



## ASSESSMENT OF KNOWLEDGE REGARDING FIRST AID MEASURES FOR COMMON INJURIES IN CHILDREN AMONG SCHOOL TEACHERS

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### ABSTRACT

First aid is the immediate initial assistance given to a person who is injured or has become ill, first aid includes assessing the victim for life threatening conditions, performing appropriate interventions to sustain life, and keeping the person in the best possible physical and mental condition until the assistance of emergency medical services is obtained. Objectives of the study are to assess the level of knowledge on selected first aid measures of common injuries among school teachers, to assess the frequency and percentage of demographic variables among school teachers and to associate the level of knowledge regarding first aid measures and demographic variables among school teachers. Quantitative approach with Descriptive design was adopted to conduct the present study. 60 school teachers who met the inclusion criteria were selected using convenient sampling technique. The data was collected using the tool which structured questionnaire which consists of two section demographic variables, and knowledge questionnaire on first aid measures. The data was collected, organized and analyzed in term of descriptive statistics. The results of the study reveal that out of 60 samples, 28 (47%) had adequate knowledge, 20 (33%) had moderate knowledge and 12 (20%) had inadequate knowledge. Over all mean score were 13.7 with standard deviation of 3.86. There was a significant association between age, gender, religion, education, occupation, class, past experiences, communication, and previous exposure of information with the level of knowledge among school teachers regarding first aid measures for common injuries. It was statistically significant at  $p < 0.05$ .

**KEYWORDS :** First aid, Common injuries.

### INTRODUCTION

First aid is the immediate initial assistance given to a person who is injured or has become ill, first aid includes assessing the victim for life threatening conditions, performing appropriate interventions to sustain life, and keeping the person in the best possible physical and mental condition until the assistance of emergency medical services is obtained. Basic first aid refers to the initial process of assessing and addressing the needs of someone who has been injured or is in physiological distress due to choking, a heart attack, allergic reactions, drugs or other medical emergencies. It is important to remember that first aid does not replace medical care but is used to preserve life until medical help is obtained because permanent disability and injury can occur within minutes. In the case of multiple injuries, patients are surveyed quickly for severity of injuries so that health care providers are able to treat life threatening problems first. This process of classifying a group of patients according to the severity of injury and need of care is called triage. The triage process is based on the premise that patients who have a threat to life, vision, or limb should be treated before other patients<sup>1-3</sup>.

One set of goals of first aid is called the "Three P's": Preserve life – stop the person from dying, Prevent further injury – stop the person from being injured even more, If possible, an injured person should not be moved and promote recovery – try to help the person heal their injuries<sup>4,5</sup>.

First aid is the immediate and temporary care given to the victim of an accident or sudden illness. A person trained in first aid can very often save a life, help the patient towards recovery and prevent the injury or illness from becoming worse, by prompt and correct action. In order to become a good first aider, knowledge of anatomy and physiology is needed, and it is recommended that the study of first aid and bandaging should go along with the study of anatomy and physiology<sup>6,7</sup>.

Children spend most of the time in school under the direct supervision of teachers. They are also exposed to various types of epidemiological factors in the school, which influence their present and future state of health. Hence, first aid should be known by school teachers to meet the urgent needs of these school children during minor injuries. Teacher is the key person in school who attend such type of victims and always in a position to save the life. Healthy safe environment is very important to avoid these hazards beside qualified teachers who can detect any health problem and can give first aid for commonly occurring emergencies in schools<sup>8,9</sup>.

Masih, et al (2014) conducted a study Knowledge and practice of primary school teachers about first aid management of selected minor

injuries among children, the results of the study reveal that majority (94%) of the teachers were female. Paired sample t-test revealed that the mean post test knowledge score regarding first aid management of selected minor injuries was significantly higher ( $34.76 \pm 4.35$ ) than that of mean pre-test knowledge score ( $27.32 \pm 5.73$ ) ( $P < 0.005$ )<sup>10</sup>.

During my clinical experience posting, I have treated many school children for minor injuries in our hospital. It is desirable that teachers and other staff should be properly taught to take care of the minor accidents that occur in and around the school. The responsibility of school teacher is also to provide a first aid care to children at school campus. Hence, they should be trained adequately to deliver health care to injured children in emergency. This may apply their knowledge and practice regarding the first aid management of selected minor injuries to encounter the children at school, which would further help in reducing the complications and advancement of the problem.

### OBJECTIVES

1. To assess the level of knowledge on selected first aid measures of common injuries among school teachers
2. To assess the frequency and percentage of demographic variables among school teachers and
3. To associate the level of knowledge regarding first aid measures and demographic variables among school teachers.

### MATERIAL AND METHOD:

The research approach used for this study was Quantitative Research approach. The research design chosen for the present study is descriptive research design. This study was conducted in Thiruvalluvar Nagar Village at Vellore. This was located in near to Katpadi, at Vellore. There were 2000 families in that Village. Most of the people educated in that Village. After getting permission from the Village leader in Thiruvalluvar Nagar the study conducted. 60 school teachers who met the inclusion criteria were selected using convenient sampling technique. The inclusion criteria for the study are Teachers age between 20-50 years of both sex, who are willing to participation in the study and available during the time of data collection. The exclusion criteria are uncooperative teachers. The study was approved and reviewed by Institutional Human Ethical Committee recommended by Saveetha institute of Medical and Technical Sciences. The data was collected using the tool which structured questionnaire which consists of two section demographical variables, and knowledge questionnaire on first aid measures. The data was collected, organized and analyzed in term of descriptive statistics.

### RESULT

Teachers 34 (57%) teachers belong to age group of 20-30 years, the

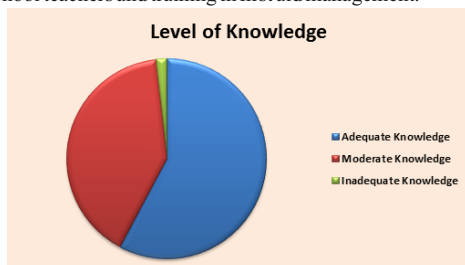
majority of the teachers gender was female 34 (57%), regarding religion Hindu 48 (80%), comes under occupation primary teachers were 32 (53%), regarding education D.T.ED teachers were 30 (50%), in class above 5<sup>th</sup> standard teachers were 36 (60%), regarding past experiences 54 (90%) teachers were having, 60(100%) of teachers were willing participation, coming to communication 58 (97%) teachers were freely communicate with students, in previous experience to the information 46 (77%)of teachers not having.34 (57%) of the participant were about the age group of 20-30 years, 22 (37%) were about the age group of 31-40 years, 4 (7%) were about the age group of 41-50.out of 60 samples, 28 (47%) had adequate knowledge, 20(33%) of them had moderate knowledge and 12 (20%) of them had inadequate knowledge. The study reveals that the mean of knowledge of school teachers regarding first aid measures was 13.7 and the standard deviation was 3.86.

## DISCUSSION

First aid is an urgent attention delivered to victims of sudden illness or injury until medical helps arrive. So that, early treatment of such emergencies decreases morbidity and deaths among school aged children. First aid provider should be able to evaluate the position rapidly and calmly, deal with life threatening conditions, meanwhile protecting themselves from the danger, obtain medical aid and call an ambulance in case of severe trauma or illness

The present study shows the level of knowledge among school teachers are 28 (47%) adequate knowledge, 20 (33%) moderate knowledge, 12 (20%) inadequate knowledge. The present study is supported by **Ganime Aydin Parim, (2015)**, A survey technique was conducted among teachers regarding levels of knowledge of first aid among practicing teachers and prospective teachers. In this study was concluded that all prospective teachers had received some first aid education in secondary school and some had additional first aid education in university so their collective first aid knowledge level (FADK) was not high enough to qualify them to teach first aid and for the treatment of students.

The present study shows that there is no statistically significant association between level of knowledge on first aid measure and demographic variables at the level of  $p < 0.05$ . This study is supported by **Krishna R A (2013)** conducted a study to assess the knowledge on first aid management among play school teachers at selected playschools at Nellore District. In this study there is no significant association between the level of knowledge regarding first aid management with demographic variables such as age of the teacher, gender, education, income, religion, place of residence, experience of play school teachers and training in first aid management.



**Fig 1: Level of knowledge among on selected first aid measures of common injuries among school teachers**

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