

Effectiveness of Structured Teaching Programme on Knowledge and Attitude of School Teachers regarding Child Abuse at Selected School

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Abstract: *Child abuse is a state of emotional, physical, economic and sexual maltreatment meted out to a person below the age of eighteen and is a globally prevalent phenomenon with a silent stigma attached. A quasi experimental research design was used to assess the Effectiveness of Structured Teaching Programme on Knowledge and Attitude of School Teachers regarding Child Abuse at Selected School. 30 school teachers selected by simple random sampling technique, by using structured questionnaire and attitude scale, pre and post structured teaching programme. Pre-test knowledge mean score was 10.6(average knowledge) and pre-test attitude mean was 33.4 (poor attitude). After structured teaching programme calculated t-values for Knowledge (8.03) and Attitude (16.25) and it was concluded that Structured Teaching Programme on Child Abuse was effective in improving the Knowledge and Attitude of the School Teachers regarding Child Abuse significantly. Since Fisher Exact value to Class Teacher of Class was significant, the null hypothesis was rejected. It was concluded that Class Teacher of Class was the demographic variable which was found to have significant association with attitude of the School Teachers regarding Child Abuse. Thus it can be concluded that class teachers of 1st-6th std had better attitude than class teachers of 7th-12th std towards child abuse. From the study it can be concluded that school teachers lack knowledge on child abuse and pose poor attitude towards child abuse. This deficit in knowledge and attitude among school teachers can be filled by providing Structured Teaching Programme on Child Abuse.*

Keywords: Child Abuse, Knowledge, Attitude, School Teachers, Structured Teaching Programme.

1. Introduction

Child abuse is a state of emotional, physical, economic and sexual maltreatment meted out to a person below the age of eighteen and is a globally prevalent phenomenon. However, in India, as in many other countries, there has been no understanding of the extent, magnitude and trends of the problem. The growing complexities of life and the dramatic changes brought about by socioeconomic transitions in India have played a major role in increasing the vulnerability of children to various and newer forms of abuse.

There is a large child population in India and a large percentage of this population is vulnerable to abuse, exploitation and neglect. There is also inadequate information about the extent of child abuse in the country. Barring a few sporadic studies, with limited scope, the attempt to understand the different forms and magnitude of child abuse across the country has been inadequate

2. Literature Survey

A prospective study was conducted in the state of Victoria, in the year 2003 to examine the impact of child sexual abuse on mental health. The aim of this study was to examine the association between child sexual abuse in both boys and girls and subsequent treatment for mental disorders and to compare the mental health of general population of the same age using a prospective cohort design. This study included 285 male and 1327 female children in the age group of 16 years and younger. The method used was a diagnostic hierarchy to specify a single diagnosis for cases. This study showed that there was a clear association between child sexual abuse and disturbances of mental health in childhood. It also showed that the male and female victims of abuse had significantly higher rates of psychiatric treatment than

general population (12.4% vs. 3.6%). Male victims were significantly more likely to have treatment than 13 females (22.8% vs. 10.2%).

A study was conducted in Jordan to examine the prevalence and long-term impact of child sexual abuse. This study included 100 male college students of the age group 18 – 20. The method used was a one-stage retrospective questionnaire survey procedure. The results showed that the prevalence of child sexual abuse among the participants was 27% who had experienced sexual abuse before 14 years of age. The study also revealed that those who had experienced child sexual abuse had more mental health problems than those who never had.

A study was conducted in the year 1995 to determine whether the abuse of children was prevalent among middle class professionals in India. The purpose of this study was to assess their attitudes toward child rearing and their expectations about child development. 319 subjects were selected for this study using stratified random sampling from three cities in India. The method used was face-to-face interviews. The study showed that 56.9% reported having used “acceptable” violence while 41.9% revealed that they had engaged in “abusive” violence and 2.9% admitted that they have employed “extreme” violence toward their children.

A study on risk factors of child maltreatment within the family: Towards a knowledgeable base of family nursing was conducted in Finland in the year 2000. The purpose of this study was to compare family dynamics in child maltreating 20 families (n=42) with that in ordinary families with children (n=77) and to ascertain risk factors of child maltreatment within the family. The data have been collected from 119 families. Data were collected using

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questionnaires. The mean age of the respondents was 34 years both in child maltreating families (group 1, n = 42) and in ordinary family with children (group 2, n = 77). Comparison of family dynamics in child maltreating families and ordinary families showed that family functioning in the families of the first group was poorer on all dimensions than that in the second group. Child maltreating families were found to be less flexible with changes and experienced less togetherness. In child maltreating families, the parents had generally lower education than did ordinary families.

Problem Definition

“Effectiveness of Structured Teaching Programme on Knowledge and Attitude of School Teachers regarding Child Abuse at Selected School”

3. Methodology / Approach

A quasi experimental study consisting of one group pre-test, post-test design was selected by the investigator. The study was divided into three phases.

Phase I: After taking informed Consent from subjects;

- a) Pre-test of the selected group i.e. assessing existing Knowledge of School Teachers regarding Child Abuse.
- b) Pre-test of the selected group i.e. assessing Attitude of School Teachers regarding Child Abuse.

Phase II: Structured Teaching Programme on Child Abuse.

Phase III:

- a) Post-test of the selected group i.e. assessing Knowledge of School Teachers regarding Child Abuse on 7th day after Structured Teaching Programme.
- b) Post-test of the selected group i.e. assessing the Attitude of School Teachers regarding Child Abuse on 7th day after Structured Teaching Programme.

Tool and Technique:

For this study tool used to collect the data from the subjects includes:

- a) Structured Questionnaire to assess the knowledge regarding Child Abuse.
- b) Attitude scale to assess the attitude towards Child Abuse.

Validity: The content validity was established by 26 experts.

Reliability: The reliability was obtained by using split half method, Spearman Brown’s Coefficient. Questionnaire and Attitude scale: The Spearman Brown’s Coefficient was assessed and found to be reliable. (Knowledge r = 0.72; attitude r = 0.87).

4. Results & Discussion

Section I: Demographic Data of the subjects in Frequency and Percentages. 43.33% of the School Teachers had age 30-39 years, 33.33% of them had age 40-49 years, 16.67% of them had age 20-29 years and 6.67% of them had age above 50 years. 73% of School Teachers were female and 27% of

them were male. 50% of School Teacher had more than 10 years of Teaching Experience, 33.33% of them had 6-10 years of Teaching Experience and 16.67% of them had 1-5 years of Teaching Experience. 50% of School Teachers had already received knowledge on Child Abuse from working organization, 43% of them had received knowledge on topic from media and 7% had gained knowledge through the incident encountered by them. 30.43% of School Teachers were equally from 1st- 3rd Std, 4th- 6th Std & 7th-9th Std, 8.70% of them were class teacher of 10th- 12th Std. Majority 57% of School Teachers were M.Ed. and 43% of them were B.Ed.

Section II: Assessment of the Knowledge and Attitude of School Teachers regarding Child Abuse. 46.67% of the School Teachers in the pre-test had Average Knowledge regarding Child Abuse, 43.33% of them had Good Knowledge, 6.67% of them had Excellent Knowledge regarding Child Abuse and 3.33% of them had Poor Knowledge regarding Child Abuse whereas in post-test majority 50% of them had Good Knowledge, 40% of them had Excellent Knowledge regarding Child Abuse and 10% of them had Average Knowledge regarding Child Abuse.

70% of the School Teachers in the pre-test had Poor Attitude regarding Child Abuse, 23.33% of them had Average Attitude and 6.67% of them had Good Attitude regarding Child Abuse, whereas in post-test majority of 63.33% of them had Good Attitude regarding Child Abuse, 36.67% of them had Average Attitude regarding Child Abuse and none of them had Poor Attitude regarding Child Abuse.

Section III: Effectiveness of Structured Teaching Programme on Knowledge and Attitude of School Teachers regarding Child Abuse, n=30

Parameter	Admin	Mean	Standard Deviation (SD)	t'-value	df	p-value
Knowledge	Pre-test	10.6	2.44	8.03*	29	0
	Post-test	14.8	2.14			
Attitude	Pre-test	33.4	7.12	16.25*	29	0
	Post-test	57.03	3.91			

*Significant, [t = 2.05, p < 0.05], [t = 2.76, p < 0.01] (29) (29)

The table value of t' at 29 degree of freedom for 0.05 and 0.01 level of significance was less than calculated t-values for Knowledge (8.03) and Attitude (16.25). Thus null hypothesis was rejected and it was concluded that Structured Teaching Programme on Child Abuse was effective in improving the Knowledge and Attitude of the School Teachers regarding Child Abuse significantly.

Section IV: Correlation between Knowledge and Attitude of School Teachers regarding Child Abuse.

Statistic	Value
Pearson's correlation coefficient (R)	0
p-value	1

*Significant, [r= 0.381, p < 0.05], [t = 0.487, p < 0.01] (28) (28)

The value of R was 0.00. Corresponding p-values were less than 0.05 at 28 degrees of freedom. Thus null hypothesis was accepted and it is concluded that correlation between

Knowledge and Attitude of the School Teachers regarding Child Abuse was not statistically significant.

Section V: Association of Knowledge and Attitude of School Teachers regarding Child Abuse with their Demographic Variables. Among Class teacher of class 1st – 6thstd, majority had favourable attitude towards child abuse, whereas Class teacher of class 7th – 12th std had unfavourable attitude towards child abuse. Thus it can be concluded that class teachers of 1st–6thstd had better attitude than class teachers of 7th–12th std towards child abuse.

5. Conclusion

From the study findings it is concluded that Structured Teaching Programme is found to be effective in improving Knowledge and Attitude of School Teachers regarding Child Abuse.

6. Limitations

- a) The study was confined to a specific geographical area, which imposes limits to any larger generalization.
- b) The study was limited only to School Teachers and the groups were small which resulted in reduced power in statistical analysis.
- c) The data was collected from 30 samples to find out the Knowledge and Attitude. It could be done on more samples for the larger generalization.
- d) The tool consisted of demographic variable and questionnaire on School Teacher Knowledge regarding the child abuse. The questionnaire with multiple choices must have prompted the School Teachers to give their responses. Hence the possibility of getting average or good score could be a chance factor in this study, which was a limitation of the tool.
- e) No assessment of the actual occurrence of child abuse was made.

7. Future Scope

Nursing Education:

There is evidence that in many countries, there is little recognition of child abuse among the public or health professionals because they are not properly trained in this subject. So the contents and practice elements related to child abuse should be **incorporated into the curricula of diploma, baccalaureate, and master's programs in nursing**. The curriculum should incorporate activities like preparation of booklets, pamphlets and discussion sessions regarding the child abuse.

Nursing Practice

The Nurses play a key role in educating mothers regarding the child abuse either in hospitals or in community. Increasing awareness and understanding of the phenomenon among the general population will result in a lower level of child abuse. Educational campaigns will help to reduce incidence of child abuse. This includes a televised documentary, short films and printed materials such as posters, stickers, booklets and newspaper articles.

From findings of present study, investigator as a nurse felt the need that nurses should act as facilitators to educate children, general population, teachers and parents regarding the effects of child abuse.

School based programmes should be included in the regular school curriculum. This should be designed to teach children how to recognize threatening situations and to provide them with skills to protect themselves against abuse.

Children should also be taught how to tell an adult if they are asked to do something which they find uncomfortable. School programmes vary widely in terms of their content and presentation and may also involve parents or caregivers. Children should develop knowledge and acquire skills to protect themselves against abuse.

Nursing Administration

Nurse Administrator can plan for periodic population based surveys of the public regarding the child abuse. In-service education can be conducted for nurses on the detection and reporting of early signs and symptoms and the physical and psychological effects of child abuse. The administrators should encourage the staff and students to carry out small project work in different population, so as to find out the factors influencing child abuse.

Nursing Research

In nursing there is scarcity of research done on School Teachers Knowledge and Attitude regarding child abuse. There is a great need for more study of the problem of neglect of children. Research should be conducted on risk factors or protective factors in child abuse such as stress, social support, domestic violence and substance abuse. Nurses should take initiative to conduct research on awareness of teachers regarding the child abuse.

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