



**KNOWLEDGE ATTITUDE & PRACTICE OF FIRST AID AMONG MOTHERS (OF CHILDREN LESS THAN 18 YEARS OF AGE) ATTENDING OUT PATIENT DEPARTMENT OF SUT ACADEMY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, VATTAPPARA**

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**ABSTRACT**

**Background .** Mother and children comprise a priority group, together comprising nearly 59% of the population. Children under 15 years comprise nearly 40% of the total population. Childhood injuries are very common and comprise the base of the injury pyramid for all ages. **Objective.** To assess the knowledge, attitude and practice of first aid among mothers(of children under 18 years of age) attending OPD of SUTAMS, Vattapara. **Methodology Study design.** Cross sectional study. **Study setting.** Outpatient department of SUTAMS. **Study period.** One month. **Study subjects.** mothers(of children less than 18 years of age)attending OPD of SUTAMS, Vattapara. **Study procedure.** A sample of 108 mothers were selected conveniently and interviewed at OPD settings of our hospital. Study method adopted was a structured interview schedule. Questions in the study tool were prepared in such a way that we could assess knowledge, attitude and practice among mothers. Correct answers were given a score of one and wrong answers zero. **Data entry and analysis.** The data was entered in MS Excel spreadsheet and analyzed using Epi info software. **Results:** Majority 56(51.85%) were in the age group of 20-30 years.The majority in study population were hindus. Majority of the study population has moderate knowledge about first aid. Almost all in the study population has a positive attitude towards first aid. 62.03% study population administered correct first aid following an injury **Conclusion.** Educational and awareness programmes can benefit this study population. Majority of the study population follows correct practice of first aid. The major source of information regarding first aid was found to be from mass media. It is worthy to include first aid in the curriculam of primary school education.

**KEYWORDS :** First aid, Mothers, Knowledge

**INTRODUCTION**

Injuries comprise 13% of the burden of morbidity worldwide.<sup>1</sup> In any community,mother and children comprise a priority group, together comprising nearly 59% of the population<sup>2</sup>. Children under 15 years comprise nearly 40% of the total population<sup>3</sup>. Childhood injuries are very common and comprise the base of the injury pyramid for all ages<sup>4</sup>.

**OBJECTIVE**

To assess the knowledge,attitude and practice of FIRST AID among mothers(of children under 18 years of age) attending OPD of SUTAMS, Vattapara.

**REVIEW OF LITERATURE:**

Injury may be defined as the presence of a body lesion due to an external cause either intentionally or unintentionally resulting from a sudden exposure to mechanical, electrical, thermal, chemical or radiant energy<sup>5</sup>. Childhood accidents are the main cause of death and a considerable cause of morbidity in children,as well as anxiety to adults<sup>6</sup>. In India,25% of children work in hazardous places,especially in rural area<sup>7</sup>. The American Academy of Pediatrics(AAP) has published simple guidelines for the first aid management of ill or injured children<sup>8</sup>. A quantitative survey of parents of children aged 5 years or under was performed in European Union member states in order to enable better targeting of prevention efforts aimed at educating parents<sup>9</sup>. 95% of parents reported that they personally take measures to avoid accidental injury to their children.

**MATERIAL AND METHODS**

**Study design.** Cross sectional study

**Study setting.** Outpatient department of SUTAMS.

**Study period.** One month.

**Study subjects.** Mothers(of children less than 18 years of age)attending OPD of SUTAMS, Vattapara.

**Study procedure.** A sample of 108 mothers were selected

conveniently and interviewed at OPD settings of our hospital.Study method adopted was a structured interview schedule.Questions in the study tool were prepared in such a way that we could assess knowledge,attitude and practice among mothers.Correct answers were given a score of one and wrong answers zero.

**Data entry and analysis.** The data was entered in MS Excel spreadsheet and analyzed using Epi info software.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

**Table 1:Table showing profile of the study population**

Age	Frequency	Percentage
20-30 years	52	48.15%
31-60 years	56	51.85%
Religion	Frequency	percent
Hindu	69	63.88%
Christian	15	13.88%
Muslim	24	22.22%
Education	Frequency	Percent
Low	34	31.48%
Medium	57	52.77%
High	17	15.74%
Injury	Frequency	Percent
Yes	33	30.55%
No	75	69.44%
First AID Administered	Frequency	Percent
Yes	23	69.69%
No	10	30.30%

Majority 56(51.85%) were in the age group of 20-30 years. The majority in study population were Hindus.The education of mothers were divided into three groups:low(up to primary school),medium(up to Diploma) and high(graduate/PG).Out of the 108 mothers in the study,33(30.55%) reported domestic injury(either to themselves or their family members)in the four weeks preceding the study. among the women who encountered injury, 23(69.69%) administered some form of first aid.

**Table 2: Table showing KAP results of study population**

Knowledge	Frequency	Percent
Low	41	37.96%
Moderate	49	45.37%
High	18	16.66%
Attitude	Frequency	Percent
Negative	8	7.40%
positive	100	92.59%
First Aid given	Frequency	Percent
Incorrect Administration	41	37.96%
Correct Administration	67	62.03%

Knowledge was assessed by 13 questions. Those who got 1-5 correct answers were considered as low knowledge group, 6-8 correct answers as moderate knowledge group and 10 or more as high knowledge group. Majority of the study population had moderate knowledge about first aid. Attitude was assessed by 4 questions. Those who got 1-2 correct answers were considered as less attitude group; 3-4 correct answers good group. Out of 100 mothers had positive attitude; had negative attitude. So majority in the study population had good attitude towards first aid. 62.03% study population administered correct first aid following an injury.

### CONCLUSION.

Majority of the study population has moderate knowledge about first aid. Almost all in the study population has a positive attitude towards first aid. So awareness programmes can benefit this study population. Majority of the study population follows correct practice of first aid. The major source of information regarding first aid was found to be from mass media. It is worthy to include first aid in the curriculum of primary school education.

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