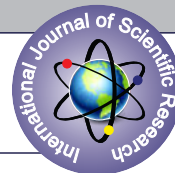


"A STUDY TO ASSESS THE KNOWLEDGE OF STAFF NURSES REGARDING THE ASSESSMENT OF GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF UNDER FIVE CHILDREN IN A SELECTED PAEDIATRIC HOSPITAL, BENGALURU, WITH A VIEW TO DEVELOP AN INFORMATION BOOKLET".

**Nursing**

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ABSTRACT

Growth and development are the top most distinctive attributes of children which distinguishes them from adults. Knowledge regarding developmental milestones helps the nurses to identify the deviations from the normal and early identification of developmental delays in children. This study was conducted with the objective to assess the knowledge of staff nurses regarding the assessment of growth and development of under five children, to find the association between the level of knowledge of staff nurses and selected demographic variable and to develop an information booklet regarding assessment of growth and development of under five children. Descriptive survey design was used. 50 staff nurses working at Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health, Bengaluru, Karnataka was selected using Convenient sampling. Findings of the study revealed that majority of the participants, 40% belonged to the age group of 31-35, all the participants, 100% were females, majority of the participants, 72% were married, majority of the participants, 86% were professionally qualified as DGNM, 36% of participants had more than 6 years of total experience in the field of nursing, 34% of participants had 1-3 years of experience in paediatric setting and majority of the participants, 36% had print media as previous source of information regarding assessment of growth and development of under five children. The overall knowledge score of participants was 51.04%. Study also revealed that there was no significant association between the knowledge score of the staff nurses with demographic variables such as age, gender, marital status, professional qualification, total years of experience in nursing, experience in paediatric setting and previous source of information at 0.05 levels of significance.

KEYWORDS

Staff nurses, Growth and development, Information booklet

INTRODUCTION

Children are the nation's most precious resource. So it is crucial that they have the opportunity to develop into healthy and productive citizens.¹ Growth and development is usually referred to a unit and expressed as the sum of the numerous changes that take place during the lifetime of an individual.¹ The terms '**growth**' and '**development**' are often used together. Growth can be viewed as a quantitative change and development as a qualitative change.

Growth refers to an increase in physical size of the whole or any of its parts. It denotes a net increase in the size or mass of tissues. It is largely attributed to multiplication of cells and increase in the intracellular substance.³ Development is a continuous process from conception to maturity and is intimately related to the maturity of the central nervous system. The sequence of development is identical in all children but rate of development varies from child to child.⁴

The basic science of paediatrics is growth and development. All health personnel having responsibility for the care of children should be familiar with the normal patterns and milestones of development and be able to recognise deviations from the normal as early as possible, so that underlying disorders may be promptly identified and gives appropriate attention.⁶ Developing and implementing such an approach is challenging. It requires new ways of working in health services, reviewed training curricula of health personnel to help them centre on the child's growth and development.⁷

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To assess the knowledge of staff nurses regarding the assessment of growth and development of under five children.
2. To find the association between the level of knowledge of staff nurses and selected demographic variable.
3. To develop an information booklet regarding assessment of growth and development of under five children.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Research approach selected for the study was Non-Experimental survey approach and design was descriptive in nature. Demographic variables included were age, gender, marital status, professional qualification, total years of experience in nursing, experience in paediatric setting, previous source of information regarding assessment of growth and development of under five children and dependent variable was knowledge of staff nurses on assessment of growth and development of under five children. Convenient sampling technique was adopted to select 50 staff nurses working at Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health, Bengaluru. The investigator introduced herself and about the study, obtained consent from the

participants, and data was collected using structured knowledge questionnaire.

The reliability of the tool was found to be 0.97, by Spearman Brown prophecy method. Data analysis was done using descriptive and inferential statistics.

RESULTS

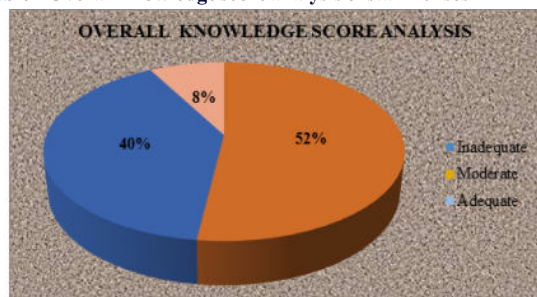
Table -1 Frequency distribution and percentage of staff nurses based on demographic variables

N = 50

VARIABLES	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Age in years		
21-25	6	12
26-30	14	28
31-35	20	40
>35	10	20
Gender		
Male	0	0
Female	50	100
Marital status		
Married	36	72
Unmarried	14	28
Professional qualification		
D.G.N.M	43	86
B.Sc Nursing	01	02
Pc.B.Sc Nursing	06	12
M.Sc Nursing	0	0
Total years of experience in Nursing		
<1 year	04	08
1-3 years	12	24
3-6 years	16	32
>6 years	18	36
Experience in Paediatric setting		
<1 year	04	08
1-3 years	17	34
3-6 years	13	26
>6 years	16	32
Previous source of Information		
Print media	18	36
Electronic media	04	08
CNE/ Workshop	12	24
Friends/relatives	16	32

The data presented in the above table depicts that majority of the participants (40%) belonged to the age group of 31-35, 28% belonged to age group of 26-30, 20% were above 35 and 12% belonged to age group of 21-25 and all are (100%) females; (72%) were married and 28% were unmarried. Among them (86%) were professionally qualified as D.G.N.M, 12% were Pc.B.Sc and 2% were B.Sc Nursing with 36% of participants had >6 years of total experience, 32% had experience of between 3-6 years, 24% had experience between 1-3 years and 8% had <1 years of experience. Among them 34% of the participants had 1-3 years of experience in paediatric setting, 32% had experience of >5 years, 26% had experience between 3-5 years and 8% had experience of <1 years.

Table 2 Overall knowledge score analysis of staff nurses



The data presented in the above table depicts that 52% of participants had inadequate knowledge, 40% had moderate knowledge and 8% had adequate knowledge.

Table 3 Association between the knowledge scores with selected demographic variables in terms of chi square.

N = 50, Median = 21.5

Variables	Knowledge score		Chi square	df	P Value (0.05)	Inference
	Above median	Median and below median				
Age in years						
21-25	2	4	3.14	3	7.82	NS
26-30	6	8				
31-35	13	7				
>35	4	6				
Gender						
Male	0	0	0	1	3.84	NS
Female	25	25				
Marital status						
Married	17	19	0.09	1	3.84	NS
Unmarried	8	6				
Professional qualification						
DGNM	20	23	1.86	3	7.82	NS
B.Sc Nursing	1	0				
P.B.B.Sc Nursing	4	2				
M.Sc Nursing	0	0				
Total years of experience in Nursing						
<1 year	2	2	4.22	3	7.82	NS
1-3 years	3	9				
3-6 years	10	6				
>6 years	10	8				
Experience in Paediatric setting						
<1 year	2	2	1.2	3	7.82	NS
1-3 years	7	10				
3-6 years	8	5				
>6 years	8	8				
Previous source of Information						
Print media	7	11	4.13	3	7.82	NS
Electronic media	1	3				
CNE/ Workshop	6	6				
Friends/relatives	11	5				

NS - Not Significant

Table 3 depicts that the obtained χ^2 value is less than the table value at 0.05 level of significance and it shows that there is no significant association between knowledge score and selected demographic variables.

CONCLUSION

A healthy child is an asset on which the nation remarks its progress. The environment of the child can be referred to holistic, aspects of its influence physical, social, intellectual, moral, emotional, spiritual and psychological areas. This conducive scenario of children reaches them to their peak achievement. One of the determinants of the child's health is the pattern of his or her growth and development. Moreover, the study may engender in consumers a realization that, Paediatric Nursing practice is sensitive, responsive and facilitate paediatric nurses to empower themselves.

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