

A Study to Assess the Knowledge Regarding Child Abuse among Mothers in Selected Areas of Punjab

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Abstract: *Child abuse is the physical, sexual and emotional maltreatment of the child. Child abuse is any activity that is done forcefully against the child. The prevalence of child abuse is increasing in children and it is a serious and common problem in and around the nation. A non-experimental descriptive study was conducted to assess the knowledge of mothers regarding child abuse. Study design was descriptive in nature. 60 mothers were selected by convenient non probability sampling technique. The study was conducted in selected areas of Punjab. The tool used for study was self structured questionnaire to assess level of knowledge regarding child abuse among mothers. The findings depicted that majority (46.7%) mothers had poor knowledge regarding child abuse, (33.3%) mothers had average knowledge and (20%) mothers had good knowledge regarding child abuse. The study shows majority of mothers having poor level of knowledge regarding child abuse. Most of the situation mothers ignore to take preventive measures where their children could be a victim of child abuse. Thus we are affirmed the need for making mothers aware about child abuse.*

Keywords: Knowledge, Mothers, Child abuse

1. Introduction

Child abuse is physical, physiological and Emotional maltreatment of children. Child Abuse is a globally relative issue as this issue can be witnessed in family across the world. According to child help.org " is a when a parent or caregiver, Whether through action or falling to act, causing injury, death, emotional harm and risk or serious harm to a child. Child Abuse is a more than bruises and broken bones. while physical abuse might be the most visible, other type of abuse, such as emotional abuse and neglect, also leave deep scars. Girls And Boys of all ages, ethnic groups, and socioeconomic levels experience high rates of child abuse and neglect

Child Abuse falls down to different categories, and These categories are:

- Emotional Abuse,
- Physical Abuse,
- Family violence
- Sexual Abuse

Physical abuse might be most visible, physical Abuse is defined as non-accidental physical harm to a child by actions such as:-Punching, beating, kicking, biting, shaking, throwing, stabbing, choking, hitting, burning.

Emotional Abuse refers to the psychological and social aspects of child Abuse. It is most common form of child abuse. Emotional abuse in school a serious cause of harm to victimised children and warrants ongoing active in interventions. (Adults Surviving Child Abuse, 2016). Emotional Abuse may occur when a child is ignored, Rejected, Isolated, Exploited, Corrupted, verbally Assaulted, Terrorized.

Sexual abuse is common. Children who have been sexually abused reportedly have an increased frequently of poor self-Esteem, depression. Sexual Abuse includes Sexual activity Toward or involving a child.

According to WHO Report that an average of 44, 476 Children reportedly go missing in India every year. Out of which 11, 008 Children continue to remain untraced annually. Most of these children end up in brothels or being abused by tourists. India has, by conservation estimates, 3, 00, 000 to 5, 00, 000 Prostitutes, being a major destination for trafficked children from within India and Neighbouring countries in India, There is no special law to deal with the incidence of abuse of a child or any kind of offence committed against the vulnerable child.

In Fact, it is barely recognized except scattered in the Indian penal code that can be used in cases of abuse and crimes committed against the child. Unless a crime as heinous as rape has taken place, the offence is not even considered to be very serious and traumatic to the child.

To prevent children from abuse and offences against them the general penal code and various other Preventive "Special and local laws Are available, includes:-

- Immortal Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1986 (Where minors are abused for in prostitution)
- Child labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986.
- Juvenile justice (Care And protection of child) Act, 2006
- Goa children's Act, 2003.
- Offences Against Children's Bill, 2006
- National Commission for Rights of the child.

Problem statement:

A study to asses the knowledge regarding child abuse among mothers in selected area of Punjab.

Objectives:

- 1) To assess the knowledge of mothers regarding child abuse.
- 2) To find out the association between the knowledge of mothers regarding child abuse with the selected socio-demographic variables

Operational definitions:

- Knowledge: Knowledge refers to awareness and understanding of the mother of children up to age of 18 years regarding child abuse which is measured by using questionnaire.
- Mothers: Mothers means a female parent of a child up to the age of 18 years.
- Child abuse: Child abuse means the physical injury, mental injury, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation or maltreatment of a child under age 18 by a person under circumstances that indicate the child's health or welfare is harmed or threatened.

Assumption:

- Mothers have average level of knowledge regarding child abuse.
- Selected demographic variable may influence the mothers knowledge about child abuse.

Delimitations:

- The study was delimited for 60 samples only.
- Study sample were limited to the mothers who had children upto 18 years

2. Research Methodology

Research approach: The research approach adopted for this study quantitative non experimental descriptive in nature.

Research design: The non experimental descriptive research design was used to assess the knowledge regarding child abuse among mothers.

Study variables: Knowledge regarding child abuse

Study setting: The study conducted in selected areas of Punjab VPO Jangiana, dist. Barnala, VPO Phallari, dist. Rupnagar, VPO Bandali Ala Singh, dist Shri Fathegarh Sahib and VPO Guru HarSahai dist. Ferozepur.

Population: The population of the study was mothers who had children up to the age of 18 years.

Target Population: The target population of this study was mothers had children up to the age of 18 years.

Sample size: The sample size was 60.

Sampling technique: The Non probability convenient sampling techniques used for this study.

Inclusion criteria:

- 1) Mothers who had children up to the age of 18 years
- 2) Mothers who were willing to participate in the study.

Exclusion criteria:

- 1) Mothers who were absent on the day of data collection.
- 2) Mothers who had children more than 18 years.

Tools of research: The investigator used a self structured questionnaire tool to assess the level of knowledge of mothers regarding child abuse.

Description of data collection tool

The tools consists of 4 sections

Section A: Demographic variables:-The first section consists of 7 items to collect data regarding personal and baseline information of mothers. It consist of age in years, family income per month, educational status, type of family, occupation, religion and number of children.

Section B: Self structured questionnaire:-It consist of 30 items to assess knowledge regarding child abuse. Tool was selected and developed by keeping in mind about objective of the study.

Knowledge scoring: The correct answer of each question carries 'one' mark and the wrong answer is marked 'zero'. The maximum score is 30, the score obtained by the participants is converted to percentage and graded as follows:-

Grading procedure**Level of knowledge**

Sr. No	Level of knowledge	Scoring
1	Poor	Less than 16
2	Average	16-22
3	Good	23-30

Content validity of the Tool: Content validity of the socio demographic variables was determined by the expert's opinion. The socio demographic variables and knowledge questionnaire was given to the medical and Nursing experts in the field of maternal and child health. As per the guidance and suggestions amendments were made in the tool.

Reliability of the Tool: Reliability of the Tool was estimated by test and retest method. The reliability came out to be 0.98. Thus, the Tool was reliable.

Pilot study: Pilot study was conducted on 6 mothers selected as per the sampling criteria.

Plan for data analysis: The data obtained was analysed by using both descriptive and inferential statistics:-

Descriptive statistics:-The demographic variables of ASHA workers regarding selected minor ailments were described by using frequency and percentage distribution.

Inferential statistics:-Chi square was used to find out the association of knowledge on first aid regarding selected minor ailments with demographic variables.

Ethical Considerations: The study was conducted after the approval of ethical committee of the **STATE INSTITUTE OF NURSING AND PARAMEDICAL SCIENCES**. Permission was sought from the village president of selected villages and confidentiality maintained. Informed consent obtained from each participant. Study purpose was explained to each participant.

Section-I

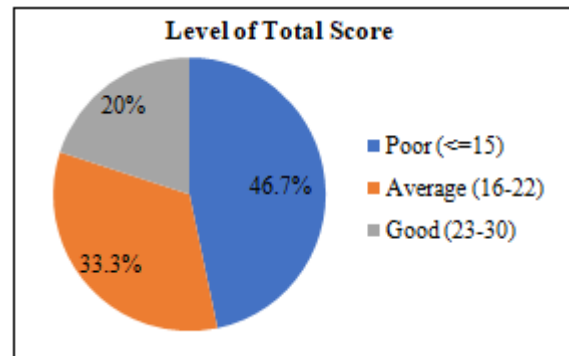
Table-I Frequency and percentage distribution of samples according to selected demographic variables, **N=60**

S no.	Demographic Variables	Frequency	Percentage
1	Age of mothers (in years)		
	Less than 19	0	0
	19-25 year	3	5.0
	26-30 year	16	26.7
	Above 30 year	41	68.3
2	Family income (in rupees)		
	2000 or less	0	0
	Rs.2001-5000/-	5	8.3
	Rs.5001-10000/-	15	25.0
	Above Rs.10000/-	40	66.7
3	Educational status		
	Illiterate	4	6.7
	Primary education	8	13.3
	Middle Class Education	21	35.0
	Secondary Education	17	28.3
	Graduation or Above	10	16.7
4	Family type		
	Joint Family	21	35.0
	Nuclear Family	39	65.0
5	Occupation		
	House wife	40	66.7
	Government Employee	7	11.7
	Private Employee	7	11.7
	Self Employed	6	10.0
6	Religion		
	Sikh	32	53.3
	Hindu	26	43.3
	Muslims	2	3.3
7	Number of children		
	Single Child	18	30.0
	Two Children	30	50.0
	More than two children	12	20.0

Table 2: Frequency and percentage distribution of level of knowledge regarding child abuse among mothers

Level of knowledge	Frequency	Percentage
Poor	28	46.7%
Average	20	33.3%
Good	12	20%

The table 2 shows that majority of mothers 28 (46.7%) had poor knowledge, 20 (33.3%) had average knowledge and 12 (20%) had good knowledge regarding child abuse among mothers.



Objective 2. To find out the association between the knowledge of mothers regarding child abuse with the selected socio-demographic variables.

Table: 3 Association of level of knowledge regarding child abuse among mothers with their selected demographic variables, N=60

Table 3 shows that there is significant association between knowledge of child abuse and the selected demographic variables such as age of mothers, educational status, family type and occupation among mothers. This table also shows that there is no significant association between family income, religion and number of children.

Section 2:

Objective 1. To assess the knowledge of mothers regarding child abuse.

Demographic variables	Poor (Frequency)	Average (Frequency)	Good (Frequency)	Chi square value
1. Age of mothers				
Less than 19	0	0	0	Chi square=10.280 df=4 p=.036 *S
19-25	0	3	0	
26-30	7	3	6	
More than 30	21	14	6	
2. Family income				
Less than 2000	0	0	0	Chi square=2.957 df=4 p=.565 *NS
2001-5000	4	1	0	
5001-10000	6	6	3	
More than 1000	18	13	9	
3. Educational status				
Illiterate	4	0	0	Chi square=44.295 df=8, p=.000 *S
Primary education	8	0	0	
Middle class education	10	11	0	
Secondary education	6	7	4	
Graduation or above	0	2	8	
4. Family type				
Joint	11	2	8	Chi square=11.010 df=2 p=.004, *S
Nuclear	17	18	4	
5. Occupation				
Housewife	20	16	4	Chi square=24.669 df=6 p=.000 *S
Government employee	0	1	6	
Private employee	4	1	2	

Self employed	4	2	0	
6. Religion				
Sikh	14	11	7	Chi square= 2.740
Hindu	14	8	4	df=4
Muslim	0	1	1	p =.602 *NS
7. Number of children				
Single	5	7	6	Chi square=7.857
Two children	14	10	6	df=4, p =.097
More than two	9	3	6	*NS

*S-Significant

*NS-Not Significant

3. Discussion

The main aim of the study was to assess the level of knowledge regarding child abuse among mothers are discussed below along with the objectives,

The first objective of the study was to assess the level of knowledge regarding child abuse among mothers the findings shows that Majority of mothers 46.7% had poor knowledge, 33.3% had average knowledge, 20% had good knowledge regarding child abuse.

Similarly, Navjotkaur and Kirandeepkaur conducted non-experimental descriptive study to assess the knowledge of mothers with school age children regarding child abuse and its prevention in Bhuchomandi, Bathinda. The study was conducted on 60 mothers with children in the age group of 6-12 years. Knowledge of mothers was assessed with the help of structured questionnaire. Convenient non-probability sampling technique was used in this study. The study revealed that out of 60, the level of knowledge of mothers 22 (36.7%) were having inadequate knowledge, 23 (38.3%) were having moderate knowledge, 15 (25%) were having adequate knowledge. Among socio-demographic variables, educational status of mother and occupational status came out to be significantly associated with level of knowledge.

The findings were similar to the study (Thangavelu SN) conducted a study to assess the level of knowledge regarding child abuse among mothers. The data was collected from revealed that 17 mothers (85%) were having moderately adequate knowledge, 3 mothers (15%) were having inadequate knowledge and 0% were having adequate knowledge.

The similar study conducted by (Brar MK) on assessment of knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse among mothers of fewer than five children. Findings reported that majority of 50 (50%) mothers of under five children had average knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse and minimum 12 (12%) had good knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse.

The second objectives of the study to find the association between the level of knowledge regarding child abuse among mothers with their selected demographic variables

Data findings revealed that there was a statistically significant association found between the level of knowledge with age, education and occupation of mothers and family type at $p < 0.05, .01$ level of significance.

There was no significant association found between a level knowledge with demographic variables such as family income, religion and number of children.

Similar study was conducted by Navjot Kaur and Kirandeep Kaur. In this study among socio-demographic variables, educational status of mother and occupational status came out to be significantly associated with level of knowledge.

The similar study conducted by (Mekala. P, Jeyalakshmi. S, Barathidasan. R) on assessment of knowledge on child abuse among mothers of adolescent girls. The results revealed that there was highly significant association with selected demographic variables such as educational status and occupational status.

4. Conclusion

On the basis of the findings of the study it was revealed that majority of mothers had poor knowledge regarding child abuse.

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