

Effect Of Educational Package On Knowledge Of Rural Mothers Regarding Child Abuse

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Abstract: Child abuse is one of the major threat to children all over the globe. Child abuse is not just an individual or familial problem also a community problem. Regardless of the type of child abuse, the result is serious emotional harm affecting the normal growth and development of child. This study investigates the knowledge of rural mothers regarding child abuse, and determines the effect of educational package on their knowledge regarding child abuse. The study was conducted among 60 rural mothers of children below 12 years of age, in selected areas at Kottayam district, Kerala with the aid of a pretest – posttest design. A structured knowledge questionnaire was used to assess the level of knowledge of rural mothers regarding child abuse. Following the pre-test an educational package was administered and a post test was conducted on the seventh day using the same tool. The data was analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. The results revealed that 50% of rural mothers had average knowledge and 36.7% had poor knowledge, and only 13.3% of them had good knowledge regarding child abuse (pretest). The mean pre-test and posttest knowledge score was 14.40 and 24.08 respectively, this concluded that the educational package was effective in improving the knowledge ($t=24.73, p<0.05$) regarding child abuse. A significant association was also noted between the pre-test knowledge scores and selected demographic variable education ($\chi^2=9.68, p<0.05$). The present study concluded that the educational package was effective in improving knowledge of rural mothers regarding child abuse.

Keywords: Effect; Educational package; Knowledge; Rural mothers; Child abuse.

I. INTRODUCTION

“The children of today are the future of tomorrow”; this powerful statement assumes special significance in our context as children comprise one third of the total population in the country. Children constitute not only a large group, but also a vulnerable or special risk group, because of their growth, development and survival. Childhood is also a vital period because that determines the overall development of an individual. The child has only one chance to develop normally and naturally and should not be suppressed by other priorities. A child’s right to develop normally should be the first and foremost priority.

Every Child, on provision of conducive environment, may blossom into an ever fragrant flower, to shine in all spheres of

life.¹ There exist so many social problems in India, of which child abuse has been a subject of serious societal concern in recent years. All children have a right to live a life free of violence and abuse in their homes and in the community. Abuse and neglect has debilitating consequences not only for children but also for their families and communities. Because of this, the child may grow up to become unhappy and angry adults, with low self esteem. Some children may die because of the abuse. The maltreatment of children continues to be an abhorrent and pervasive societal problem.

WHO defines child abuse/maltreatment as it constitutes all forms of physical and/or emotional ill treatments like sexual abuse, neglect, neglect treatment, commercial exploitation or other exploitation resulting in actual or potential harm to the child’s health, survival, development or

dignity of the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power. The four type of child abuse are physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse and child neglect. According to 2011 census, India with 1.21 billion people constitutes the second most populous country in the world, while children represents 39% of total population of the country. Kerala constituted about 2.1% of child population. Child abuse is a major concern and an issue of current era. According to WHO (2005), approximately 40 million children below the age of 15 are subjected to child abuse each year. One in every four girls and one in every seven boys in the world are sexually abused.

According to the world wide statistics of child abuse given by UNICEF [2011] 17.6% suffered from physical abuse, 29.2% from sexual abuse and 5.69% were sexually assaulted. According to National Committee (America) formed to prevent child abuse in 2010, neglect represented 54%, physical abuse 22%, sexual abuse 8%, emotional maltreatment 4% and other forms of maltreatment 12%. In the year 2011 National Abuse statistics states that 75% neglect, 15% physical abuse and 10% sexual abuse occur in India. Kerala reports the highest number of crimes against children in India after Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh. Data from the State Crime Records Bureau shows four children, on an average, are sexually abused in Kerala every day, the number of sexual offences against children has doubled in the past three years. As many as 1,002 cases were registered under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act in 2013 as against 1,569 cases in 2015. Police records also reveal that 790 children were sexually assaulted in five months this year. However, only 53 accused in child sexual abuse cases have been convicted in the state from November 2012 to December 2015.

Family is the most important and influential factor in child's development. A child is the greatest blessing of God to the parent. For an all-round development of children the mother plays an integrated role, as she is more involved in child rearing. Mothers read the signs better right from the time her baby is born and she easily identifies any emotional, physical or behavioral changes in the child. The incidence of child abuse is increasing day by day. Children will only be protected from abuse and neglect, if responsible adults take action on their behalf. Studies reveal that majority of mothers have inadequate knowledge regarding child abuse.

A descriptive study was conducted on knowledge of mothers regarding child abuse in the age group of 3-12 years in selected rural areas at Tumkur district, Rajasthan, India. The sample consists of 100 mothers of children aged 3-12 years. The sampling method used in this study was simple random sampling technique. The information for the study was collected using structured knowledge questionnaire. The data was analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. The result showed (44%) mothers had moderate knowledge and (40%) had inadequate knowledge and remaining (16%) had adequate knowledge on child abuse. Since majority of rural mothers had moderate knowledge regarding child abuse, education was essential.

Nothing is more purifying on earth than knowledge. Educational programmes can improve knowledge, attitude and practices of people. Innovative approaches to education are essential to gain interest, support, involvement and

commitment of those who learn. In Indian society parents, especially mothers, play a significant role in upbringing the child. If they have knowledge regarding child abuse they can detect the signs and prevent the occurrence of child abuse. Studies reveal that educational packages are effective in improving knowledge of mothers.

It is the prime responsibility of the parents especially the mother, to ensure optimum climate for the child to grow and develop. If they are unaware of child abuse and neglect, it is very difficult for them to protect their children being abused. Education improves knowledge regarding child abuse and will help to reduce the incidence of abuse. So the mothers should have adequate knowledge regarding child abuse and neglect.

Prevention is the intervention taken when suspected or known child abuse is taking place. Prevention must be proactive Mothers have an important role in care of child and studies show majority of mothers have moderate knowledge regarding child abuse and its preventive management; also educational packages are effective in improving the knowledge of mothers. Hence the researcher found it is essential to educate the mothers about child abuse, its consequences and preventive management.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

A study to assess the effect of educational package on knowledge of rural mothers regarding child abuse in selected rural areas at Kottayam district.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- ✓ Assess the knowledge of rural mothers regarding child abuse.
- ✓ Determine the effect of educational package on knowledge of rural mothers regarding child abuse.
- ✓ Find the association between the knowledge of rural mothers regarding child abuse and selected demographic variables.

HYPOTHESES

All the hypotheses will be tested at 0.05 level of significance.

H1: There is significant difference between mean pre-test and post-test knowledge scores of rural mothers regarding child abuse.

H2: There is significant association between pre-test scores of knowledge among rural mothers regarding child abuse and selected demographic variables.

ASSUMPTIONS

- ✓ Rural mothers may have inadequate knowledge regarding child abuse.
- ✓ Educational package is an accepted strategy to improve knowledge of rural mothers regarding child abuse.
- ✓ Awareness among rural mothers regarding child abuse aid in prevention of child abuse.

II. METHODOLOGY

RESEARCH DESIGN: The research design selected was pre experimental one group pre test post test design.

SETTING OF THE STUDY: The study was conducted in Athirampuzha Panchayath, Kottayam District. The Panchayath consist of 22 wards with a population of about 45,630. The wards 8 and 9 were selected randomly for the present study.

POPULATION, SAMPLE AND SAMPLING TECHNIQUES: It refers to all mothers of children below 12 years of age in the selected Panchayath. Sample was 60 rural mothers of children below the age of 12 years who met the inclusion criteria, selected by purposive sampling technique.

INCLUSION CRITERIA: Rural mothers

- ✓ of children below 12 years of age
- ✓ who are willing to participate in the study
- ✓ who can read and write Malayalam or English

TOOL/ INSTRUMENTS: In this study the data collection instrument used is structured knowledge questionnaire on child abuse prepared by the researcher.

SECTION A: The socio demographic data of the rural mothers

SECTION B: Structured Knowledge Questionnaire

VALIDITY & RELIABILITY OF THE TOOL

The Performa for socio demographic data, structured knowledge questionnaire and teaching plan were given to six nursing faculty and two Pediatricians for validation of the tool. Few items were modified according to the suggestions of experts in the structured knowledge questionnaire. Language validity of the tool was also obtained from the language experts.

The reliability of the tool is computed by using split half technique employing Spearman Brown's prophecy formula. The Karl Pearson's correlation coefficient was established by using deviation method. The reliability score of the tool was 0.9683. A pilot study was conducted to test the practicability and feasibility of the study.

DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURE

Formal administrative approval from the authorities and ethical clearance from the ethical committee was obtained to conduct the main study. After explaining the purpose of the study, the written consent was obtained from the samples for the willingness to participate in the study. A total of 60 samples were selected by purposive sampling technique and were divided into three groups (20 samples in each group). On the first day, the investigator conducted a pre-test for the first group using structured knowledge questionnaire. The data was collected by self-report technique followed by a 45 minutes educational package on child abuse was given on the same day with the help of audio visual aids. Mothers were given opportunity to clarify the doubts after the teaching. The post test was conducted on the seventh day of teaching program using the same structured knowledge questionnaire. The same procedure was followed for other two groups on the consecutive days. The average time taken for completing the questionnaire was 10-15 minutes. The samples were co-

operative and the data thus collected was compiled for data analysis.

III. FINDINGS

DISTRIBUTION OF SAMPLES BASED ON SOCIO DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Less than half of the samples (38.3%) were in the age group of 34-41 years. Nearly half (45%) of the samples had completed higher secondary education and 36.7% had high school education. Majority of the samples (70%) were housewives and 11.7% were government and private employees. Most of the samples (60%) belong to nuclear family and 40% belong to joint family. More than half of the samples (55%) were Christian, 30% were Hindu and 15% were Muslims. More than half of the samples (60%) had two children. Among 60 samples, 51.7% had previous knowledge on child abuse and 48.3% had no previous knowledge on child abuse. Out of 31 samples, who had previous knowledge on child abuse, 77.4% reported mass media as a source of information. None of the mothers had any experience of abuse in childhood.

GRADING OF SAMPLES BASED ON LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE REGARDING CHILD ABUSE

The half (50%) of the samples had average knowledge and 36.7% had poor knowledge, and only 13.3% of them had good knowledge regarding child abuse in the pretest & majority (80%) of samples had good knowledge and 20% had average knowledge and none of them had poor knowledge regarding child abuse in the post test.

COMPARISON OF THE PRE TEST AND POST TEST KNOWLEDGE SCORE OF RURAL MOTHERS REGARDING CHILD ABUSE

(n=60)

Knowledge	Mean	SD	Df	't' value
Pre test	14.40	5.04	59	24.73*
Post test	24.08	3.20		

*Significant at 0.05 level

Table 1: Mean, Standard deviation and t value of pre test and post test knowledge score of rural mothers regarding child abuse

The table 1 depict that calculated t value (24.73) is greater than the table value ($t_{59} = 2.39$) at 0.05 level of significance. The mean pre-test knowledge score (14.40) is lesser than the mean post test knowledge score (24.08) of rural mothers regarding child abuse and is statistically significant. Hence it can be concluded that the educational package was an effective intervention in increasing knowledge regarding child abuse among rural mothers.

ASSOCIATION BETWEEN PRETEST KNOWLEDGE LEVEL OF RURAL MOTHERS REGARDING CHILD ABUSE AND SELECTED DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES

(n = 60)

Demographic variables	Level of knowledge			df	χ^2
	Good	Average	Poor		
Age of mother					
18-33 years	4	14	5	2	3.61
34-49 years	4	16	17		
Education of mother					
High school and below	3	8	13	4	9.68*
Higher secondary	2	18	7		
Graduate and above	3	4	2		
Occupation of mother					
House wife	6	19	17	4	2.58
Coolie	1	1	2		
Employed	52	9	3		

*Significant at 0.05 level

Table 2: Chi square value showing association between pretest knowledge level of rural mothers regarding child abuse and selected demographic variables

The data in Table 2 reveal that the calculated Chi square value for education of mother (χ^2) is 9.68, which is greater than the table value ($\chi^2_{\alpha} = 9.49$, $p < 0.05$). So it can be concluded that there was a significant association between pretest knowledge level of rural mothers regarding child abuse and education of mother.

IV. DISCUSSION

In this study, out of 60 samples, in the pre-test half (50%) of the samples had average knowledge and 36.7% had poor knowledge, and only 13.3% of them had good knowledge regarding child abuse. In the post test, majority (80%) of samples had good knowledge and 20% had average knowledge and none of them had poor knowledge regarding child abuse. These findings of present study were comparable to the studies which proved that most of the mothers had moderate/average knowledge regarding child abuse. These findings were contradictory to the findings of other study which revealed that most of the mothers (60%) had excellent knowledge regarding child abuse.

The effect of educational package on knowledge of rural mothers regarding child abuse was found with the help of paired 't' test. Data depicts that the mean pre-test and posttest knowledge scores were 14.40 and 24.08 respectively and calculated 't' value 24.73 is higher than the table value ($t_{(59)} = 2.39$) at 0.05 level of significance. So the null hypothesis (H_{01}) is rejected and the research hypothesis H_1 is accepted. The difference in mean pre-test and posttest knowledge scores of rural mothers regarding child abuse shows that Educational package was an effective intervention in increasing the knowledge of rural mothers regarding child abuse. The findings of the study were consistent with the findings of other study which revealed that Educational program was effective

in improving the knowledge of mothers regarding child abuse. Other studies reveal that educational programs were effective in improving the knowledge of mothers on various other areas (pneumonia, management of behavioral problems, prevention of childhood injury, febrile seizure, nocturnal enuresis)

The study also revealed that there was a significant association between pretest knowledge levels of rural mothers regarding child abuse and education of mother ($\chi^2 = 9.68$, $p < 0.05$), and there was no significant association between pretest scores and other demographic variables. These findings of present study were comparable to the studies which revealed that there exist significant association between pretest knowledge levels and selected demographic variables.

V. CONCLUSION

Child abuse is one of the most significant social problems affecting children and parent. The nurses in the community area should emphasize on this problem and should conduct awareness campaign for general public, teachers and especially family members. They should also provide guidance and counselling to the abused children and their family members. In the present study, researcher studied the effect of educational package on knowledge of rural mothers regarding child abuse. The study results showed that Educational package is effective in increasing the knowledge of rural mothers regarding child abuse. Education can prevent child abuse and also can increase the awareness on reporting of child abuse and care of abused children. This confirms the need for the wider application of this strategy in the nursing practice. Keeping in view the findings of the present study, more innovative strategies can be adopted in order to impart knowledge to mothers.

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