



A STUDY TO ASSESS THE KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICE REGARDING HAND HYGIENE AMONG SCHOOL CHILDREN AT MADURAI

Nursing

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ABSTRACT

The main objective of the study was to assess the knowledge and practice regarding hand hygiene of school children. This study employed at non experimental descriptive design. School children were selected using convenient sampling method. This study was conducted at outpatient department Government Rajaji Hospital Madurai. Totally 60 school children were included in the study. Data were collected through self administered questionnaire by face to face interview. The study result showed that 26.7% of the school children were poor hand hygiene knowledge, 58.3 % of the school students were average knowledge and only 15 % of the students were having adequate knowledge regarding hand hygiene. The results of the study also revealed that 23.3 % were poor hand hygiene practice and 65 % were average and 11.7 % were adequate hand hygiene practice. **Conclusion:** School children were having inadequate knowledge and practice regarding hand hygiene. The author recommended initiating the school level awareness program regarding proper hand hygiene.

KEYWORDS

Hand hygiene, knowledge regarding hand hygiene, school children

INTRODUCTION

Children are vital part of our society. They are physically and physiologically immature. Play is part of the growth and development of children. They are playing in street and regularly interact with the contaminated things. Hand hygiene is important to maintain the normal health and avoid infections. Adequate knowledge and practice regarding hand hygiene is needed to maintain good health.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

A study to assess the knowledge and practice regarding hand hygiene among school children at Madurai

OBJECTIVES

1. To assess the level of knowledge regarding hand hygiene among school children
2. To assess the level of hand hygiene practice among school children
3. To associate the knowledge and practice regarding hand hygiene with selected demographic variables.

ASSUMPTION

1. Children are play group and having low knowledge regarding hand hygiene
2. Hand hygiene knowledge and practice is essential to promote optimum health

METHODOLOGY

Non experimental and descriptive research design was adopted for conducting this study among school children. Totally 60 school children aged between 10-12 years were participated in this study. Convenient sampling technique was used by who satisfied the inclusion criteria were selected for this study.

SELECTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF STUDY INSTRUMENT

The instruments used in the study were demographic variable proforma, and Questionnaire regarding hand hygiene knowledge and practice. Demographic variables proforma consist of age, gender, religion, occupation of parent, educational status of parent, family income, source of water and availability of soap.

DATA COLLECTION

The data were collected from the students for the period of four weeks. Rapport was established with school children after a brief introduction about the study and its purpose. The written consent was obtained from the students after fully explaining the procedure of the study. Based on the criteria for sample selection, the students for the study were selected using convenient sampling. School children's knowledge and

practice regarding hand hygiene were assessed through face to face interview. The WHO guidelines of handwashing steps were assessed. All the ethical principles were followed by the investigator while collecting the data. Confidentiality of the data were strictly maintained.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The findings revealed that 26.7 % of the school children were poor knowledge, 58.3 % of the school students were average knowledge and only 15 % of the students were having adequate knowledge regarding hand hygiene.

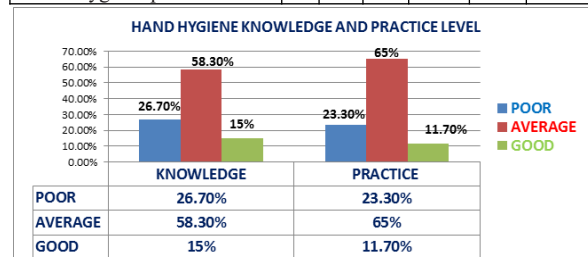
The results of the study also revealed that 23.3 % were poor hand hygiene practice and 65 % were average and 11.7 % were adequate hand hygiene practice. There was a highly significant positive correlation had been found between hand hygiene knowledge and practice with 'r' value 0.19. There was no association between hand hygiene knowledge, practice and demographic variables.

CONCLUSION

School children were having inadequate knowledge and practice regarding hand hygiene. The author recommended initiating the school level awareness program regarding proper hand washing technique and importance hand hygiene in promoting the health. More over school administration should provide handwashing facilities in play ground and in school premises.

Table-1 Frequency and percentage wise distribution of knowledge and practice level of Hand hygiene among school children

LEVEL	POOR		AVERAGE		GOOD	
	f	%	f	%	f	%
Hand hygiene knowledge level	16	26.7	35	58.3	9	15
Hand hygiene practice level	14	23.3	39	65	7	11.7



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