

A Study to Assess the Knowledge Regarding Teenage Pregnancy Among Selected Girls at Selected School in Coimbatore

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Abstract: ***Aim and Objective:** To assess the knowledge regarding teenage pregnancy among adolescent girls in selected school, Coimbatore. **Materials and Methods:** A descriptive study was adopted to assess the knowledge among adolescent (12-17 years) school students (30 Samples) studying in 10th standard in school at pattanam Village, Coimbatore who filled the inclusion and exclusion criteria. Convenient purposive sampling technique used to select the samples. Tool was prepared and validity of the tool was obtained from Subject experts. Descriptive and inferential statistics was administered to assess the knowledge among adolescent (12-17 years) school students. **Results:** The study finding revealed that among 30 samples, majority of the adolescent 36 (90%) are in the age group 16-17, 4 (10%) are in the age group of 13-15 years. **Conclusion:** The study results revealed that most of the adolescent girls possess a basic understanding of teenage pregnancy, there remain sufficient significant gaps in knowledge regarding its causes, consequences and method of prevention. **Index Terms:** Teenage, Pregnancy, adolescent.*

Keywords: Teenage Pregnancy, Adolescent Girls, Knowledge Assessment, Pregnancy Awareness, Reproductive Health Education

1. Introduction

Adolescence is a transitional stage of physical and mental human development that occurs between childhood and adulthood. This transition involves biological (i.e. pubertal), social, and psychological changes, though the biological or physiological ones are the easiest to measure objectively. A teenager, or teen, is a young person whose age is between thirteen and nineteen (13-19 yrs). They are called teenagers because their age number ends in "teen". Teenage pregnancy is pregnancy in a female under the age of 20 yrs. A pregnancy can take place as early as two weeks before menarche (the first menstrual period), which signals the possibility of fertility, but usually occurs after menarche. In healthy, well-nourished girls, menarche normally takes place around the ages 12 or 13. Whether the onset of biological fertility will result in a teenage pregnancy depends on a number of personal and societal factors.

Statement of the Problem

A Study to Assess the Knowledge on Teenage Pregnancy among Adolescents Girls in Selected Community at Meerut.

Objectives:

- 1) To assess the knowledge regarding teenage pregnancy among adolescents girls in selected community at Meerut.
- 2) To find out the association between the knowledge regarding Teenage Pregnancy with their selected demographic variables.

Assumption of the study:

- Teenage girls are having knowledge on teenage pregnancy.
- Teenage girls are able to answer the question regarding teenage pregnancy.

2. Research Methodology

Descriptive research design is used in this study. The sample size of 30 adolescents girls were selected by using purposive

sampling technique. Following that we have used self-administered knowledge questionnaires to assess their knowledge.

3. Materials and Methods

A descriptive study was adopted in order to assess the knowledge regarding teenage pregnancy among girl students in a selected school in pattanam school, Coimbatore. The study conducted over a period of one week, i.e.

The independent variable of this study was selected school girls.

The dependent variable was knowledge regarding teenage pregnancy among selected school girls.

The study sample includes adolescents school students in the age group of 13-17 years studying in Pattanam Government Higher Secondary school, Coimbatore.

The sample size consisted of 30 girls (Who fulfilled the inclusion and exclusion criteria) non-probability purposive sampling technique- lottery method. The study included girls available during the time of data collection and samples included only girls in the age group of 13-17 years. The study excluded the adolescents who were not willing to participate in the study and who were sick at the time of data collection.

The tool consisted of two parts i.e., Demographic data and structured questionnaire tool. The data collection tool consists of two sections. Section A consists of demographic variables and Section B consists of a semi-structured questionnaire to assess the knowledge level which consist of 20 yes or no question regarding teenage pregnancy among teenagers.

4. Results

Socio-demographic Characteristics

A total of 30 adolescent school students from Ashokapuram Government High School were participated. The mean age of the students was 14.9 (±1.4) years. It is observed that, most of the students 36 (90%) were in the age group of 15-19 years and only 4 (10%) in the age group of 13-15 years. Majority of the participants were Hindu (75%), followed by Christians (15%) and Muslim (10%). Most of the students (75%) live in a nuclear family followed by joint (25%). Majority of the student birth order are second born (44%), followed by first born (33%) then third born (20%) and 3% of students were single born. More than half (60%) the students had at least one sibling, 34% have two siblings and 6% of students had no sibling and more than two respectively. The majority of the students belonged to the upper class (56%) and lower-middle-class (44%). More than half of the students (70%) were from schools located in the rural area. About 65% of the students attended menarche in the age of 10-13 years and the 35% of the students attended in the age of 14-15. Most of the student's fathers occupied with others work (40%), 33% were salaried employees 20% fathers were government staff and 7% are businessmen. Regarding mothers' occupation, majority of the mothers were house wife (60%), 17% do other work ,13% were salaried employee and only 10% are government staff. Among the students, the family income is above 20000 is 40%, 30% were between 10000- 15000, 17% of the student's family with below 10000 income and 13% of the family with 15000-20000 income

Table 1: Distribution of knowledge levels regarding Teenage pregnancy among adolescent's girls

A semi-structured questionnaire with multiple choice questions to assess the knowledge of teenage pregnancy which consists of age for teens, attended sex education, media influences, family and social pressures, mental health, complications of teenage pregnancy, etc.

Each correct answer was awarded a score of "1" mark and each wrong answer was given the score of "0". The maximum score of the knowledge assessment semi-structures questionnaire was 20. The resulting score was interpreted as follows;

Table 1: Distribution of Knowledge levels regarding Teenage pregnancy among adolescent's girls. N=30

| S. No | Socio Demographic Variables | Frequency (F) | Percentage (%) |
|-------|-----------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1 | Age in years | | |
| | 15 | 36 | 36% |
| | 16 | 64 | 64% |
| 2 | Standard of studying | | |
| | 10 std A sec | 40 | 40% |
| | 10 std sec | 60 | 60% |
| 1. | Father Education | | |
| | Illiterate | 23 | 23% |
| | Primary Education | 19 | 19% |
| | Secondary Education | 11 | 11% |
| | Intermediate | 34 | 34% |
| 4 | Graduate | 13 | 13% |
| | Father Occupation | | |

| | | | |
|-----|------------------------|----|-----|
| | Un employee | 3 | 3% |
| | Private employee | 20 | 20% |
| | Govt employee | 7 | 7% |
| | Retired/others | 51 | 51% |
| | Daily wages | 19 | 19% |
| 5 | Mother Education | | |
| | Illiterate | 20 | 20% |
| | Primary education | 32 | 32% |
| | Secondary education | 14 | 14% |
| | Intermediate | 20 | 20% |
| 6. | Graduate | 14 | 14% |
| | Mother Occupation | | |
| | Home maker | 36 | 36% |
| | Un employee | 14 | 14% |
| 7. | Private employee | 11 | 11% |
| | Govt employee | 23 | 23% |
| | Type of Family | | |
| | Nuclear family | 84 | 84% |
| 8. | Joint family | 13 | 13% |
| | Single parent family | 3 | 3% |
| | Income | | |
| | Rs, 5000-10000 | 55 | 55% |
| 9. | Rs10001-15000 | 13 | 13% |
| | Rs15001- 20000 | 12 | 12% |
| | above 20000 | 20 | 20% |
| | Place of Residence | | |
| 10. | Urban | 37 | 37% |
| | Rural | 58 | 58% |
| | Sources of Information | | |
| | Parents | 28 | 28% |
| | Friends/peer group | 13 | 13% |
| | Books | 23 | 23% |
| | Mass media | 36 | 36% |

Table 2: Distribution of knowledge levels regarding Teenage pregnancy among

| S. No | Level of knowledge | Category | Frequency (f) | Percentage (%) |
|-------|--------------------|----------|---------------|----------------|
| 1 | Inadequate | 0-27% | 25 | 25% |
| | Moderate | 28%-40% | 41 | 41% |
| | Adequate | 41-54% | 34 | 34% |

Table1 shows that 36% of adolescent girls belonged to age group of 15 years followed by 64% of adolescent girls to the age group of 16 years. Considering standard of studying, it shows that majority (60%) of adolescent girls were intermediate 2 ndyear and 40% were intermediate 1st year. Regarding educational status, 23% of Father's adolescent girls were illiterate, 19% were primary education, 11% were secondary education, 34% were intermediate, and remaining 13% were graduates respectively. With respect to occupation 3% of Fathers were un employees, 20% were private employees, 7% were government employees, 51% were retired/others, 19% are doing daily wages. Regarding educational status 20% of mother's of adolescent girls were illiterates, 32% were primary education, 14% were secondary education, 20% were intermediate and 14% were had graduates. With respect to occupation, of mother's of adolescent girls were 36% were homemakers, 14% were un employees, 11% were private employees, 23% were Government employees, and 16% were retired/ others. Regarding type of family, 84% of the adolescent girl belongs to nuclear family, 13% were of them were belongs to joint family, 33% were adopted single parent family. When family income per month was taken in to consideration

majority (55%) of adolescent girls family income was Rs 5000- 10000, 13% adolescent girls family income was Rs 10001-15000, 12% adolescent girls family income was 15001-20000, and 20(20%) family income was above 20000 respectively. As for as religion was concerned most (90%) of adolescent girls were from Hindus, 5% of adolescent girls were from muslims, very few 5% of adolescent girls from christians. Considering place of residence 37% of adolescent girls were belongs to urban area, 58% of adolescent girls were belongs to rural area, and very few 5% of adolescent girls were belongs to slum areas. When sources of information 28% of adolescent girls were from parents, 13% of adolescent girls from friends/peer groups, 23% of adolescent girls from books, and 36% of adolescent girls from mass media.

Table 2 shows that 25% of adolescent girls had inadequate knowledge, 41% had moderate knowledge and 34% had adequate knowledge.

5. Conclusion

Evidence from this investigation revealed that, majority of adolescent girls had in adequate and moderate knowledge. This study suggests that necessity of creating awareness and providing motivation, to prevent teenage pregnancy. Thus, if we could provide correct knowledge and motivation to younger adolescent girls on a population basis, a positive change could be achieved among adolescent girls to bring out healthy community. Health education should be incorporated in the curriculum which should be given through teaching, inter personal communication, television, health camps. Mobiles are very common among adolescents. Broad casting of health message would be effective through mobiles. Reproductive health problems should be discussed among adolescents and identify and solve their reproductive health problems through counselling with the help of specialist on time to time.

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