

A Study to Assess the Knowledge of Primary School Teachers regarding Early Detection and Prevention of Behavioural Problems among School Children in Selected Schools at Solapur, Maharashtra

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Abstract: This chapter deals with the analysis and interpretation of data obtained from 60 participants in selected schools, Solapur. The data was processed and analyzed on the basis of the objectives and hypothesis formulated for the present study. Analysis is a process of organizing and synthesizing data in such a way that research questions can be answered and hypothesis tested.¹² The results were computed using descriptive and inferential statistics based on the following objectives of the study.

Keywords: Primary School Teacher, Behavioural Problem, Children

1. Introduction

Mental Health of a child is of basic importance to gain the ability to live harmoniously in this changing environment. Child's health is the corner stone of national progress. The community which neglects its children retards its future progress. UNICEF has given great attention to the concept of the whole child which means it is essential to promote their health, as they are the vulnerable segment of the society.¹

World health day 1984 rightly spot lighted the basic truth indicating that we must all safe guard the healthy minds and bodies of the world's children. But a large number of the children, however cherished and loved become a cause for sorrow because of illness or untimely death.²

Behavior problems in children are an important social, educational, and health issue. The prevalence of these problems, their stability over time, their poor prognosis, and their costs to both individuals and the society, all point to the need for primary prevention and early effective interventions.³

Illiteracy ignorance, superstitions, culture, religious practice and rituals have lot of influences in the area of health.⁴ Children are considered as the most potential unit of our future human resources in a country like ours, which relies great deal on its human resource strength. Therefore, it is necessary in the interest of our country to look after the health and welfare as they form the most vulnerable segment of the population. A better tomorrow depend much on the well being, safety and development of children today.⁵

Schools have both responsibility and opportunity to help, protect, maintain and improve the health of the students.⁶

The role of the teacher is important and fundamental in school health services, participation of the teacher in child care is of great value and there is no substitute for this. Teachers can help the children to gain knowledge and understanding of health, develop favorable attitudes and formulate desirable habits to improve their own health as well as that of the community.⁷

Area wise analysis of knowledge scores on early detection and prevention of behavioural problems among Primary school teachers, N =60

Sl No	Area	No of items	Max. Score	Mean	Mean %	SD
1	Introduction to behavioural problems.	5	5	2.8	56	0.551
2	Excessive shyness.	5	5	2.83	56.66	0.668
3	Lying.	5	5	2.75	55	0.727
4	Thumb sucking.	5	5	2.68	53.66	0.596
5	Aggressive behavior.	5	5	2.88	57.66	0.549
6	Understanding bedwetting in children	5	5	2.96	59.33	0.609
7	Temper tantrum.	5	5	2.9	58	0.68
8	Nailbiting.	5	5	3.01	60.2	0.79
	Total	40	40	22.81	57.02	5.17

Table 10 shows the knowledge scores of the participants. (mean 2.8) knowledge on introduction tobehavioural problems, 56.66% (mean 2.83) on excessive shyness, 55%

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(mean 2.75) on lying, 53.66% (mean 2.68) on thumb sucking, 57.66% (mean 2.88) on aggressive behavior, 59.33% (mean 2.96) on understanding bedwetting in children, 58% (mean 2.9) on temper tantrum and 60.2% (mean 3.01) on nail biting.

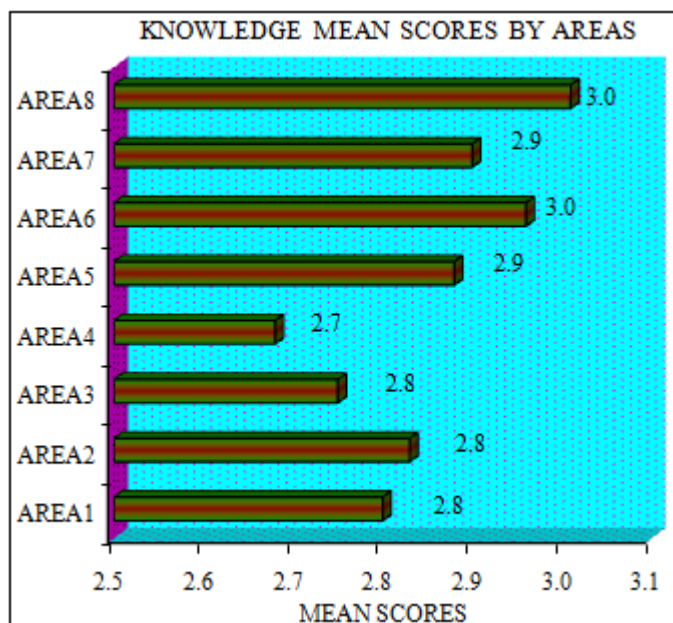


Figure 12: Knowledge Mean Scores by Areas

Percentage of level of knowledge on early detection and prevention of behavioural problems among Primary school teachers.

Sl No	Level of knowledge	Percentage of knowledge	Percentage of knowledge of Primary school teachers
1	Adequate.	>75	17
2	Moderate	51 – 74	30
3	Inadequate	<50	53

The above table depicts that 17% of primary school teachers had adequate knowledge, 30% had moderate knowledge and 53% had inadequate knowledge on early detection and prevention of behavioural problems.

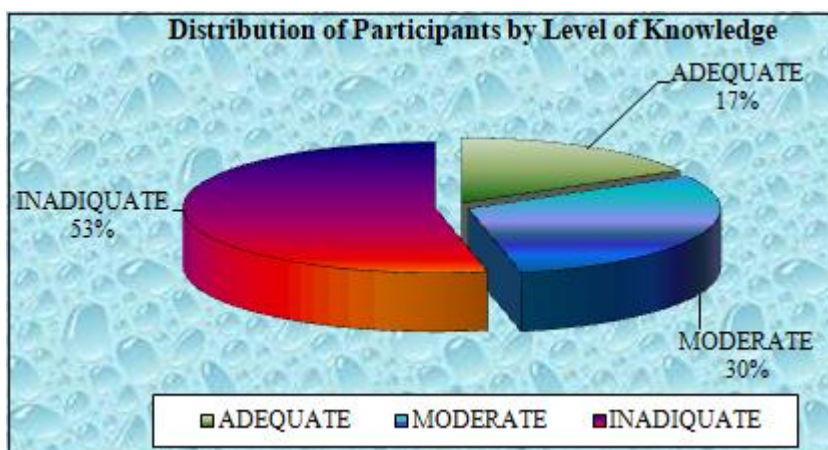


Figure 13: Pie diagram showing percentage of level of knowledge on early detection and prevention of behavioural problems among Primary school teachers

2. Summary

There is significant association between the knowledge level of the Primary. school teachers and selected demographic variables like age of participants ($\chi^2 - 50.081$), Education ($\chi^2 - 41.714$), Income ($\chi^2 - 34.965$), teaching experience ($\chi^2 - 39.80$), Source of information – in service education ($\chi^2 - 22.84$). Hence the research hypothesis H_{1j} is accepted at 0.01 and 0.05 level of significance.

There is no significant association between demographic variables such as sex ($\chi^2 - 0.12$), religion ($\chi^2 - 2.1425$), Place of residence ($\chi^2 - 0.05$), Family type ($\chi^2 - 0.366$), and Source of information-mass media ($\chi^2 - 0$), academic education ($\chi^2 - 0$), health personnel ($\chi^2 - 1.070$), friends and relatives ($\chi^2 - 0.965$) and books and journals ($\chi^2 - 0.535$). As these obtained scores were less than the table value at

0.01 and 0.05 level of significance the research hypothesis H_1 is rejected.

3. Conclusion

Primary school teachers play a vital role in our society. They should be educated on early detection and prevention of behavioural problems

The findings of the results show that the primary school teachers are having 57.02% knowledge regarding early detection and prevention of behavioural problems.

So the primary school teachers need to be made aware of importance of education on early detection and prevention of behavioural problems, as it helps in developing positive attitude towards health related aspects of children.

The sample characteristics of the participants with regard to the source of information show that 50% of the participants got the information from health personnel. So this emphasize on need for dissemination of information on health related aspects from health personnel. . So health information should be provided to the teachers through these media by the nurses.

Hence the nurses who come in contact with the primary school teachers whether in hospitals, health centers or during school visit should take initiative to provide necessary information to the primary school teachers on early detection and prevention of behavioural problems.

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