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RESEARCH ARTICLE

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EFFECT OF STRUCTURED TEACHING PROGRAMME ON KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDE REGARDING CHILD ABUSE AMONG MOTHERS OF PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN IN ANGANWADI, PUDUCHERRY

¹Mrs. Anandhi, A., ²Dr. Mallika Rajadurai and ³*Mrs. Saritha, G.

¹M.S.c (N), Staff nurse, Pondicherry Institute of Medical Sciences

²Former Professor, Department of Pediatric Nursing, Pondicherry Institute of Medical Sciences

³Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatric Nursing, Pondicherry Institute of Medical Sciences, Ponicherry-14

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ABSTRACT

Abuse is a serious and common problem in and around the World. A quarter of all adults have been physically abused as children. One in 5 women and 1 in 3 men has been sexually abused as a child. In the world, India has the largest number of children 375 million, covering 40% of its population, out of which 69% of Indian girls are victims of physical, emotional, and sexual abuse. **Objectives:** The study aims to assess the effects of "Structured Teaching Programme on Knowledge and Attitude regarding child abuse among Mothers of pre-school children in Anganwadi, Puducherry". **Methodology:** Quasi-Experimental (One group Pre-test, Post-test only design with non-probability convenient sampling technique was used to collect the data from 40 mothers of preschool children in Sedarapet, Anganwadi at Puducherry. The data were collected by the Structured Interview guide method. **Result:** The findings of the study revealed that in the pre-test, 32.5% of mothers had Inadequate Knowledge and 22.5% had Adequate Knowledge. In the post-test, 2.5% had inadequate knowledge and 70% had adequate knowledge. In terms of attitude, 82.5% had a desirable attitude and 17.5% had the most desirable attitude in the pre-test and the post-test result was 42.5% had desirable attitude and 57.5% had the most desirable attitude. No one was with undesirable attitudes both in pre-test and post-test. **Conclusion:** The study recommended that the various measures to combat child abuse are awareness of children, parents, and urging strong policy. The study concluded that Mother's knowledge and family involvement in a child's well-being and development plays a major role in the prevention of child abuse.

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INTRODUCTION

The global prevalence of sexual abuse has been estimated as 19.7% for females and 7.9% for males, according to a 2009 study published in *Clinical Psychology Review* that examined 65 studies from 22 countries.⁴ The highest prevalence rate of sexual abuse geographically was found in Africa (34.4%), Europe showed the lowest prevalence rate (9.2%); America and Asia had prevalence rates between 10.1% and 23.9% respectively.

*Corresponding author: Mrs. Saritha, G.

Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatric Nursing, Pondicherry Institute of Medical Sciences, Ponicherry-14.

Most sexual abuse offenders are known their victims; approximately 30% are relatives, most often brothers, fathers, uncles, and cousins; around 60% are other acquaintances such as 'friends of the family, babysitters, neighbors, and strangers are the offenders in approximately 10% of sexual abuse cases.⁷ In India every year more than 6.6 million children are abused in that 20.7% are sexually abused. In 2014, state agencies found over 702,000 victims of child maltreatment⁸. In 2013 statistics estimated that 679,000 children were victims of sexual abuse and neglect.⁸ In 2012, 346,830 rape cases are reported as per the National Criminal Victimization survey⁹ In 2015, 1,670 children died from abuse and neglect in the United States, Children's Advocacy Centers around the country served more than 311,000 child victims of abuse, providing victim advocacy and support to these children and their families¹⁰.

New Delhi, the nation's capital, has an abuse rate of over 83%. More than 70% of cases are unreported or unshared even with family members. Global Prevalence of Sexual Abuse¹¹ Even though the economic, political, and social conditions in India are changing swiftly, still women's circumstances are rare to be able to feel safe within their bodies with the startling increase in the number of rape cases in recent years. This is of concern to everybody including the government hence a solution is sought⁵. The Government of India, Ministry of women, and child development conducted a study in 2007 regarding Sexual Abuse. The result revealed that 53.22% of girls have faced several forms of sexual abuse. Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, and Delhi reported the highest rate of sexual abuse among both boys and girls. 21.90% of girls respondents reported that they have faced severe forms of sexual abuse, 50.76% are other forms of sexual abuse. 5.69% are sexually assaulted. Children on the street, at work, reported a high incidence of sexual assault. 50% of abuses were by persons known to the girl or in a position of higher-level trust and responsibility. Most girls did not report the matter to anyone¹³

A report by the Indian Economy outlook (2013) publicized that India has the highest incidents of violence against women. In 2012 Delhi gang-rape case emphasizes public attention and the government to take positive measures.¹⁴ The prevalence of Child Sexual Abuse in girls is consistently higher than in boys. Prevalence rates of adolescent girls range from 5.8% to 33.8% in 1996 and 2000 respectively and in boys 6% in 1997 to 15.1% in 2000.⁶ Hence the researcher has realized that the incidence of child abuse is increasing day by day and it produces serious long-term effects in life of child. The most of the mother are unaware and have inadequate knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse. So the researcher would like to assess the effect of structured teaching program on knowledge and attitude regarding child abuse among mothers of pre-school children.

Objective: The objective of the study was to find out the effects of Structured Teaching Programme on Knowledge and Attitude regarding child abuse among Mothers of pre-school children in Anganwadi, Puducherry”.

METHODOLOGY

Quasi-Experimental One group Pre-test, Post-test only design was adopted. The study was conducted in Sedarapet village, Puducherry The samples were mothers who are having preschool children and attending Sedarapet Anganwadi, at Puducherry. Convenient Sampling Technique was employed to select 40 mothers of pre-school children. The data were collected by the Structured Interview guide method to assess the knowledge and attitude of child abuse among mothers of preschool children. The data was collected over 4 weeks in November 2017.

Ethical clearance: The ethical clearance obtained from the institutional ethics committee of College of Nursing, Pondicherry Institute of Medical Sciences. Permission obtained from the Department of Women and Child Development, and informed consent from the participants.

Tools and technique: The Structured Interview Questionnaire was developed by the researcher after an extensive review of

the literature and with the guidance of experts, validation was obtained and English to Tamil translation was done.

The Structured Interview questionnaire consists of three sections:

Part I: Socio-Demographic information of the mothers of preschool children

Part II: Structured Questionnaire contains 20 questions to assess the knowledge regarding Child Abuse among mothers of preschool children.

Part III: 5 Point Likert scale to assess the attitude on child abuse. The scale contains 20 statements. 13 are positive and 7 are negative statements

Description of intervention: Structured Teaching Programme was systematically organized structured Powerpoint Presentation was used to teach about Child Abuse for 20 minutes. PowerPoint teaching consists of Meaning, types of abuse, symptoms of sexual abuse, Causes, prevention, and treatment.

Statistical analysis: Descriptive and inferential statistics were used to analyze the data.

RESULTS

Socio-demographic characteristics : The study results revealed that 30 (75%) of Mothers were in the age group of 21-30 years and 10 (25%) of them were 31-40 years. Distribution of mother's education showed that 1 (2.5%) of mother has illiterate, 13 (32.5%) of them were studied primary education, 5 (12.5%) of them were studied secondary education, 21 (52.5%) were graduates and all were homemaker. Around 33 (82.5%) were heard about child abuse and 7 (17.5%) were not heard about child abuse. Based on the source of information 33 (82.5%) of them heard through television. None of them did participate in any child abuse program.

Pre-test and post-test level of knowledge on child abuse

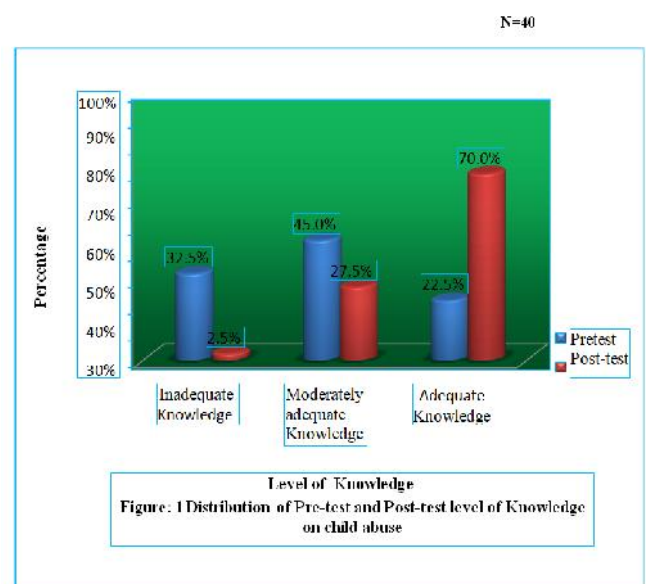


Figure 1. Pre-test and post-test level of knowledge on child abuse

Figure: 1 showed that 32.5% of the mother had Inadequate Knowledge, 45 % of the mothers had moderately adequate knowledge and 22.5% of them had Adequate Knowledge in the pre-test.

In the post-test 70% of mothers improved to Adequate Knowledge, 27.5% of them had moderately adequate knowledge and 2.5% of them have remained inadequate knowledge regarding child Abuse.

Pre-test and post-test level of attitude on child abuse

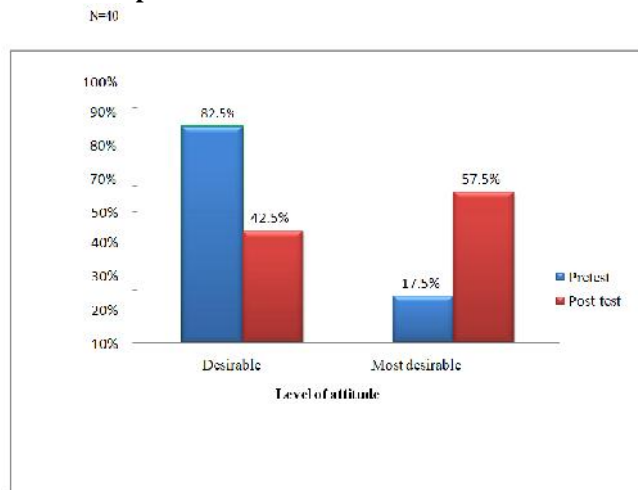


Figure 2. Pre-test and post-test level of attitude on child abuse

Figure: 2 showed that 82.5% of mothers had desirable Attitudes and 17.5% of mothers had the most desirable Attitude in the pre-test, On Post-test, 42.5% of them had desirable Attitudes and 57.5% of the mothers had the most desirable Attitude. None of them had an undesirable Attitude on the Pre-test and Post-test.

Association of Level of Knowledge and Attitude with Selected Demographic Variables: The findings showed that statistically significant association between pre-test knowledge level with selected demographic variables such as no of children in the family, previous knowledge about child abuse at the level of ($p < 0.05$).

The other demographic variables such as mother's age, mother's education, and family income were not statistically significant. There was a statistically significant association between pre-test Attitude level with selected demographic variables such as family income at the level of ($p < 0.05$). The other demographic variables such as mother' age, mother's education and previous knowledge were not statistically significant.

RECOMMENDATIONS

-) Comparative study can be conducted in rural and urban areas regarding knowledge and attitude on child abuse among mothers.
-) A similar study can be replicated on control and experimental group
-) This similar study can be replicated on a large sample thereby finding can be generalized for a large population.

LIMITATION: It was more time consuming to explain the mothers because of difference in their understanding.

CONCLUSION

Child abuse can result in Psychosomatic and psychological disturbances leading to stressful adulthood. Children bloom with love and affection. They are the future of the nation who needs affection and proper guidance from time to time. Mother is the first teacher and guider for children. As a parent, it is very important to understand the child and their world. Patience is the key factor and more and more reforms are needed to spread awareness.

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