Research Article

Effectiveness of Structured Teaching Programme on Knowledge Regarding Child Abuse Among Mothers of Children Who Were Admitted in Paediatric Wards at SKIMS, Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir

Gazala Javid[1], Munira Kachroo[2]

[1] M .Sc. Nursing Student, Mader- E- Meharban, Institute of Nursing Sciences and Research, SKIMS, Soura, Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir.
[2] Principal & Guide, Mader- E- Meharban, Institute of Nursing Sciences and Research, SKIMS, Soura, Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir.

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Corresponding Author:
Gazala Javid, M.Sc. Nursing Student, Mader- E- Meharban, Institute of Nursing Sciences and Research, SKIMS, Soura, Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir.
E-mail Id: gazalajavidbhat199702@gmail.com
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A B S T R A C T

Background: Child abuse (also called child endangerment or child maltreatment) is physical, sexual, and/or psychological maltreatment or neglect of a child or children, especially by a parent or a caregiver. Child abuse may include any act or failure to act by a parent or a caregiver that results in actual or potential harm to a child and can occur in a child›s home, or in the organizations, schools, or communities, the child interacts with. Child abuse in the Kashmir is a pervasive problem. Physical, verbal, sexual, and emotional abuse are all common. Structured teaching programme is most feasible intervention to decrease the morbidity and mortality.

Aim: The aim of this study was to assess the effectiveness structured teaching programme on knowledge among mothers regarding child abuse at SKIMS, Srinagar

Objectives:

1. To assess the pre-test knowledge score of mothers of children admitted in Paediatric wards regarding child abuse

2. To assess the post-test knowledge score of mothers of children admitted in Paediatric wards regarding child abuse after implementation of structured teaching programme

3. To compare pre-test and post-test knowledge score of mothers of children admitted in Paediatric wards regarding child abuse after implementation of structured teaching programme .

4. To find out the association of pre-test knowledge score among mothers of children admitted in Paediatric wards with their selected

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Methodology: A quantitative, one group pre-test post-test design was used to assess the effectiveness of structured teaching programme on knowledge among 60 mothers of children regarding child abuse admitted in Paediatric wards SKIMS Srinagar. The study subjects were selected by using purposive sampling technique. A self-structured interview schedule was used to assess the pre-test and post-test knowledge of study subjects. After establishing validity and reliability (r=0.98) of the tool, pre-test was carried out on day 1st and on the same day, structured teaching programme was given. Post-test was carried out on 4th day.

Results: Highest number of study subjects (58.33%) belonged to age group of 25-30 years, maximum number of study subject were illiterates (31.77%) and house wives (56.77%), Equal number of study subjects belonged to rural areas and were from nuclear families (55%) whereas 45% of study subjects belonged to urban area and were from joint families. On pre-test knowledge score, majority of the study subjects (86.7%) had inadequate knowledge, 13.3% had average knowledge and none of the study subjects had adequate knowledge regarding child abuse whereas on post-test, all the study subjects (100%) had adequate knowledge. The mean post-test knowledge scores of the study subjects regarding child abuse was significantly higher (53.76±2.45) than that of the mean pre-test knowledge scores (23.01±4.47) and t-test (56.10) was significant at 0.05 level of significance which indicates that there was significant difference between pre-test and post-test mean knowledge score. There was statistical significant association of the pre-test knowledge scores of study subjects with their demographic variables like educational status, type of family and occupation (p <0.05).

Conclusion: The study concluded that the knowledge level of mothers of children regarding child abuse improved after the administration of structured teaching programme.

Keywords: Structured teaching Programme, Knowledge, Mothers of Children, Child Abuse (Physical, Sexual, Emotional).

Introduction

Children are the asset of the society and future of the world. All parents, teachers and society are responsible for promoting the growth and development of Child's health, education and daily care.[1] Child abuse is a significant global problem with a serious impact on the victims throughout their lives. According to WHO (2013) it is estimates that the international level of prevalence in child abuse and neglect was approximately 50500 children were at the risk of abuse.[2]

The global existence and prevalence of abuse against children is increasing in past recent years. It has assisted in increasing awareness and cause relevant national and international actions. India is not part of this and has been told to see the reality of violence prevailing in the nation all around. The accurate number of victims of child abuse across the globe is not known yet but international association of internet hotlines depicts that Web Pages with material of child abuse have increased by more than 50 percent from the year 2017 to 2018. In 2018, a study was conducted by UNICEF and its partners who recognized 33 various kinds of abuse and violence against children as reported by caretakers of children between the age group of 0 to 6. Also, many parents consider physical and emotional punishments to be normal for the child. They consider it to be their right as a parent of the child.[3]

India is home to almost 19 % of the world's children. More than one third of the country's population, around 440 million, is below 18 years. The strength of the nation lies in having healthy, protected, educated and well-developed children who may grow up to be productive citizens of the country. It is estimated that around 170 million or 40 per cent of India's children are vulnerable or experiencing difficult circumstances characterized by their specific social, economic and geo-political situations. All these children need special attention. Harmful traditional practices like child marriage, caste system, discrimination against the girl child, child labour and Devadasi tradition impact negatively on children and increase their vulnerability to abuse and neglect. Lack of adequate nutrition, poor access to medical and educational facilities, migration from rural to urban areas leading to rise in urban poverty, children on the streets and child beggars, all result in breakdown of families. These increase the vulnerabilities of children and exposes them to situations of abuse and exploitation. Although there is a dearth of data on the nature and magnitude of the incidence of child abuse in India, data on offences against children reported by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) is the only authentic source to estimate the number of children in abusive situations. It is important to note here that the NCRB data is only indicative in nature on the reported cases. It is also an accepted fact the majority of cases of child abuse go unreported .[4]

In the schools of Kashmir, the shadow "Pandemic of Child Abuse" has taken on particularly disturbing dimensions, with many children subjected to physical and psychological abuse on a daily basis. Child abuse in the schools of Kashmir is a pervasive problem. Physical, verbal, sexual, and emotional abuse are all common. Children are beaten, humiliated, and threatened by their teachers and other students.[5]

Need for the Study

Children are born innocent. They want only to be loved, to learn, and to contribute.[6] Children are some of the most vulnerable members of our society and are widely held as needing greater care and protection. However, despite this,

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children are frequently victims of or witnesses to violence, abuse, and other crimes, including domestic violence, community violence, physical assault, sexual assault, commercial sexual exploitation, and child maltreatment.[7]

Child maltreatment is a global problem with serious lifelong consequences. International studies reveal that 20% of the women and 5-10% of all men report being sexually abused during their childhood 25-50% of all children report being physically abused. Additionally, many children are subject to emotional abuse/psychological and to neglect. Every year, there is an estimated 41000 homicide deaths in children below 15 years of age in Asia due to high population density, poverty, illiteracy, caste system and the landlessness, lack of economic opportunities, rural urban migration, population growth, political instability and weak implementation of legal provision the issue of child labour and child sexual exploitation. [8]

According to the National Crime Record bureau (NCRB) report number of violations against children in 2013 were 75, they went up to 211 in 2014.The number of cases enrolled for child abuse brought from 8,905 up in the year 2014 to 14,914 in the year 2015, under the POSCO Act 2012, and this data were growing day by day. The impact of sexual abuse among the children is exceptionally risky in general for their development and improvement. NCRB recommendations or interventions to curb this issue of sexual abuse among the children to ensure happy childhood. The victim of child sexual abuse is vulnerable to many major diseases like post stress traumatic disorder (PTSD), personality change, suicidal tendency, multiple personality disorder.[9] We live in a patriarchal society where people prefer silence in these cases, as disclosing is believed to cause further damage to the victim's image.[10]

Ninan (2012) [11]conducted a non- experimental descriptive study on 80 mothers at Karattupalayam ,Tiruchengode, Tamil Nadu, to assess the knowledge regarding child abuse among having children. The results of the study revealed that 1.25% of mother had adequate knowledge regarding child abuse, 3.75% of them had moderate knowledge and 95% of them had inadequate knowledge. Thus finding suggests that the awareness about child abuse can be beneficial for mothers to save their children's from child abuse.

Rani and Kumari (2021) [12]conducted a descriptive study on 200 mothers to assess awareness of mothers regarding child abuse at Shri- Mata Vaishno Devi university Katra, Jammu and Kashmir. Findings reveled that most of the mothers (58.55%) had moderately adequate level of knowledge and only(6%) of mothers had adequate knowledge regarding child abuse. Findings suggest that there is need of awareness regarding child abuse among mothers of children.

Child abuse is considered as prevalent problem affecting children badly and studies, which were reviewed, showed inadequate knowledge regarding child abuse. Moreover, very few studies are done in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir, thus researcher was motivated to take up a study on mothers of children in order to reveal their knowledge regarding child abuse.

Methodology: A quantitative, one group pre-test post-test design was used to assess the effectiveness of structured teaching programme on knowledge among 60 mothers of children regarding child. The study subjects were selected by using purposive sampling technique at Paediatric wards of SKIMS, Srinagar. A self-structured interview schedule was used to assess the pre-test and post-test knowledge of study subjects. After establishing validity and reliability (r=0.98) of the tool, pre-test was carried out on day 1st and on the same day, structured teaching programme was given. Post-test was carried out on 4th day

Research Design

Pre-experimental one group pre –test post –test research design

Research Setting

Paediatric Wards SKIMS, Soura, (Jammu and Kashmir)

Study Population

Children admitted in Paediatric wards SKIMS Soura, Srinagar during the period of data collection

Sample And Sampling Technique

60 mothers of children who were admitted in Paediatric Wards SKIMS, Soura, Srinagar, Kashmir

Sampling Technique

Purposive sampling technique

Assessment of knowledge score was categorized into various levels based on the criteria developed by Nandhini (2012).[13]

Scoring Criteria for Knowledge

Maximum score =57 Minimum score =0

Knowledge score	Percentage (%)	Level of knowledge
0-28	50%	Inadequate
29-42	50-75%	Average
43-57	>75%	Adequate

Results and Discussion

Finding related to demographic variables of study subjects:

Highest number of study subjects (**58.33%**) belonged to age group of 25-30 years, **25 %**belonged to age group of

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31-35 years and **16.77%** belonged to the age group of 36-40 years. According to educational status, maximum number of study subject **(31.77%)** were illiterates, 21.77% study subjects were graduate and above, equal number of subjects (16.77%)had primary or higher secondary education **13.33%** had high school education. According to residence and type of family, equal number of study subjects belonged to rural areas and were from nuclear families **(55%)** and belonged to urban area and were from joint families **45%.** According to monthly income, maximum number of the study subject **(63.33%)** had Rs 20000-Rs40000 monthly income, whereas **36.77%** of study subjects had Rs40000-Rs60000 as their monthly income (Table 1).

These findings are supported by a study conducted by **Rajeshwari, Jayasudha, Poornima (2022)[13]** who assessed the knowledge regarding child abuse among mothers at Selected area of Tamil Nadu, India. Findings showed that among 50 mothers, (38%) mothers were in the age group of 20 - 29 years, 52% mothers were in the age group of 30 - 39 years, 10% mothers were in the age group of 40 - 50year, 12% mothers had completed primary education, (36%) mothers had completed high school, and 52% mothers were graduates and no one were illiterate. Among 50 mothers, 66% mothers were house wife, 18% mothers were private employees, 2% was mothers government employee and 14% mothers were self- employed. Among 50 families, 14% families had the monthly income of Rs.5000- 10000 and Rs.10000-15000, 26% families had the monthly income of Rs.15000-20000 and remaining had > Rs.20000. Majority **(70%)** mothers belonged to nuclear family and 30% mothers belonged to joint family.

Table 1.Frequency and percentage distribution of study subjects according to Demographic Variables

[N=50]

Variables	Categories	Frequency(f)	Percentage (%)
Age of mothers	25-30 Year	35	58.3%
	31-35	15	25.00%
	36-40	10	16.77%
Educational status	Illiterate	19	31.77%
	Primary school	10	16.77%
	High school	8	13.33%
	Higher secondary	10	16.77%
	Graduates and above	13	21.77%
Occupation of mothers	House wives	34	56.77%
	Private employee	19	31.77%
	Self-Employed	2	3.33%
	Govt. Employee	5	8.33%
Residence	Urban	27	45%
	Rural	33	55%
Type of family	Nuclear family	33	55%
	Joint family	27	45%
Monthly income	Rs 20,000-Rs 40,000	38	63.33%
	Rs 40,000–Rs60,000	22	36.77%
	Above Rs 60,000	0	0%

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Based on the objectives, the findings are discussed as:

Knowledge scores of study subjects regarding child abuse before and after implementation of structured teaching programme

Objective 1: To assess the pre-test knowledge score of mothers of children admitted in Paediatric wards regarding child abuse

Objective 2: To assess the post-test knowledge score of mothers of children admitted in Paediatric wards regarding child abuse after implementation of structured teaching programme.

The findings of the study showed that on pre-test, out of 60 subjects, majority number (86.77%) had inadequate knowledge, 13.33% had average knowledge, non-had adequate knowledge regarding child abuse (Table 2) figure 1. Post-test findings of present study showed that all the subjects had adequate knowledge and had average or inadequate knowledge regarding child abuse (Table 2 figure 2).

The findings of the present study are supported by Nandhini (2012)[12] who assessed the effectiveness of structured teaching programme on child abuse among mothers of children at Tamil Nadu. The pre- test knowledge scores in this study showed that among 50 subjects, **24%** had moderately adequate knowledge, maximum number of study subjects **(76%)** had inadequate knowledge whereas on post- test, most of the subjects **(56%)** had adequate knowledge, 44% subjects had moderately adequate knowledge and none of them had inadequate knowledge.

Table 2.Frequency and percentage distribution of the study subjects according to the pre-test and post- test knowledge score

[N=50]

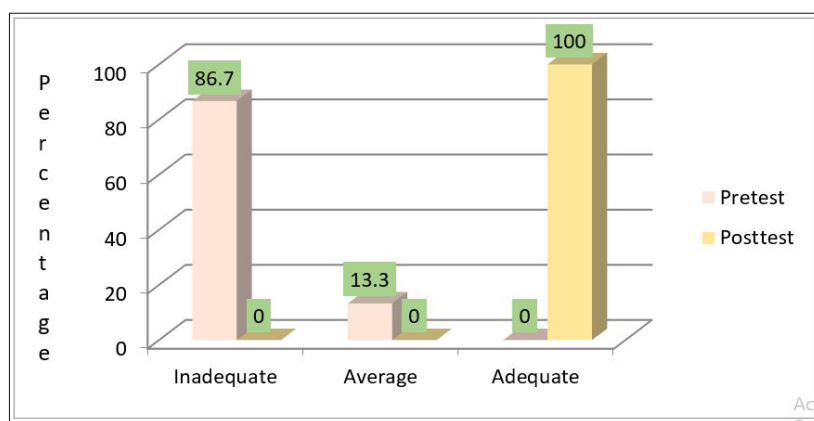| Level of Knowledge	Knowledge score of study subjects	Pre-test Score		Post-Test Score	
		Frequency f	Percentage %	Frequency f	Percentage %
Inadequate	50	52	86.77%	0	0%
Average	50-75	8	13.33%	0	0%
Adequate	>75	0	0%	60	100%

Table 2.Frequency and percentage distribution of the study subjects according to the pre-test and post- test knowledge score

[N=50]

Comparison between pre- test and post- test knowledge score of study subject regarding child abuse

Objective 3: To compare pre-test and post-test knowledge score of mothers of children admitted in Paediatric wards regarding child abuse after implementation of structured teaching programme.

The mean post- test knowledge scores of the study subjects regarding child abuse was significantly higher **(53.76 ± 2.45)** than that of the mean pre-test knowledge scores (23.01 ± 4.47). This indicates that structured teaching programme was effective in enhancing the knowledge of subjects regarding child abuse (Table 3, figure 2).

These findings of the present study are also supported by a study conducted by Guchhait, Adhikare ,Ray (2022)[14] who assessed the effectiveness of awareness programme on child abuse at rural community of West Bengal. Findings revealed that the mean post-test knowledge score (23.02±2.99) was significantly higher than the mean pre –test knowledge scores (12.64±5.82) and 't' test was found to be significant at the level of P < 0.005 level

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Table 3. Comparison of pretest and post -test knowledge scores of study subjects regarding child abuse

[N=50]

Knowledge score.	Mean	SD	P value
Pre- test	23.01	4.47	0.004**
Post –test	53.76	2.45	

* Significant at 0.05 level ** significant at 0.01 level

Association between pre-test knowledge score of study subjects and their selected demographic variables.

Objective 4: To find out the association of pre-test knowledge score among mothers of children admitted in Paediatric wards with their selected demographic variable (age of mothers, educational status, occupation of mothers, residence, type of family, monthly income)

The present study showed that there was statistically significant association between the pre- test knowledge scores of study subjects with their demographic variables i.e., educational status, occupation and type of family, whereas there was no statistical significant association between pre -test knowledge scores and other demographic variables i.e., age of mothers, Residence and monthly income.

The findings of the present study are supported by a study conducted by Beena (2012)[11] who assessed the knowledge regarding child abuse among mothers residing at Karathupalayan Tamil Nadu. The study findings showed significant association between knowledge levels of mothers with demographic variable e.g occupation but non-significant association with age, education, type of family, monthly income.

Another study was conducted by **Thenmozhi and Bhavani (2020)[15]** who assessed the effectiveness of structured teaching programme on knowledge regarding child abuse among mothers at Chennai Tamil Nadu was also support of the present finding. Findings revealed that there was a significant association between the pretest level of knowledge with their selected demographic variables such as education of the mother and source of knowledge at the level of p <0.05. However other variables such as age, type of family and occupation of the mother was not associated with the level of knowledge

Table 4: Association between pre-test knowledge scores of study subjects regarding child abuse with their selected demographic variables

[N=50]

Variable	Category	Level of knowledge						df	Chi square	p value
		Inadequate knowledge		Average knowledge		Adequate knowledge				
		F	%	F	%	f	%			
Age of mothers	25-30	28	53.846	7	87.5	0	0	2	3.462	0.177
	31-35	14	26.923	1	12.5	0	0			
	36-40	10	19.231	0	0	0	0			
Educational status	Illiterate	17	32.692	2	25	0	0	4	16.556	0.002**
	Primary education	10	19.231	0	0	0	0			
	High school	8	15.385	0	0	0	0			
	Higher secondary Education	10	19.231	0	0	0	0			
	Graduates and above	7	13.462	6	75	0	0			

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Occupation of mothers	House wives	32	61.538	2	25	0	0	3	11.461	0.009**
	Private employee	16	30.769	3	37.5	0	0			
	Self employed	2	3.8462	0	0	0	0			
	Govt. employee	2	3.8462	3	37.5	0	0			
Residence	Rural	31	59.615	2	25	0	0	1	3.357	0.067
	Urban	21	40.385	6	75	0	0			
Type of family	Nuclear Family	26	50	7	87.5	0	0	1	3.939	0.047*
	Joint family	26	50	1	12.5	0	0			
Monthly income	Rs20000-Rs 40000	35	67.308	3	37.5	0	0	1	2.653	0.103
	Rs40000-Rs60000	17	32.692	5	62.5	0	0			
	Above 60000	0	0	0	0	0	0			

* Significant at 0.05 level ** significant at 0.01 level

Conclusion

Based on findings of the study following conclusions were drawn:

Pre-test finding showed that the majority of the study subject possess inadequate knowledge regarding child abuse so, there was a need to educate them regarding child abuse.

There was improvement in the knowledge scores of the study subjects after implementation of structured teaching programme regarding child abuse as evident from post-test knowledge scores so, such programme should be implemented

There was a significant association between pre- test knowledge scores and the demographic variables such as education status, type of family, and occupation which indicates that probably education status, type of family, and occupation of mothers of children have profound effect on their knowledge regarding child abuse.

No significant association was found between pre-test knowledge scores and demographic variables such as age, residence, monthly income. which indicates that these variables probably have no effect on their levels

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Conflicts of Interest: None

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