

A Study to Assess the Effectiveness of an Information Booklet on Knowledge and Attitude Regarding Child Abuse among Mothers of Under 12 Years Children Residing at Selected Rural Area in Bangalore

Jish Mathew

Lecturer, Department of Medical Surgical Nursing, Crescent College of Nursing, Kannur, Kerala, India

Abstract: Background: Child abuse is an any behavior directed towards a child by a parent, guardian, caregiver, other family members, or other adult that endangers or impairs a child physical or emotional health and development. Aim: To assess the effectiveness of an information booklet on knowledge and attitude regarding child abuse among mothers of under 12 years children residing at selected rural area in Bangalore. Methods: A total of 60 mothers of under 12 years children were selected by non-purposive sampling technique. Evaluative research approach and pre-experimental one group pretest post-test design was used in this study. Pre-test and posttest were done by using structured knowledge questionnaire and 5-point Likert scale was used to assess the attitude of mothers regarding child abuse and its prevention along with socio-demographic data collection. Information booklet was distributed to mothers regarding child abuse and its prevention. Descriptive and inferential statistics were used to analyzed the data. Results: The findings revealed that the overall mean knowledge scores of respondents were found to be 13.75 (45.83%) with SD 5.118 and the mean attitude score was found to be 32.02 (32.02%) with SD of 8.187. After administration of information booklet, the post-test mean knowledge scores of respondents were found to be 23.5 (78.33%) with standard deviation 5.774 and the post-test mean attitude score was found to be 75.05 (75.05%) with SD of 8.783. The obtained "t" value 13.966 and 25.962 are greater than the table value both at 0.05 level of significance. Therefore, "t" value is found to be significant. It means there was a significant improvement in post-test level of knowledge and attitude of mothers of under 12 years children regarding child abuse and its prevention. Conclusion: The study concluded that information booklet on child abuse and its prevention was highly effective in preventing child abuse.

Keywords: Assess, Effectiveness, Information booklet, Knowledge, Attitude, child abuse, Mothers of under 12 years children, Rural area

1. Introduction

The term child abuse can be defined as any behavior directed toward a child by a parent, guardian, caregiver, other family members, or other adult that endangers, or impairs a child physical or emotional health and development. Child abuse involves a complex and dangerous set of problems that include child neglect, physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, exploitation of the children and violation of the rights of children. Child neglect is a withholding of or failure to provide a child with the necessities of like food, clothing, shelter, medical care, attention to hygiene and treated with indifferences. Physical abuse is the children is defined as an excessive intentional physical injury to a child or excessive corporal punishments of a child. The physical abuse of child includes shaking, beating, dropping, submersion in hot water, intentional burning etc. Emotional abuse is a condition, which children do not get proper attention from their parents or guardians. It is also, include the absence of love, care, support and guidance. Sexual abuse is the engagement of the dependent children or developmentally immature individuals in exploitation or physically intimate sexual activity. The sexual abuse can be range from exhibitionism and fondling to intercourse or use of a child in the production of pornographic materials. Exploitation refers to commercial or other exploitation of child in work (child labor), or other activities for the benefit of others, such as child trafficking. Violation of rights refers to breaking the rights of children and not protecting the laws concerning child welfare and survival. All

form of child abuse can have both short and long-term impacts of the children.

2. Need for Study

Child maltreatment or child abuse is a significant global problem with a serious impact on the victim's physical and mental health, wellbeing and development throughout their lives and by extension, on society in general. According to the world health organization the world report on prevalence of child abuse in 2023 nearly 3 in 4 children or 300 million children aged 2-4 years regularly suffer physical punishment and or psychological violence at the hands of parents and caregivers, and 1 in 5 women and 1 in 13 men reported having been sexually abused as a child aged 0- 17 years. 120 million girls under 18 years of age have suffered some form of forced sexual contact. Every year, there are an estimated 40 150-homicide deaths in children under 18years children. Researcher while working in the community and the hospital settings observed increased number of cases of child abuse. Among the observed cases there were incidents where parents specially mothers were not aware of the problem of child abuse and its effect. Because of fear of social stigma, parents were reluctant to report the cases to the authorities concerned with health care or legal protection. As a primary care giver, mothers can easily identify the symptoms of child abuse. Indicators of child abuse could be any unusual scar mark or hurt on child's body, irritated behavior and weird behavior to detect early abuse and prevent it as soon as possible. Hence,

Volume 14 Issue 12, December 2025

Fully Refereed | Open Access | Double Blind Peer Reviewed Journal

www.ijsr.net

mother's knowledge and attitude are very important to know indicators of child abuse, signs and symptoms in children suffering from abuse, further more in protecting their children. Community health nurses or health care providers have moral and legal responsibilities to educate the mothers about the child abuse, effects, prevention and also report these cases to relevant authorities or social welfare organizations to provide early interventions for the victims and perpetrators and prevent further abuse. Education seems to play a positive role in increasing the knowledge and attitude of mothers about child abuse and its prevention.

3. Objectives of the Study

- 1) To assess the existing level of knowledge and attitude regarding child abuse among mothers of under 12 years children.
- 2) To assess the effectiveness of an information booklet on knowledge and attitude regarding child abuse among mothers of under 12 years children.
- 3) To find out the correlation between knowledge and attitude regarding child abuse among mothers of under 12 years children.
- 4) To find out the association between pretest knowledge regarding child abuse among mothers of under 12 years children and selected socio demographic variables.
- 5) To find out the association between pretest attitude regarding child abuse among mothers of under 12 years children and selected socio demographic variables.

Hypothesis

- 1) **H1:** There will be a significant difference between pretest and posttest level of knowledge and attitude on information booklet regarding child abuse among mothers of under 12-years children.
- 2) **H2:** There will be a significant correlation between the knowledge and attitude regarding child abuse among mothers of under 12-years children.
- 3) **H3:** There will be a significant association between the knowledge regarding child abuse among mothers of

under 12-years children and selected socio demographic variables.

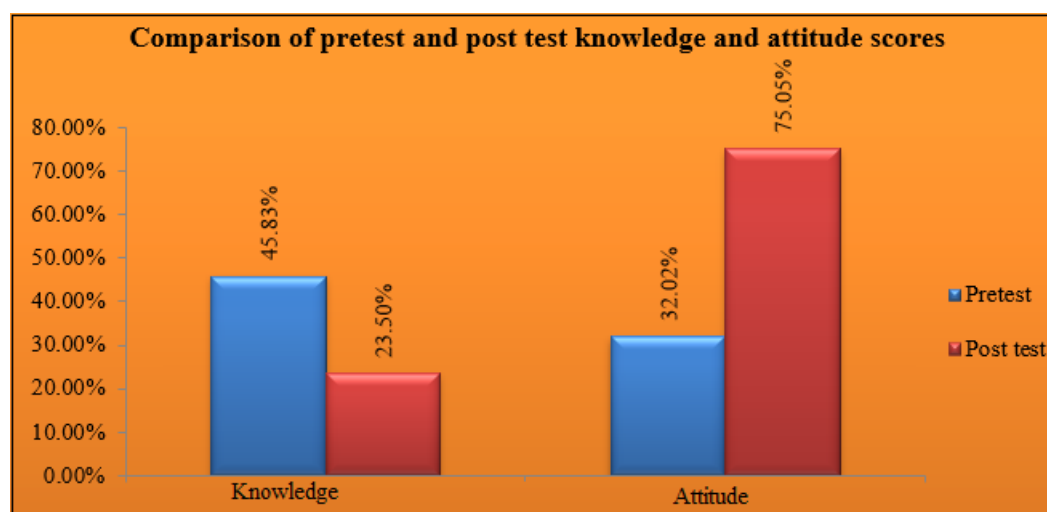
- 4) **H4:** There will be a significant association between the attitude regarding child abuse among mothers under 12-years children and selected socio demographic variables.

4. Methodology

A total of 60 mothers of under 12 years children were selected by non-purposive sampling technique. Evaluative research approach and pre-experimental one group pretest post-test design was used in this study. Pre-test and posttest were done by using structured knowledge questionnaire and 5-point Likert scale was used to assess the attitude of mothers regarding child abuse and its prevention along with socio-demographic data collection. Information booklet was distributed to mothers regarding child abuse and its prevention. After distribution of the information booklet post-test was conducted on 8th day using the same structured knowledge questionnaire and 5-point Likert scale. Descriptive and inferential statistics were used to analyzed the data.

5. Results

- The findings based on first and second objectives revealed that the majority 29 (48.3%) of the mothers had inadequate knowledge, 28 (46.7%) had moderate knowledge and 3 (5%) of them had adequate knowledge in the pretest. After administration of information booklet 40 (66.7%) of the subjects had adequate knowledge 16, (26.7%) had moderate knowledge and only 4 (6.7%) had inadequate knowledge regarding Child abuse in the post test. The majority 54 (90%) of the mothers had negative attitude, and 6 (10%) of them had neutral attitude, none of them had positive attitude in the pretest. After administration of information booklet 39 (65%) of the subjects had positive attitude and 21 (35%) had neutral attitude and none of them had negative attitude towards child abuse in the post test.



- The overall mean knowledge scores of respondents were found to be 13.75(45.83%) with standard deviation 5.118 and the mean attitude score was found to be 32.02 (32.02) with standard deviation of 8.187. after administration

information booklet, the post-test mean knowledge scores of respondents were found to be 23.5 (23.50%) with standard deviation 5.774 and the post-test mean attitude

scores was found to be 75.05 (75.05%) with standard deviation of 8.783.

- It is evident that the obtained "t" value 13.966 and 25.962 are greater than the table value both at 0.05 level of significance. Therefore, "t" value is found to be significant. Hence it is inferred that there is significant difference between pretest and post-test level of knowledge and attitude on information booklet regarding child abuse among mothers of under 12-years children and the hypothesis H1 is accepted.
- This is clearly indicating that after administration of the information booklet, there was significant improvement in

the knowledge and attitude level of mothers among under 12 years children regarding child abuse and its prevention.

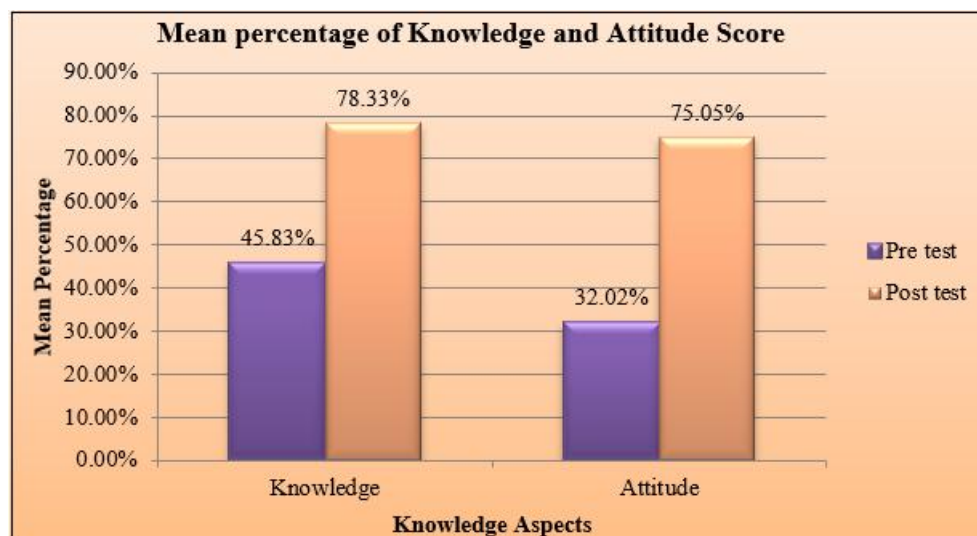
- The findings based on the third objective revealed that the obtained "t" value 0.197 and 0.095 are not significant at 0.05 level of significance. Therefore, "r" value is found to be not significant. Hence it is inferred that there is no significant correlation between the knowledge and attitude scores of mothers of under 12 years children in selected rural area regarding the child abuse and hypothesis H2 is rejected.

Table 1: Correlation between knowledge and attitude scores of mothers, N = 60

S. No		Knowledge		Attitude		r Value	P value	Inference
		Mean	SD	Mean	SD			
1	Pre test	13.75	5.118	32.02	8.187	0.197	0.132	No Correlation
2	Post Test	23.5	5.774	75.05	8.783	0.095	0.725	No Correlation

- The findings based on fourth objective revealed that χ^2 value computed between the pretest knowledge level of mothers of under 12 years children in selected rural area on child abuse and selected demographic variables. Variables such as age and occupation were significant at 0.05 level. Thus, it can be inferred that there is significant association between knowledge level of the mothers and selected variables. Therefore, the hypothesis H3 stated there will be significant association between knowledge level of mothers and the selected demographic variables is accepted.
- The findings based on fifth objective revealed that χ^2 value computed between the pretest attitude level of

mothers of under 12 years children in selected rural area on child abuse and selected demographic variables. Variables such as age, education, occupation, religion, income, economic status, type of family, number of children in family and source of information were significant at 0.05 level. Thus, it can be inferred that there is no significant association between attitude level of the mothers and selected variables. Therefore, the hypothesis H4 stated there will be significant association between attitude level of mothers and the selected demographic variables is rejected.



6. Discussion

The study results showed that after administering information booklet on child abuse and its prevention was highly effective in preventing child abuse. Limitations of the study was samples were limited only to specific area, small number of subjects (60) limited the generalization of the study, participants were selected through non-probability purposive sampling techniques limited the generalization of the study.

7. Conclusion

The study concluded that information booklet on child abuse and its prevention was effective in preventing child abuse. It helps to further studies and research. This kind of studies should be conducted more to educate the student nurses, school children, teachers, community health nurses, staff nurses and other health care providers who can bring awareness and educate more people regarding child abuse and its prevention.

Does the study require any investigations or interventions to be conducted on patients or other human or animals?

Yes, in this study, only information booklet and structured knowledge questionnaire will be administered to mothers of under 12 year's children. No other interventions which cause and physical harm will not be used in the study.

Has ethical clearance been obtained

Yes, Confidentially and anonymity of the subject will be maintained. A written formal administrative permission from institutional authority will be obtained prior to the study.

References

- [1] US Department of health and human services child welfare information gateway. Definitions of child abuse and neglect. [Internet]. 2014 Oct: 30(2):109-125. Available from: <https://www.childwelfare.gov>.
- [2] Preethy N A. Soma Sundaran. S. Awareness of child abuse and neglect among working parents in Chennai, India: A Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) Survey. J Family Med Prim Care.2020FEB;9 (2): 602-608.
- [3] Mohan Simi, Dr. T. Kochuthresiamma, Dr. Joice Suba. Knowledge, Attitude and Practices on prevention of child sexual abuse among mothers in a tertiary setting. International Journal of Science and Research. Index Copernicus Value (2015): 78,96/ Impact Factor (2015):6. 391.ISSN:2319-7064.13) <https://www.who.int/news-room/factsheets>
- [4] J. Al-Khalifa. et al. Prevalence of child abuse among grade nine students in governmental schools in Kuwait. Health Sciences Centre Poster Conference, Kuwait University. Doi: 10.13140/RG.2.211575.57762. May 2011.
- [5] Gurung, L.B. and Bahattarai. S. Knowledge of Child Abuse among Parents of Under 5 years Children in Kathmandu, Nepal. Journal of Manmohan Memorial Institute of Health Sciences, 1(4),9-13, 2015.
- [6] Khanjari S. et al. Knowledge, Attitude and Practices among parents of school-age children after child sexual abuse prevention education. Iran Journal of Nursing. 2017;29(104): 17-27.
- [7] Nursing Journal of India. Volume 2, Issue 2, May-August 2019.
- [8] Shankar Poornima. et al. Assessment of knowledge and attitude about child abuse among parents visiting a tertiary care hospital in Bengaluru, India. International journal of Contemporary Pediatrics. ISSN:2349-3291. May 2020,7.
- [9] Anand Manisha. A study to assess knowledge of mothers regarding child abuse in the selected rural and urban areas in Lucknow with a view to develop information by providing booklet. International Journal of Advanced Research. ISSN: 2320-5407. DOI: 10.21474/IJAR01/18068.