

# KNOWLEDGE AMONG MOTHERS REGARDING EARLY DETECTION OF ADHD IN PRESCHOOL CHILDREN

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## Abstract

The study aimed to assess the knowledge of mothers regarding early detection of ADHD in preschool children. The objectives of the study were to assess the knowledge among mothers regarding early detection of ADHD in preschool children and to find out the association between knowledge among mothers and selected socio demographic variables. The conceptual frame work of the present study based on certain concepts from Nola J Penders Health promotion model. A Quantitative non experimental approach with descriptive survey design was used. The study was conducted at selected wards of Vazhayoor Panchayath. 60 mothers of preschool children were selected by convenient sampling technique. The tool used were a socio demographic proforma to assess the demographic variables and structured knowledge questionnaire to identify the level of knowledge of mothers regarding the early detection of ADHD. The content validity was ensured with the help of experts. Pilot study was conducted among mothers of preschool children and the study was found to be feasible and the data found to be enable for analysis. The study findings reveals that majority of the mothers (60%) had poor knowledge 22 % had average knowledge and 18 % had very poor knowledge and none had excellent and good knowledge regarding early detection of ADHD and no association was found between knowledge and selected socio-demographic variables.

Keywords: - Knowledge, Preschool Children, ADHD

## INTRODUCTION

Early childhood is the period of enormous growth and development. Children are developing rapidly during the period from birth to age five than at any other time in their life, shaped in large part by their experience in world. This early years development are critical for providing a firm foundation in cognitive , language , motor development as well as social, emotional, regulatory and moral development. The emotional, social and physical development of young children has direct effect on their overall development and on the adult they will become. That is why understanding the need to invest in very young children, so as to maximize their future wellbeing<sup>1</sup>.

There are many problems that affecting the growth and development of children. The major behavioral problem that affecting the child's development are Autism, Mental retardation, Attention Deficit Hyper Activity Disorder etc.

Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is a chronic and impairing neurodevelopmental disorder that has an onset in childhood and typically persists into adulthood. Symptoms sometimes lessen with age. However, some people never completely outgrow their ADHD symptoms, but they can learn strategies to be successful. While the exact cause of attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder is not clear, research efforts continue. Factors that may be involved in the development of ADHD includes genetic factors and certain environmental factors, such as lead exposure and developmental factors like Problems with the central nervous system<sup>2</sup>.

The ADHD/HD worldwide-pooled prevalence was 5.29%. This estimate was associated with significant variability. In the multivariate meta regression model, diagnostic criteria, source of information, requirement of impairment for diagnosis, and geographic origin of the studies were significantly associated with ADHD/HD prevalence rates. Geographic location was associated with significant variability only between

estimates from North America and both Africa and the Middle East. No significant differences were found between Europe and North America<sup>3</sup>.

## Objectives

1. To assess the knowledge among mothers regarding early detection of ADHD in preschool children.
2. To find out the association between knowledge among mothers and selected socio demographic variables.

## Operational Definition

**Knowledge:** Correct response of participants to the items on a structured questionnaire based on early detection of ADHD.

**Mothers of preschool children:** Mothers who have children between the age group of 3-5 years.

**ADHD:** Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder is a brain disorder marked by an ongoing pattern of inattention, and/ or hyper activity, impulsivity that interferes with functioning or development.

## Hypothesis

There will be a significant association between the level of knowledge of mothers on early detection of ADHD in preschool children with selected socio demographic variables.

## METHODOLOGY

Research approach adopted for the study is non experimental research approach and the research design selected for this study is descriptive study to get more information about characteristics with in a particular field of study. The present study was conducted at selected wards of Vazhayoor Panchayath. The investigator selected this setting due to the availability and feasibility of sample. 60 mothers whose children are between 3-5 years who residing in Vazhayoor Panchayath are selected as subjects by convenient sampling technique. A structured questionnaire with 25 items used to collect the data. The tool contained 25 multiple choice questions. Each correct response carried one score and maximum score was 25. The pilot study revealed that the tool used in the study was clear and unambiguous. The data collected were amenable to statistical analysis and thus the study was found feasible.

After getting permission from the concerned authority the study was started. The data collection period was from 17/5/2018 to 23/5/2018. The investigators met the participants individually and explained the purpose of the study. The questionnaires was administered to the subjects and after entering the response, they were returned to the investigator.

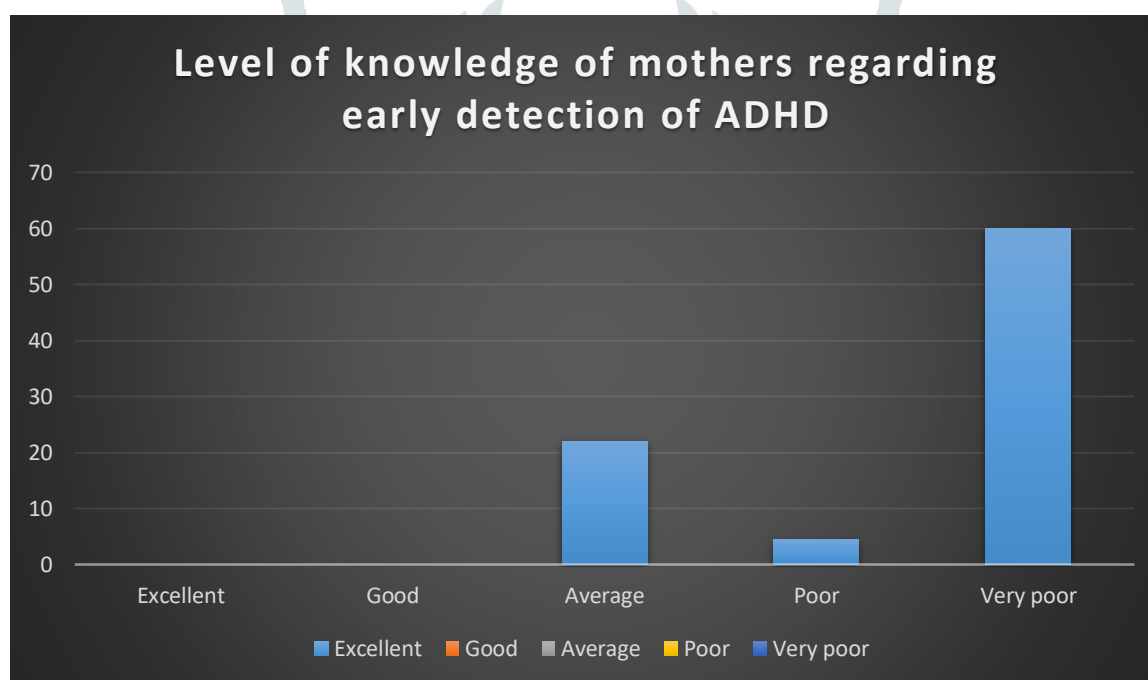
## RESULTS

Table 1: Frequency and percentage distribution of sample characteristics.

( n=60)			
SL.No	Demographic variable	Frequency	Percentage
<b>1</b>	<b>Age</b>		
	a) 18-25	16	26.66%
	b) 26-33	35	58.33%
	c) 34-41	9	15%
<b>2</b>	<b>Religion</b>		
	a) Muslim	20	33.33%
	b) Hindu	38	63%
	c) Christian	2	3.3%

	d) Others	0	0%
<b>3</b>	<b>Education</b>		
	a) Primary education	2	3.3%
	b) High school	26	43.3%
	c) Degree	32	53.3%
	d) Illiterate	0	0%
<b>4</b>	<b>Family</b>		
	a) Joint family	19	31.66%
	b) Nuclear family	41	68.33%
<b>5</b>	<b>Income</b>		
	a) 3000-10000	25	41.66%
	b) >10000	35	58.33%

Figure 2: Level of knowledge among mothers regarding early detection of ADHD in preschool children



## DISCUSSION

The present study shows that majority of mothers (60%) had poor knowledge about early detection of ADHD, 22% had average knowledge and 18% had very poor knowledge. There is no significant association between knowledge and selected socio demographic variables.

This is inconsistent with the findings of a similar study conducted in Iran which reveals that there was a significant association between knowledge and education. This shows an increased requirement for an awareness regarding the importance of early detection of ADHD in preschool children to the mothers both at the community level and hospital level. The mothers should be educated regarding the signs of ADHD and how to detect it early.

**Conclusion:** Attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder is a chronic, debilitating disorder characterized by inattention, impulsiveness and motor activity. ADHD makes impact on many aspects of an individual's life like academic difficulties, social skills problems, and strained parent-child relationships. A lack of clear

understanding of ADHD and the importance of its diagnosis and treatment exists among many members of the community including parents. So dissemination of information regarding early diagnosis and measures to resolve the problems associated with ADHD will help to build up healthy young generation in our society.

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