management. Although various studies are conducted to assess knowledge of mothers and other adults, studies to assess knowledge regarding CSA among children in India is not studied yet.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

A comparative study to assess the knowledge regarding CSA among children of selected schools in urban and rural community

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To assess the knowledge regarding CSA among children of urban community.
2. To assess the knowledge regarding CSA among children of rural community.
3. To compare the knowledge regarding CSA among children of both communities.

ETHICAL CONSIDERATION

- Ethical clearance has been taken from Ethical committee of the Institution.
- Prior to data collection, permission was obtained from the school authorities of respective schools & written Informed consent from the parents of subjects.
- All the children from the class 6th & 7th were given a video based teaching programme regarding CSA after the study.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Quantitative Analytical research design was utilized to compare the knowledge regarding CSA among selected children. A total of 200 children; 100 each from selected schools of rural and urban community respectively, were selected using the Simple Random Sampling technique.

Data collection was done using Semi-Structured Questionnaire. The tool consists of two parts. Part I includes socio-demographic variables of the participant and part II consists of 15 knowledge questions to assess knowledge regarding CSA among children.

The data is analysed and findings are presented as follows:

1. Section I: Description of socio-demographic variables using frequency and percentage
2. Section II: Assessment of knowledge regarding CSA among children of selected urban and rural community.
3. Section III: Comparison of knowledge regarding CSA among children of selected urban and rural community

RESULTS

Section - I

Table 1: Demographic characteristics of sample

(N=200)

Demographic variables	Category	Rural	Urban	Total (%)
		Frequency (%)	Frequency (%)	
Age (in yrs)	10-12	60(60)	71(71)	131(65.5)
	12-14	40(40)	29(29)	69(34.5)
Gender	Male	45(45)	50(50)	95(47.5)
	Female	55(55)	50(50)	105(52.5)
Religion	Hindu	92(92)	69(69)	161(80.5)
	Muslim	3(3)	15(15)	18(9)
	Other	5(5)	16(16)	21(10.5)
State	Maharashtra	99(99)	93(93)	192(96)
	Others	1(1)	7(7)	8(4)
Type of family	Nuclear	63(63)	63(63)	126(63)
	Joint	37(37)	37(37)	74(37)
No of Siblings	Nil	3(3)	2(2)	5(2.5)
	One	40(40)	13(13)	53(26.5)
	Two	41(41)	20(20)	61(30.5)
	>Two	16(16)	65(65)	81(40.5)
Sequence of birth	First	39(39)	31(31)	70(35)
	Second	47(47)	27(27)	74(37)

	Third	13(13)	24(24)	37(18.5)
	Fourth or more	1(1)	18(18)	19(9.5)

Figures in parenthesis indicates percentage

Section II

Table 2: Knowledge score of children in rural community (n= 100)

Knowledge score	Rural		Mean	SD
	Frequency	Percentage		
0 – 5 (Below average)	6	6	9.82	2.49
6 – 10 (Average)	46	46		
11 – 15 (Good)	48	48		
Total	100	100		

Table 2 shows that out of 100 children from rural community 48% have good knowledge, 46% have average knowledge and 6% have below average knowledge.

Table 3: Knowledge score of children in urban community (n= 100)

Knowledge score	Urban		Mean	SD
	Frequency	Percentage		
0 – 5 (Below average)	31	31	7.44	3.30
6 – 10 (Average)	47	47		
11 – 15 (Good)	22	22		
Total	100	100		

Table 3 shows that out of 100 children from urban community 22% have good knowledge, 47% have average knowledge and 31% have below average knowledge.

Figure 1 depicts that among children of rural community, 6% have below average knowledge, 46% have average knowledge and 48% have good knowledge. Among children of urban community, 31% have below average knowledge, 47% have average knowledge and 22% have good knowledge.

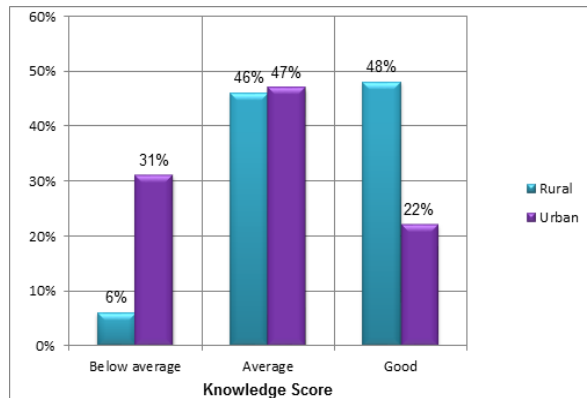


Figure 1: Knowledge regarding child sexual abuse

Table 4: Comparison of knowledge score in rural & urban community (n=200)

Parameter	Rural (n=100)		Urban (n=100)		MW test Z Value	P Value
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD		
Knowledge score	9.82	2.49	7.44	3.30	5.39	<0.0001

The mean knowledge score of children in rural areas was 9.82±2.49 and mean percentage was 65.46 % and mean knowledge score of children of urban community was 7.44±3.30 and mean knowledge percentage was 49.6%.

DISCUSSIONS

The present study was conducted to assess and compare the knowledge of CSA among school children of urban and rural communities. In this study, the age of the respondents ranged

from 10 years to 14 years and the majority (65.6%) belonged to the age group of 10-12 years in both urban and rural communities. The number of girls are slightly more (52.5%) in comparison with boys, especially in rural area (55%). A large majority of rural samples are Hindu (92%), where as in urban community, out of 100 children, 69 were Hindu and 15 were Muslims. Respondents from other religions (Christianity, Buddhism and Jainism) are 16% in urban and 5% in rural communities.

Nearly all respondents of rural community (99%) and 93% of urban community belong to Maharashtra, and remaining belong to states like UP, Bihar, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh. In rural community, 62% of mothers have higher school education, 23% have primary education, 13% have education up to the level of intermediate, 2% are illiterate and none are graduate. But in Urban Community 44% of mothers had high school education, 24% are illiterate, 22% had Primary education, 8% had education up to the level of intermediate and 2% are graduates. But in regard to father's education, at rural community, 54% of children have fathers educated up to high school level, 29% up to intermediate level, 13% have primary education, 3% are illiterate and 1% only is graduate. In Urban community, 46% of fathers are educated up to the level of high school, 22% have education up to the level of intermediate, 15% are illiterates, 14% have primary education and 3% are graduates.

In regard to the Occupation of Mother, in rural samples, 58% of mothers are unemployed, 25% are unskilled workers, 14% are semi-skilled worker, 3% are skilled workers and none are professionals. Whereas in urban community 45% are unemployed, 45% are unskilled workers, 8% are semi-skilled workers, 1% skilled worker and 1% is professional. In case to the Father's occupation, in rural samples, 41% are unskilled workers, 33% are semi-skilled workers, 24% are skilled workers, 2% are unemployed and none are professional. Whereas 43% of fathers in urban community are semi-skilled workers, 32% are unskilled workers, 13% are skilled workers, 12% are unemployed and nil are professionals.

It is also seen that, 63% families of rural children and 63% families of urban children are nuclear family, whereas 37% families of rural children and 37% families of rural children are joint families.

When children are categorised based on the number of sibling, 3% of rural children and 2% of urban children have no siblings. It also shows that 40% of rural children and 13% of urban children have one sibling, whereas 41% of rural children and 20% of urban children have two siblings. It was also seen that 16% of rural children and 65 % of urban children have more than two siblings.

Analysis of the data among children of urban community, indicated that their mean knowledge score is 7.44±3.30 and mean knowledge percentage is 49.6%. In urban area 47 (47%) children were having average knowledge followed by 31 (31%) children having below average knowledge and 22 (22%) were having good knowledge. Hence, it can be said that school children in urban area had average level of knowledge regarding CSA.

Analysis of data among children of rural community indicated that mean knowledge score is 9.82±2.49 and mean knowledge percentage is 65.46 % and in rural area 48 (48%) children were having good knowledge followed by 46 (46%) children having average knowledge and only 06 (6%) were having below average knowledge. Hence, it can be said that children studying in rural areas had good level of knowledge regarding CSA.

Analysis of data to compare the knowledge regarding CSA among children of rural and urban community indicated that mean knowledge score of children in rural areas was 9.82 ± 2.49 and mean percentage was 65.46 % and mean knowledge score of children of urban community was 7.44 ± 3.30 and mean knowledge percentage was 49.6%.

This difference in the mean scores was statistically significant at $p < 0.001$ level. Hence it is inferred that children studying in schools of rural areas have more knowledge than children studying in schools of urban community.

CONCLUSION

The present study assessed and compared the knowledge of CSA among children of selected schools from urban and rural community. It was found that mean knowledge score of rural community (9.82 ± 2.49) is higher than that of urban community (7.44 ± 3.30) showing that children of schools from rural community had better knowledge than children of schools from urban community. The mean knowledge percentage of children from rural community is 65.46% whereas that of children of urban community is 49.6% which reveals that knowledge of children regarding child sexual abuse is not adequate.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In view of the present study the following recommendations are put forth:

- A similar study should be conducted in larger settings and in different age group.
- A study to assess the prevalence of child sexual abuse also needs to be done.
- Workshops or school health programmes can be organized to create awareness among children, mothers school teachers etc.

The present study findings show that the mean knowledge score of the children of urban & rural community are not adequate. It has an effect on community nursing practice, nursing administration, nursing education, and in research.

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