



A COMPARATIVE STUDY TO ASSESS THE KNOWLEDGE OF MOTHERS REGARDING CHILD ABUSE IN SELECTED RURAL AND URBAN AREAS OF PATIALA (PUNJAB).

Nursing

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ABSTRACT

A non experimental, comparative, descriptive study with quantitative approach was conducted to assess the knowledge of mothers regarding child abuse in selected rural and urban areas of Patiala with the objectives of assessing the knowledge of mothers, comparing and to find out the association between the knowledge scores with selected demographic variables. With convenient sampling, 50 rural and 50 urban mothers were included. After content validity of self-structured questionnaire, Reliability was found to be 0.871. Results depicted that the 39% of mothers residing in urban and rural areas had good knowledge, 39% had average knowledge and 22% had poor knowledge regarding child abuse. The difference in mean score was found to be statistically non-significant. The association found between knowledge scores of mothers is dependent on educational status of mother, occupation of mother, occupation of husband, family income and mass media exposure and independent on age of mother, area of belongingness, family type and substance abuse in family.

KEYWORDS

Child abuse, rural area, urban area, neglect, physical abuse

INTRODUCTION

Child abuse is widely prevalent in country. As per the 2011 census report, child sexual abuse and exploitation and serious violation of child rights is highly prevalent in Punjab and ranked 13th amongst the nation in the incidence and rate of crimes committed against children. A total of 622 crime incidences against children were reported out of which 166 incidences were reported of rape in Punjab. According to WHO, Child abuse is defined as "all forms of physical or emotional ill treatment, sexual abuse, neglect or negligent treatment or commercial or other exploitation, resulting in actual or potential harm to child's health, survival, development or dignity in context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power." Child abuse can have lifelong consequences. Research shows that abused children are more likely to suffer for example, poor performance in school, suffer emotional problems, develop antisocial personality, become promiscuous, abuse drug and alcohol and attempt to suicide. Until now it was presumed that child abuse was prevalent only among street children or those in juvenile homes and orphanages. But the study has shown that it cuts across economic, social and class barriers. Only the forms of abuse are different. While a child born in well to do family may not face economic and physical abuse, but he or she is prone to emotional and sexual abuse, and the ones born under difficult conditions are vulnerable to all kinds of exploitation. The awareness regarding laws, schemes and acts for the protection of children's rights are lacking in our society. To impede this burning issue, it becomes the responsibility of each member of society coming across such incidents, and the start of this responsibility begins at home by the mothers themselves.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To assess the knowledge of rural and urban mothers regarding child abuse.
2. To compare the knowledge of rural and urban mothers regarding child abuse.
3. To find out association between the knowledge scores of rural and urban mothers regarding child abuse with selected demographic variables.

MATERIAL AND METHODS:

A non-experimental, comparative descriptive research design. was considered for the study.

VARIABLES

The dependent variable was knowledge of mothers regarding child abuse.

The demographic variables were age of mother, area of belongingness, educational status, family type, occupation of mother, occupation of husband, family income, substance abuse in family, mass media exposure.

SETTING

In this study, research setting was, village Jhill in Patiala district as the

rural area and Ghuman Nagar as urban area of Patiala.

SAMPLING TECHNIQUE AND SAMPLE SIZE

Sample size comprised of 50 rural and 50 urban mothers and convenient sampling technique was adopted.

DEVELOPMENT AND DESCRIPTION OF TOOL

A self-structured knowledge questionnaire consisted of two sections: -

- Section 1: - comprise items seeking personal data of mothers.
Section 2: - composed of 50 questions covering the following areas related to child abuse: -

- Introduction about child abuse- 10 questions
- Causes of child abuse- 10 questions
- Signs and symptoms of child abuse- 10 questions
- Prevention of child abuse- 10 questions
- Treatment of child abuse and laws and legislations made for child abuse- 10 questions

Scoring was done as follows: -

Maximum scores = 50 Minimum score = 00

36-50: Good knowledge

21-35: Average knowledge below 20: Poor knowledge

CONTENT VALIDITY

To ensure content validity, it was given to experts of various fields i.e. Department of Psychiatry, Paediatrics, Gynaecology, Forensic Medicine and Toxicology, Social and Preventive Medicine.

RELIABILITY

The reliability coefficient for structured knowledge questionnaire was calculated by using split half method and it was found to be 0.871. The reliability coefficient was also calculated by Cronbach Alpha method and was found to be 0.913. Thus, the tool was found to be reliable.

DATA COLLECTION

- Sample was collected from 50 urban mothers residing in ghuman nagar, Patiala and 50 rural mothers residing in village Jhill, Patiala.
- Introduction about the nature and purpose of the study were explained.
- The mothers were assured that their responses would be kept confidential and will be used only for research purposes.
- Data was collected by primary technique using pen and paper from 100 subjects.

PLAN OF ANALYSIS:

- Descriptive statistics: - frequency, percentage were used to analyse the selected variables.
- Inferential statistics: - t-test and ANOVA test were used among inferential statistics to analyse the selected variables.

MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE STUDY:

- According to age of mothers, 7% were below 25 years of age, 51% were from 26-35 years of age, 36% were from 36-45 years of age and 6% were above 45 years of age. According to area of belongingness, 50% of mothers were residing in rural area and 50% were residing in urban area. According to family type, 40% were having joint family and 60% were having nuclear family. According to educational status of mother, 8% of them were illiterate, 27% had studied below 10th, 34% were graduate and 31% had done above graduation. According to occupation of mother, 10% work in government sector, 9% work in private sector, 75% work as housewives and 6% work as businesswoman. According to occupation of husband, 20% work under government sector, 34% work on private sector, 26% work as farmers, 20% work as businessman. According to income of family, 28% of mothers belong to family having income below 10,000, 31% belong to family having income from 10,000-20,000, 18% belong to family having income from 20,000-30,000 and 23% belong to family having income above 30,000. According to habit of substance abuse in family, 14% families were having habit of substance abuse, 86% were not having habit of substance abuse. According to mass media exposure, 26% of mothers used to read newspaper, 45% used to watch television and 29% used to surf on social media.
- The mean knowledge score (30.47) suggests that mothers have average knowledge regarding child abuse.
- 39% mothers had good knowledge regarding child abuse, 39% had average knowledge and 22% had poor knowledge regarding child abuse.
- Out of 50 rural mothers, only 18% of rural mothers have good knowledge regarding child abuse, 46% of rural mothers have average knowledge and 36% of rural mothers have poor knowledge regarding child abuse.
- Out of 50 urban mothers, 60% of urban mothers have good knowledge regarding child abuse, 32% of urban mothers had average knowledge and 8% of urban mothers had poor knowledge regarding child abuse.
- The comparison between mean knowledge score of rural and urban mothers regarding child abuse is 8.960 with t-value of 4.977, which suggests that there is no significant difference between knowledge scores of urban and rural mothers.
- The knowledge of mothers regarding child abuse was dependent upon educational status of mother, occupation of mother, occupation of husband, income of family and mass media exposure of mother and was independent on age of mother, area of belongingness, family type and substance abuse in family.

CONCLUSION:

- Mothers have average knowledge regarding child abuse.
- Knowledge of mothers depends upon educational status of mother, occupation of mother, occupation of father, family income and mass media exposure.
- Knowledge of mothers is independent of age of mother, area of belongingness, family type and substance abuse in family.

DISCUSSION:

The association was found between knowledge scores of mothers when compared to educational status of mothers, occupation of mothers, occupation of husband, family income and mass media exposure except age of mother, area of belongingness, family type and substance abuse in family. The findings of the study conducted by Jagraj Singh and Balwinder Kaur in year 2015 in Jalandhar are relating to the present study in context of demographic variables i.e. educational status of parents, family income, age of parents and family type. The comparison between mean knowledge score of rural and urban mothers regarding child abuse is 8.960 with t-value of 4.977, which suggests that there is no significant difference between knowledge scores of urban and rural mothers.

IMPLICATIONS:**1. Nursing Practice, In hospitals:-**

- Nurses can give counselling to the mothers and their families to

prevent child abuse

- Nurses can provide information to parents about signs and symptoms that can help to identify that whether their child is suffering from the child abuse or not. Nurses can identify the cause.

In community:-

- Nurses can identify children from community who are at the risk of having child abuse.
- Nurse can improve the attitude of society towards child abuse by awaking them about consequences of child abuse and their impact on the psychological aspect of the child.

2. Nursing Education:-

- The nurse educator should plan and conduct in-service education on child abuse for nurses working in hospitals as well as, development programmes should be organised at the level of nursing colleges.
- This study can be used to excel in clinical practice by having updated knowledge on child abuse in Psychiatric department along with, Paediatric department.
- The study can help to plan curriculum which develop skills of trained professionals.

3. Nursing administration:-

- Nurse organiser should organise camps, rallies and mass health awareness programmes to enhance knowledge regarding child abuse among health personnel and public.
- Administrator should mobilize funds to provide health education materials regarding child abuse to medical personnel to enhance their knowledge.
- Nurse administrator can provide in-service education to her subordinates as well as, colleges about child abuse.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- The study can be replicated on a large number of samples of mothers in different settings.
- The video assisted teaching can be provided to the mothers regarding the child abuse.
- The comparative study can be conducted on the boys and girls to assess the knowledge regarding child abuse.
- A descriptive study can be conducted to assess the effectiveness of planned teaching programme on knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse and neglect among primary school teachers.
- A descriptive study can be conducted on the paediatricians to assess the recording and reporting of the cases associated with child abuse.

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