

A Comparative Study to Assess the Knowledge of Rural and Urban Mothers Regarding Child Abuse in Selected Areas of Bhandara with a View to Develop an Information Booklet

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Abstract: ***Introduction:** UNICEF estimates that, globally 40 million children aged less than 15 years suffer from abuse and neglect. An estimated two million children are involved in pornography and 300,000 serve as soldiers in armed conflict. In its 5th edition of the Innocenti Report Card a series of analyses of child health and welfare in the 30 nations in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the nations producing two thirds of the world's services and goods, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Estimates that 3500 children die annually from child abuse occurring in developed nations. Death rates due to abuse range from 0.1 per 100,000 children in Spain to 2.4 in the United States and Mexico. **Objectives:** 1) To assess the knowledge of rural mothers regarding child abuse. 2) To assess the knowledge of urban mothers regarding child abuse. 3) To compare the knowledge of rural and urban mothers regarding child abuse. 4) To find out the association between the knowledge scores of rural and urban mothers regarding child abuse with selected demographic variables. 5) To develop an information booklet regarding child abuse. **Methods and materials:** The research approach used was Descriptive Survey approach. A comparative study design is used to reveal the difference in knowledge of urban and rural mothers regarding child abuse. **Setting of the study:** The study will be conducted in rural and urban places in selected areas of Bhandara district. **Samples** are mothers with children of age 5 to 14 years; **sampling technique** was used convenient sampling. **Result and discussion:** The findings of the study were showed that mothers of urban have moderate knowledge (86%) and rural mother has (58%) knowledge regarding child sexual abuse.*

1. Introduction

UNICEF estimates that, globally 40 million children aged less than 15 years suffer from abuse and neglect. An estimated two million children are involved in pornography and 300,000 serve as soldiers in armed conflict. In its 5th edition of the Innocents Report Card a series of analyses of child health and welfare in the 30 nations in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the nations producing two thirds of the world's services and goods, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Estimates that 3500 children die annually from child abuse occurring in developed nations. Death rates due to abuse range from 0.1 per 100,000 children in Spain to 2.4 in the United States and México.

2. Background of the Study

The worst problem that our country faces is sexual abuses against children. If you open any newspaper in India, you can see a least one child abuse case highlighted almost every day. Such is the rat eat which is the child abuse is increasing in the country. It sounds very shocking but it is the truth. In fact, the cases that are reported to the police are very less as the families fear for shame and media coverage makes them even more difficult.

3. Need for the Study

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4. Objectives

- 1) To assess the knowledge of rural mothers regarding child abuse.
- 2) To assess the knowledge of urban mothers regarding child abuse.
- 3) To compare the knowledge of rural and urban mothers regarding child abuse.
- 4) To find out the association between the knowledge scores of rural and urban mothers regarding child abuse with selected demographic variables.
- 5) To develop an information booklet regarding child abuse.

Hypothesis: H1: There will be a significant difference in knowledge scores of rural and urban mothers regarding child abuse. **H2:** There will be significant association between the knowledge scores of rural and urban mothers with selected demographic variables.

Assumption

- 1) Mothers of rural and urban areas may have some knowledge on child abuse.
- 2) Mothers who have adequate knowledge can prevent child abuse.
- 3) Selected demographic variable may influence the

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mothers' knowledge regarding child abuse.

5. Material and method

Research approach: The Descriptive Survey approach used.

Research design: A comparative study design is used to reveal the difference in knowledge of urban and rural mothers regarding child abuse.

Population: The population of the study comprise of mothers with children of age 5 to 14 years.

Target population: mothers with children of age 5 to 14 years in selected areas of Bhandara district.

Accessible population: Mothers who are available at the time of data collection in selected areas of Bhandara district.

Setting of the study: The study will be conducted in rural and urban places in selected areas of Bhandara district.

Sample size and sample: Sample size of the study is 100 mothers .50 from rural area.50 from urban area.

Sampling technique: sampling technique was used convenient sampling.

Description of tool: Part I – It comprise of demographic variables such as age of mothers, sex of the child, education, number of children's in the family and birth order of the child. **Part II** – It comprise of questions regarding child abuse.

6. Results and Discussion

Section I: Description of mothers with children of age 5 to 14 years with regards to demographic variables

Majority of mothers with children of age 40 (40%) were between 18- 22 years, 30 (30%) between 23-26 years, 30 (30%) between 27-30 years. Majority of sex of child 60% were males, 40% were females. Majority of education 54% were under graduate, 36% were graduate and 10% were postgraduate. Majority of mothers having number of children 1-3 (57%) and more than 3 (43%). Majority of children 40% of first birth, 30% of third birth, 16% of fourth birth and 14% of second birth.

Section II: Description of knowledge score regarding child sexual abuse of mothers with children of age 5 to 14 years in selected rural area

Majority 41(68.33%) of the subject in rural area average knowledge, 10 (16.67%) had good knowledge, 9(15.00%) had poor knowledge regarding child sexual abuse.

Section III: Description of knowledge score regarding child sexual abuse of mothers with children of age 5 to 14 years in selected urban area.

Majority 47(78.33%) of the subject in rural area average knowledge,7(11.67%) had good knowledge,6(10.00%) had poor knowledge regarding child sexual abuse.

7. Conclusion

The findings of the present study showed that, the urban sample score was higher than the rural knowledge score. The comparison of rural and urban knowledge score showed that there was a significant difference in knowledge scores at 5% level of significance ($p < 0.05$).

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