

# A STUDY TO ASSESS THE KNOWLEDGE REGARDING DIARRHEA AMONG THE MOTHERS OF UNDER FIVE CHILDREN IN SELECTED AREA OF AURANGABAD CITY.



## Nursing

**Dr. Vishwanath S Biradar\*** Professor, MGM Mother Teresa College of Nursing, Aurangabad. \*Corresponding Author

**Ms. Sujata G. Gaikwad** Clinical Instructor MGM Mother Teresa College of Nursing Aurangabad.

**Ms. Pramila C. Gudekar** Staff Nurse GMCH Aurangabad.

**Ms. Renuka U. Khandare** Staff Nurse Civil Hospital Parbhani.

## ABSTRACT

Diarrhea is the major health problem in under five children. Worldwide, about 1.5 million children die of diarrhea, while 38% deaths occur in Asia. About 2 million episodes of diarrhea occur each year in India. 6.6 million deaths among children aged 28 days to 5 years: The present descriptive study aimed to assess knowledge regarding diarrhea among the mothers of under five children in selected area of Aurangabad city. 30 mothers of under five children were included by nonprobability purposive sampling technique. Results of the study indicate that, the majority 23(76.66%) of the mothers of under five children had moderately adequate knowledge on diarrhea, followed by 4(13.33%) mothers had adequate knowledge and 3(10%) had inadequate knowledge regarding diarrhea. There was no significant association between knowledge of mothers and socio demographic variables. The study concluded that, most of mothers of urban area require awareness regarding diarrhea and its management.

## KEYWORDS

Assess, Knowledge, Mothers, Under five children, Diarrhoea

## INTRODUCTION

Children are our future and our most precious resources. In other words, the children are the budding human resources and future citizens of the nation. Healthy children are not only assets but also the stepping stone to build a strong and prosperous nation. Their survival, protection and developments are a pre requisite for development of humanity. Protecting the health and development of children is a very long term contribution to the growth and development of the country as a whole.

As children constitute one third of total population, it becomes imperative to monitor the health status of children in the country and also taking care of children is very important issue, because children are most vulnerable to malnutrition, morbidity and mortality.

Diarrheal diseases are major public health problem among under five children. Diarrheal diseases constitute one of the major causes of morbidity and mortality specially in children below five years of age. The morbidity rate in terms of diarrhea episodes per year per child under the age of five years is about 2 million.

Therefore, there is need for the mothers to enable them to take care of children suffering from diarrhea by homemade fluids, continuous feeding during diarrhea & to recognize early sign of dehydration. So it is important to have the knowledge regarding sanitation measures to reduce transmission & simple hygienic measures like hand washing with soap before preparing food, eating, feeding a child, after defecation, after cleaning child who has defecated & after disposing a child's stool. All families should have clean & functioning latrines.

## NEED FOR THE STUDY

Diarrhea is a major killer disease in under five children in India and thus an important public health problem. The alarming situation is created by delay in initiation of treatment and inadequate hydration in high morbidity. Worldwide, diarrheal disease is the second leading cause of death in children under 5 years old.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), More than 10 million under five children die every year out of which 1.5 million are diarrhea related deaths in the world. Bacterial, viral, and parasitic agents ingested through contaminated drinking water or food can result in diarrhea. Enormous numbers of people lack access to improved water and sanitation, 884 million and 2.6 billion, respectively.

Hence there is need to educate the mothers & families on diarrhea. Mothers' response to diarrhea is critical & it makes all the differences in the prevention & management of diarrhea, Hence the investigators felt the need to select this study.

## PROBLEM STATEMENT

"A study to assess the knowledge regarding diarrhea among the mothers of under five children in selected area of Aurangabad city"

## OBJECTIVES

- To determine the knowledge regarding diarrhea among mothers of under five children.
- To find the association between the knowledge of mothers of under five children regarding diarrhea with selected demographic variables.

## ASSUMPTIONS

- Diarrhea is one of the major problems which affect the health of under five children.
- Mothers of under five children have inadequate knowledge about the diarrhea.
- Assessment of knowledge of mothers can help to identify the level of knowledge regarding diarrhea & the areas of knowledge is lacking.
- The knowledge of mothers regarding diarrhea may prevent diarrhea among under five children.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

**Research Approach:-** Descriptive approach.

**Research Design:-** Descriptive study design.

**Setting Of The Study:-** Selected area of Aurangabad city.

## Population:-

Target population – Mothers of under five children  
Accessible population – Mothers of under five children in selected area of Aurangabad city.

**Sample:** Mothers of under five children who met the inclusion criteria were selected as the sample.

**Sampling Technique:** Non probability purposive sampling technique.

**Sample Size:** Sample size was 30 mothers of under five children.

**The Criteria For Sample Selection****Inclusion Criteria:-**

Mothers of under five children;

- who can read & write Marathi/English.
- who are willing to participate in study.
- who are available during data collection.

**Exclusion Criteria:**

- Mothers under five children who are physically ill & not able to respond.

**Description Of Tool:**

**Section A:** Demographic characteristics

**Section B:** Self administered knowledge questionnaire

Questionnaire is to assess the knowledge of mothers of under five children regarding diarrhea. It consists of 30 items of multiple choice questions total score is 30.

For correct answer score – 1

For incorrect answer score – 0

**Organization Of The Findings**

The data collected from the mothers of under five children has been organised and presented under the following headings:

Section I: Frequency and percentage distribution of the demographic variables.

Section II: An analysis of knowledge score on diarrhea.

Section III: Association of knowledge score of mothers of under five children with selected demographic variables.

**Section I: Frequency And Percentage Distribution Of The Demographic Variables.**

This section deals with the data pertaining to the base line proforma the mothers of under five children & the data is analyzed by using descriptive statistics and presented in terms of frequency and percentage.

**Table1-Distribution Of Samples In Relation To Selected Demographic Variables Like Age, Religion, Type Of Family N=30**

| Sr. No | Demographic Variables        | Frequency | Percentage |
|--------|------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| 1.     | Age in years                 |           |            |
|        | a) 18-25                     | 23        | 76.66%     |
|        | b) 25-35                     | 6         | 20%        |
|        | c) 35-45                     | 1         | 3.33%      |
|        | d) 45-50                     | 0         | 0          |
| 2.     | Religion of mothers          |           |            |
|        | a) Hindu                     | 26        | 86.66%     |
|        | b) Muslim                    | 0         | 0          |
|        | c) Christian                 | 1         | 3.33%      |
|        | d) Others                    | 3         | 10%        |
| 3.     | Type of family               |           |            |
|        | a) Nuclear family            | 16        | 53.33%     |
|        | b) Joint family              | 14        | 46.66%     |
| 4.     | Number of children           |           |            |
|        | a) One                       | 15        | 50%        |
|        | b) Two                       | 15        | 50%        |
|        | c) Three                     | 0         | 0%         |
|        | d) Four and above            | 0         | 0%         |
| 5.     | Type of house                |           |            |
|        | a) Kuccha                    | 4         | 13.33%     |
|        | b) Pucca                     | 22        | 73.33%     |
|        | c) Semi-pucca                | 4         | 13.33%     |
| 6.     | Educational status of mother |           |            |
|        | a) Primary                   | 0         | 0          |
|        | b) Secondary                 | 11        | 36.66%     |
|        | c) Higher secondary          | 16        | 53.33%     |
|        | d) Graduate and above        | 3         | 10%        |
| 7.     | Occupation of mothers        |           |            |
|        | a) Housewife                 | 28        | 93.33%     |
|        | b) Private job               | 2         | 6.66%      |
|        | c) Government job            | 0         | 0          |
|        | d) Business                  | 0         | 0          |
|        | e) Others                    | 0         | 0          |

|    |                               |    |        |
|----|-------------------------------|----|--------|
| 8. | Monthly Income (In Rupees)    |    |        |
|    | a) Less than 4,000            | 8  | 26.66% |
|    | b) 4,001- 8,000               | 13 | 43.33% |
|    | c) 8,001- 12,000              | 8  | 26.66% |
|    | d) 12,000 and above           | 1  | 3.33%  |
| 9. | Type of health resources used |    |        |
|    | a) Government hospital        | 7  | 23.33% |
|    | b) Private hospital           | 22 | 73.33% |
|    | c) Home remedies              | 1  | 3.33%  |

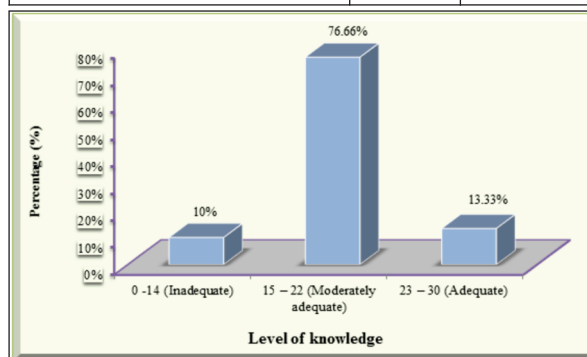
The table 1 shows that majority of the respondents 23 (76.66%) were between the age group of 18-25 years, 26(86.66%) belongs to Hindu religion, 16(53.33%) were from nuclear family, 15 (50%) families had 1 child and 2 children respectively, 22 (73.33%) families were living in pucca house, 16 (53.33%) mothers had secondary education, 28(93.33%) mothers were housewives, 13(43.33%) families had monthly income 4,001-8,000, 22 (73.33%) families utilize private hospitals.

**Section II: An Analysis Of Knowledge Score Of Mothers Of Under Five Children On Diarrhea.**

This section deals with the analysis and interpretation of the data regarding knowledge score being summarized using frequency and percentage.

**Table 2: Knowledge Scores Mothers Of Under Five Children On Diarrhea. N=30**

| Knowledge score               | Knowledge Score |              |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
|                               | Frequency       | Percentage % |
| 0 -14 (Inadequate)            | 3               | 10%          |
| 15 – 22 (Moderately adequate) | 23              | 76.66%       |
| 23 – 30 (Adequate)            | 4               | 13.33%       |
| Total                         | 30              | 100%         |



**Fig. 1: Level of knowledge Of Mothers Of Under Five Children Diarrhea**

The data presented in the table 2 and figure 1 depicts that the majority of the respondents 23(76.66%) had moderately adequate knowledge on diarrhea, 4(13.44%) had adequate knowledge and 3(10%) had inadequate knowledge on diarrhea.

**Section III: Association Of Knowledge Score Of Mothers Of Under Five Children With Selected Demographic Variables.**

The calculated chi square values were more than table value & checked at the level of 0.05 level. There was no significant association between knowledge score & selected demographic variables.

**DISCUSSION**

Present study results depicts that the majority 23(76.66%) mothers of under five children had moderately adequate knowledge on diarrhea, remaining 4(13.33%) mothers had adequate knowledge and 3(10%) had inadequate knowledge. There was no significant association between the knowledge score regarding diarrhea and selected demographic variables at 0.05 level of significance.

Similar study was conducted to assess the knowledge of mothers of under five children regarding management of diarrhea in paediatric OPD at Government Medical College and Hospital, Chandigarh. The findings of the study reveal that out of 260 subjects, 23% had good knowledge, 73% had average knowledge and 4% had poor knowledge regarding management of diarrhea in under five children. There was association between knowledge score and marital status. The study concluded that majority of the mothers of under five children had

average knowledge regarding management of diarrhea.

## CONCLUSION

From the present study, the results revealed that the majority 23(76.66%) of the mothers of under five children had moderately adequate knowledge on diarrhea, remaining 4(13.33%) mothers had adequate knowledge and 3(10%) had inadequate knowledge.

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