

A Study to Assess the Effectiveness of Educational Programme on Knowledge and Attitude of Mothers Regarding Child abuse in Selected Areas at Melmaruvathur, Chengalpattu District

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Abstract:- Child abuse is the physical, sexual, emotional maltreatment or neglect of a children. It occurs in all areas where the child interacts with in and around them. Children who experience child abuse more likely to become involved in criminal activity. In India knowledge of child abuse is poor and very low cases are reported. **Aim:** To assess the knowledge and attitude of mothers in and around Melmaruathur, Kancheepuram District. **Materials & Methods:** Mothers were directed to fill out a Questionnaire to assess the knowledge and likert scale used to assess their attitude of child abuse. After that educational programme was conducted on prevention of child abuse. Responses were recorded & analyzed. The findings of the present study revealed that in overall knowledge of mothers regarding child abuse 87% have inadequate, 13% have moderate adequate and none of them have adequate knowledge. When compare to the various types of child abuse, knowledge about sexual abuse was 53% and others less than 35%. In attitude of mothers 15% have good and 85% have fair and no one have got poor attitude. Ater the education 80 % mothers had adequate knowledge, 20% had moderately adequate knowledge. 85% had good attitude, 10% had fair attitude on child abuse and 5% had poor attitude. **Conclusion:** Mothers of selected area there have deficient knowledge on general information of child abuse, physical abuse, emotional abuse and have moderate knowledge on sexual abuse, impact of child abuse on life of children. Statistically there is no significant relationship between knowledge and attitude.

Keywords:- Child Abuse, Mothers, Knowledge, Attitude, Educational Programme.

I. INTRODUCTION

Child abuse and neglect has been broadened to include any problem resulting from lack of reasonable care and protection of child and adolescents by their parents, guardians or care takers [1]. Child abuse is any type of physical, sexual, neglect of child especially by a parent or other care takers [2]. Children are most vulnerable section of our society and are at the mercy of their care takers to look after their basic needs of nutrition, health care, education and protection. It occurs in where ever the child interacts like child's home, the organizations, schools, communities etc. It can affects a child's normal physiological or social development leaving the child with psychological stress [3].

The World Health Organization has recognized child abuse and neglect as a major International health problem with unacceptable levels of morbidity and mortality. Reported that 300 million children between the age of 2 to 4 yrs regularly subjected to psychological violence and physical punishment by care givers and parents. Many adolescents are victims of child abuse and neglect. The children who are abused are more likely to get anti-social behaviours [4].

➤ In India

- 69% children physically abused
- 53.22% children reported having faced one or more forms of sexual abuse.
- Children in Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and Delhi reported the highest incidence of sexual assault.
- Every second child reported facing emotional abuse.
- 83% of the cases parents were the abusers.

It is an unfortunate fact that a large number of children in less developed countries are living in poverty and are deprived of their rights of survival, optimal health, nutrition, education and protection from exploitation and discrimination [5]. A history of child abuse is associated with the development of depressive disorders, suicidal disorders, suicidal ideation and attempts and alcohol and child abuse [6].

Child abuse can occur in any family and at levels of society. It is more common, in families with poor socioeconomic status, poverty, poor housing, lack of education, unemployment and alcohol abuse. children are single parents who are young, or onset of parents may be psychopath or suffered ill treatment from his or her own parents during their childhood. The child may run away from home if parents are authoritative, rigid with military type or punitive type of discipline. Children are safe in family when parents are well educated, emotionally stable without any ego problems or interpersonal conflicts.

Due to lack of knowledge many parents may not be aware of the primary signs seen in child abuse. Thus, maltreatment of child can go unrecognized and undisclosed by parents and school staff [7]. Mothers play a pivotal role in identifying and reporting child abuse due to their regular interaction with children. In various studies, it was seen that the mothers received formal education in determining child abuse. Due to lack of knowledge and attitude many mothers may not be aware of the primary signs seen in child abuse. Therefore, the study aims to assess the educational programme on knowledge, and attitude regarding child abuse which helps to recognise the early symptoms in children.

A. Statement of the Problem

A study to assess the effectiveness of educational programme on knowledge and attitude of mothers regarding child abuse in selected areas at Melmaruvathur, Chengalpattu District

B. Objectives

- To assess level of knowledge and attitude regarding child abuse among mothers
- To evaluate the effectiveness of educational programme on level of knowledge and attitude regarding child abuse among mothers
- To find out the relationship between knowledge and attitude of child abuse among mothers with selected demographic variables

C. Hypothesis

- H1 there is a significant correlation between knowledge and attitude of mothers among child abuse

II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study was carried out in the area around Melmaruvathur. Pre - experimental research design was used, 60 mothers were selected from above settings. A specially designed structured questionnaire was used to collect the data, consists of 2 major categories of knowledge and attitude of child abuse. Knowledge was assessed under general information, physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse and impact of child abuse on life of children and Attitude was assessed by five point Likert scale methods with positive and negative statements. The researcher established the good rapport with mother and the purpose of study was explained. Questionnaire was prepared by both Tamil and English. Pretest was conducted among 60 mothers followed by educational programme was given on child abuse and its prevention. After 1 wk post test was conducted with the same structured questionnaire.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of the study were discussed on following sections:

Table 1: Comparison of pre and Post-Test Knowledge on Child Abuse

S. No	Level of knowledge	Pre Test		Post Test	
		No	%	No	%
1	Inadequate knowledge	53	88	-	-
2	Moderately adequate knowledge	07	12	11	18
3.	Adequate knowledge	-	-	49	82

Mothers of selected area have moderate knowledge on sexual abuse, inadequate knowledge on general information of child abuse, physical abuse, emotional abuse impact of child abuse on life of children, impact of child abuse on life of

children. In knowledge level after post-test 82 % mothers had good knowledge, 49% had moderately adequate knowledge.

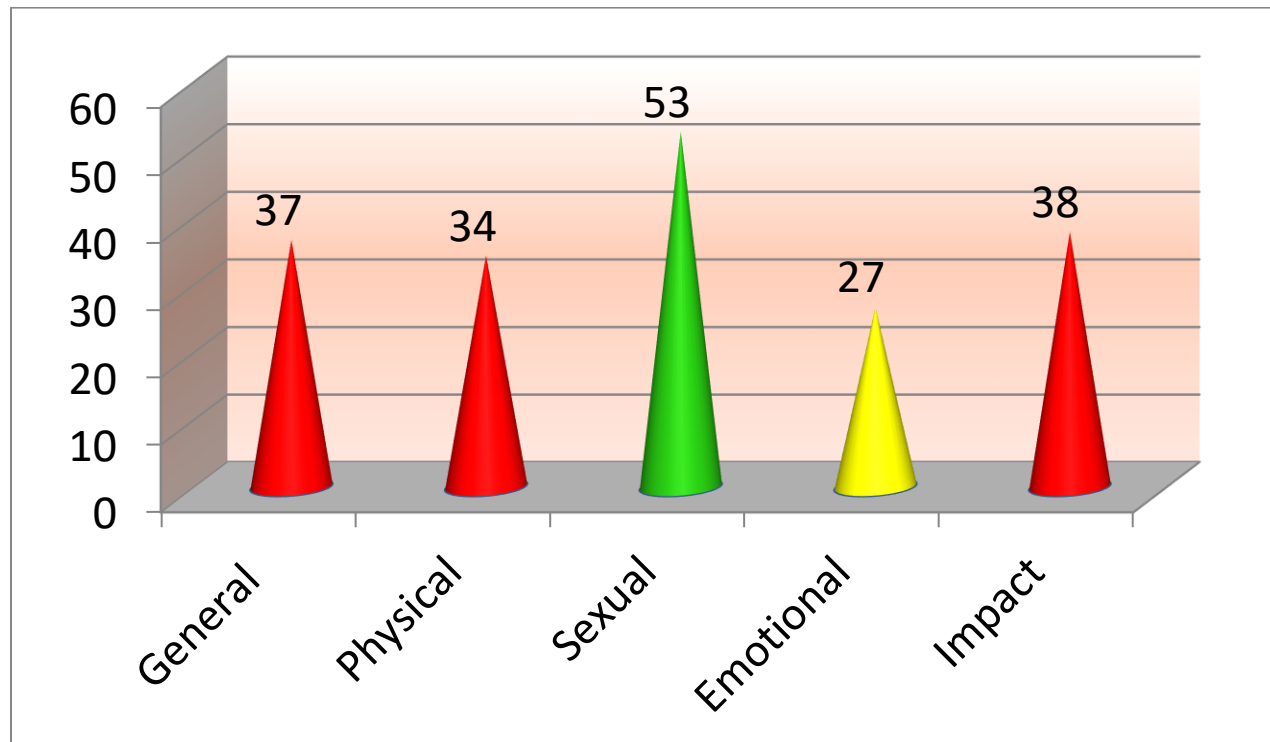


Fig 1 : Knowledge Levels of Different Types of Child Abuse

Table 2 :Comparison of Pre and Post Test Attitude on Child Abuse.

S. No	Level of Attitude	Pre Test		Post Test	
		No	%	No	%
1	Poor	45	75	5	8
2	Fair	15	25	10	17
3.	Good	-		45	75

In attitude after post-test 75 % mothers had good attitude, 45% had fair attitude and no one have got poor attitude. Statistically there is no significant relationship between knowledge and attitude of mothers among child abuse. Give an awareness about child abuse will prevents the rates of child abuse and helps to reduce the crime rates in the nation.

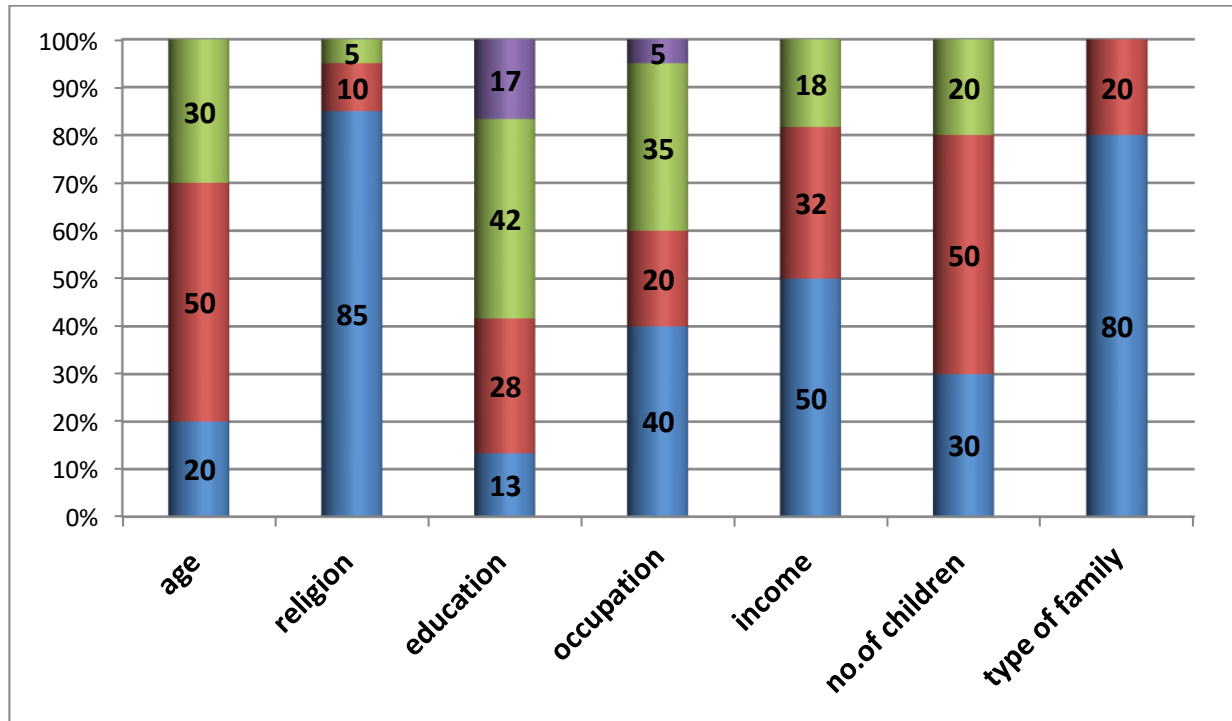


Fig 2. Frequency and Percentage Distribution of Demographic Variables

IV. CONCLUSION

The study concludes that mothers of selected area there have deficient knowledge on general information of child abuse, physical abuse, emotional abuse and have moderate knowledge on sexual abuse, impact of child abuse on life of children. Mothers play a role in reporting of child abuse like identifying early signs and should have sufficient knowledge and attitude on child abuse. After the educational intervention mothers had adequate knowledge and attitude on all aspects of child abuse. Statistically study proved that there is significant relationship between knowledge and attitude of mothers on child abuse. This study concluded that knowledge and attitude of mothers regarding child abuse will help to protect their children. National surveys indicate that physical abuse peaks in the 4–8-year-old range. Emotional maltreatment has been reported to show a high incidence in the 6–8-year-old range and to remain at a similar level through adolescence.

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