



A STUDY TO ASSESS THE LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE ON RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS AMONG MOTHERS OF UNDER FIVE CHILDREN IN SELECTED AREAS AT KANCHEEPURAM DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT

Emergence of newer pathogenic organisms, reemergence of disease previously controlled, wide spread antibiotic resistance, and sub optimal immunization coverage even after many innovative efforts are major factors responsible for high incidence of Respiratory infections. Therefore a study was to assess the level of knowledge on Respiratory infections among mothers of under five children in selected areas at Kancheepuram district, Tamilnadu, India. The objectives were to assess the level of knowledge on Respiratory infections among mothers of under five children and to associate the level of knowledge on Respiratory infections with selected demographic variables. Non experimental - Descriptive research study was conducted. The study sample consisted of 60 mothers of under five children, the sample was selected using Simple random sampling. Data was analyzed by inferential statistics and presented through tables and figures. Findings revealed that mothers of under five children having moderate knowledge were 20(33%), inadequate knowledge was 16(26.7%) and adequate knowledge was 24(40%). Mean value(12.76), and standard deviation (SD) (0.69%) are as follows. There is significant association between (age in years) of the mother knowledge and there is no significant association between demographic variables (educational status, occupation, family income per month, types of family, number of children, age of child, sources of information on respiratory infections).

KEYWORDS : knowledge, mothers of under five children, control of respiratory infection.

INTRODUCTION

“The childhood shows the man as morning shows the day”

Children are an embodiment of our dreams and hopes for the future. They are wet clay in the potter’s hands; Handled with care they become something beautiful or else they break and become discarded. They are the most vulnerable group in the society.

WHO (2016) reported that each year in the world about 154 million children were born. Four million, their brief existence is marked by pain and disease and ends in tragically and early death. Nevertheless around 2.4 million deaths among children under the age of five are still due to vaccine preventable diseases and infections in early life. Mortality may be greater in developing countries because of low resistance of these children against infection For Respiratory Infection the primary barriers to reducing global child mortality from Respiratory Infection have been identified.

Over the next 10 years a number of challenges must be met to overcome the impact of Respiratory Infection as the leading cause of child mortality. Expansion of programmes to assist families in recognizing the signs and symptoms of severe respiratory infection expansion of home based treatment programmes. These measures will result in a marked reduction in child deaths from Respiratory Infection and other diseases.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

RESEARCH APPROACH: Quantitative, non-experimental - evaluative approach.

RESEARCH DESIGN : Non experimental - Descriptive research design.

SETTING OF THE STUDY: The study will be conducted in the selected villages, Kancheepuram District, Tamilnadu

POPULATION: The accessible population of the present study is mothers in the age group of 18-40 years residing at selected streets of Kancheepuram district.

SAMPLE: Mothers of under five children who are fulfilling the sampling criteria

SAMPLE SIZE: A sample size of 60 mothers would be selected.

SAMPLING TECHNIQUE: Simple random sampling

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF SAMPLE:

Inclusion criteria

1. Mothers who have children aged between 1 to 5 years
2. Mothers willing to participate in the study
3. Mothers can speak and understand Tamil or English

Exclusion criteria

1. Mothers who are having Children above 5 years of age
2. Mothers who are not available at the time of study.

DEVELOPMENT AND DESCRIPTION OF THE TOOL:

It consist of 2 parts

Part-1) It consist of seeking information regarding the demographic data of the mothers such as age of mother, religion, marital status, educational status, occupation, type of family ,monthly income, number of children, age of the children ,child gender ,educational status of children , sources of knowledge, any other long term health problems for the children.

Part-2: It consist of structured question to assess the level of knowledge on selected Respiratory infections among mothers of under five children.

METHOD OF SCORING AND INTERPRETATION: Each correct answer carries one mark and wrong answer carries ‘0’ mark. According to the scores obtained by the samples, it was categorized as follows by the investigator.

- <50% - Inadequate knowledge
- 51-75%-moderately adequate knowledge
- >76% - adequate knowledge.

METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION: The data was collected using structured interview schedule.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION: The collected data were entered in data sheet and analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. The findings shows that there was significant association between demographic variables (age in years) and there was no significant association between demographic variables (educational status, occupation, family income per month, types of family, number of children, age of child, sources of information on respiratory infections) and their knowledge score at $p < 0.05$.

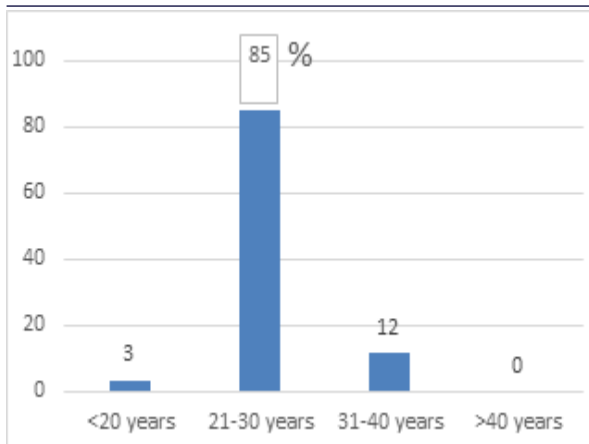


Figure 1: Demographic Distribution of Age of Mothers

CONCLUSION

The findings showed that most of the mothers had inadequate knowledge regarding respiratory infections. This study helped the mothers to gain more knowledge regarding respiratory infections. Hence it was concluded that the mothers need to gain more knowledge regarding prevention and management of respiratory infections to reduce to the mortality and morbidity of respiratory infections among under five children

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