

# A Study to Assess the Knowledge and Practices Regarding Worm Infestation among the Mothers of School Age Children (6-12 Years) in Order to Develop Health Education Pamphlet at Paruvachi, Erode District, Tamil Nadu

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**Abstract:** Worm infestation is one of the major health problems in developing India. It mainly affects the children, which may deteriorate their health status. Through it affects the health bodily, it is easily preventable. The most common causes of ingesting worm eggs or larvae through contaminated food, water, or soil, or by coming into direct contact with infected surfaces or children. **Aims:** The aim of study is to assess knowledge and practices regarding worm infestation among the mothers of school age children. **Objectives:** to assess knowledge and practice regarding worm infestation and association between the mother knowledge and practice on worm infestation and demographic variable. **Methods:** A descriptive research design was adopted. The sample size was 100 mothers of school age children were selected from selected in Paruvachi at Erode district, Tamil Nadu. Who were attending mother of school age children (6-12 years) there a structured questionnaire and questionnaire checklist were administered to selected mothers to assess the knowledge and practices of regarding worm infestation. **Results:** Assessment of level of Knowledge of mothers regarding worm infestation among school age children showed that majority 42 % had moderately adequate Knowledge, minority 19% had adequate knowledge and remaining 39% of mothers have inadequate knowledge. Overall mean knowledge score was 12.96 (SD=3.337). Assessment of level of practices of mothers regarding worm infestation among school age children revealed that majority 44% were fair practice and minority 25% were poor practice and remaining 31% of mothers were good practice of prevention of worm infestation. Overall mean practice score was 5.47 (SD=2.258). The correlation between the knowledge and practices regarding worm infestation  $r=0.8829$  showed that there was a highly significant positive correlation. It means when the knowledge increases their practice also increases highly. There was a statistically significant association between level of knowledge and demographic variables such as educational qualification of the mothers ( $p=0.0003$ ). source of information ( $p=0.0029$ ) regarding worm infestation. There was a statistically significant association found between level of practices and demographic variables such as educational qualification of the mother ( $p=0.0001$ ), score of information ( $p=0.1131$ ) regarding worm infestation. Research hypothesis stated were accepted. **Conclusion:** The study result revealed that majority 42% of the mother moderately adequate knowledge worm infestation and 44% of them had fair practices towards prevention of worm infestations. Demographic variables have influence on the knowledge and practices of mother regarding worm infestation among the school age children. There is a positive relation between knowledge and practice regarding worm infestation among the school age children.

**Keywords:** Knowledge, practices, mother, worm infestation, school age children, health education pamphlet

## 1. Introduction

Children constitute a large section of the population in India. it has been a great challenge to the nation provide health, education and food to the children below 12 years. School age population comprising of 38% of the country, who are dependent, unproductive but has great potential. The formative years of children has greater risk for morbidity and mortality. In most cases, the manifold childhood problems are interrelated and affect the growth and development of children, the most commonness being infections, parasitic infestations and malnutrition. The magnitude of parasitic infestation among children constitutes a major public health problem in many parts of the world. In India the infestation is particularly heavy in the area with warm, damp climates with heavy rainfall, as in the west coast. Worm infestation has a close relationship with the socio demographic and ecological factor like poverty, illiteracy, poor personal and environmental hygiene. From the children the entire family may eventually get worms and suffer. Worm infestations are generally not noticed but can sometimes lead to significant

problem, which affect organ system Most of these are a result of unsanitary living condition and poor food preparation. In countries like India, these constitute an important public health problem, as anemia is caused by hookworm infestation in a significant number of children.

## 2. Need for the Study

“The day will come when nations will be judged not only by their military or economic strength, but by the splendour of their level of health, nutrition and education. “

And the time has come health, nutrition and education are the most important issues related to the children. these issues are very closely interrelated, and unhealthy issues were malnourished child of today will only contribute to unhealthy future of the country. therefore, most countries of the world recognize this urgent need of providing health, nutrition and education of children.

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Mother could play a significant role in imparting health information to other mothers. Knowledge and habit formation regarding environmental sanitation and hygienic practices can help reduce the incidence of worm infestation. The mother must be able to differentiate the minor and major problems of her children. The commonest problem of the under given may include malnutrition, upper respiratory tract infection and worm infestation. If the child is protected from worm infestation means definitely the child will not suffer with weight loss, diarrhea and other frequent infections. This will minimize morbidity and mortality of the school age children. These for the mother should understand about the cause, signs and symptoms, complication, prevention and treatment. Hence the investigator planned to conduct the study to assess the knowledge and practice of the mothers regarding worm infestation among the school age children.

### 3. Objectives of the Study

- 1) To assess the knowledge and practice regarding worm infestation among the mothers of school age children.
- 2) To correlate the knowledge and practices of worm infestation among the mothers of school age children.
- 3) To find out the association between the mother's knowledge on worm infestation and demographic variables.
- 4) To find out the association between the mothers practice on worm infestation and demographic variable.

#### Hypotheses

- H1- There is a significant relationship between knowledge and practices of mothers regarding worm infestation.  
H2- There is a significant association between level of knowledge of mothers and demographic variables.  
H3- There is a significant association between level of practices of mothers and demographic variables.

### 4. Methodology

**Research Approach:** Research approach was used for this study Non experimental approach was considered as the best to assess knowledge and practices regarding worm infestation among the mothers of school children.

**Research Design:** The research design refers to the researcher's overall plan for obtaining answer to the research question and for testing the research hypothesis. The research designs adopted for the study descriptive design.

**Variables under study:**

**Independent Variable:** Mothers who are having school age children

**Dependent variable:** Knowledge and practices of mothers of school age children regarding worm infestation

**Extraneous variables include:** Age, educational, occupation, income, source of information.

**Research setting:** The study was conducted in village Paruvachi, Bhavani taluk, Erode District Tamil Nadu.

**Population:** The target population of present study was mother of school age children's who are residing at Paruvachi.

**Sample size:** The sample size for the study was 100 mothers of school age children.

**Sampling technique:** The sampling technique was used for this study was Convenient sampling technique.

#### Sampling criteria

##### Inclusion criteria:

- Mothers who are having school age children.
- Mothers who are residing at Paruvachi.
- Mothers who understand and speak Tamil language.
- Mother who are Present during data collection

##### Exclusion criteria:

- Mothers not willing to participate in the study.
- Mother of deaf and dumb.

#### Development of the Tool

The tool consists of three sections:

**Section I:** It deals with demographic variables such as age education, occupation, monthly income of the family, type of family, number of school age children in the family, dietary pattern, latrine facility, pet animals and source of information on worm infestation.

**Section II:** Questionnaire regarding Knowledge of worm infestation among the mothers of school age children. It comprised of 30 multiple-choice questions. Each correct answer was given a score of one and each wrong answer a score of 0. The total possible score was 30.

Scoring of Knowledge questionnaire was by

1-10: Inadequate Knowledge

11-20: Moderate adequate Knowledge

21-30: Adequate Knowledge

**Section III:** Questionnaire regarding practice of worm infestation among the mothers of school age children. Consisted of 10 items. Each correct answer was given a score of one and each wrong answer a score of zero. The total possible Score was 10.

**The level of practices was categorized as follows:**

0-3: Poor Practices

4-7: Fair Practices

8-10: Good Practices

### 5. Results

Assessment of level of Knowledge of mothers regarding worm infestation among school age children showed that majority 42 % had moderately adequate Knowledge, minority 19% had adequate knowledge and remaining 39% of mothers have inadequate knowledge. Overall mean knowledge score was 12.96 (SD=3.337)

**Assessment of Mean and Standard Deviation of Knowledge Score**

Number of Samples	Mean	Standard Deviation
100	12.96	3.337

**Level of Knowledge**

Level of Knowledge	Frequency	Percentage
Inadequate	39	39%
Moderately Adequate	42	42%
Adequate	19	19%

- Assessment of level of practices of mothers regarding worm infestation among school age children revealed that majority 44% were fair practice and minority 25% were poor practice and remaining 31% of mothers were good practice of prevention of worm infestation. Overall mean practice score was 5.47 (SD=2.258)

**Assessment of Mean and Standard Deviation of Practice Score**

Number of Samples	Mean	Standard Deviation
100	5.47	2.258

**Level of Practice**

Level of Practice	Frequency	Percentage
Poor	25	25%
Fair	44	44%
Good	31	31%

- The correlation between the knowledge and practices regarding worm infestation  $r=0.8829$  showed that there was a highly significant positive correlation. It means when the knowledge increases their practice also increases highly.

**Correlation of Knowledge and Practices of Mothers of School Age Children Regarding Worm Infestation**

Correlation between	Mean score Mean+ SD	Karl Pearson Correlation Coefficient	Interpretation
Knowledge	12.96+3.337	$r=0.8829$	Highly Significant
Practice	5.47+2.258	$P<0.0001$	Positive Correlation

- There was a statistically significant association found between level of knowledge and demographic variables such as educational qualification of the mothers ( $p=0.0003$ ). source of information ( $p=0.0029$ ) regarding worm infestation
- There was a statistically 1 Signiant association found between level of practices and demographic variables such as educational qualification of the mother ( $p=0.0001$ ), score of information ( $p=0.1131$ ) regarding worm infestation
- Research hypothesis stated were accepted

**6. Conclusion**

The present study assessed the knowledge and practices of mothers regarding worm infestation among school age children. The result revealed that majority 42% of the mothers moderately adequate knowledge regarding worm infestation and 44% of them had fair practices towards prevention of

worm infestations. Demographic variables have influence on the knowledge and practices of mother regarding worm infestation among the school age children. There is a positive relation between knowledge and practice regarding worm infestation among the school age children.

**7. Recommendations**

On the basis of the findings of the study is recommended that

- 1) A study can be undertaken with a large sample for better generalization.
- 2) A similar study can be undertaken by adopting an experimental design.
- 3) A similar study can be done to assess the knowledge of school teachers.
- 4) A comparative study can be done between rural and urban mothers.
- 5) A similar study can be done among school children.
- 6) A similar study can be done among tribal children.

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