

KNOWLEDGE REGARDING CHILD ABUSE AMONG THE MOTHERS ATTENDING SELECTED ANGANWADI CENTERS, TIRUPATI.

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ABSTRACT: Child is the gift, it has much potential one, will be the best resources of the nation. If it has been developed and utilized well. Children below five years of age group are known as the under fives. During their phase of physical, psychological and emotional maturation, they develop certain behavior which would mould them as a unique person to lead a productive life for which, adults are responsible crucially. At the same time, children are exposed to vulnerable risk in the environment by the adults during their phase of maturation. Children are often maltreated in many forms at home, schools and day care centers by the caretakers and others. **Aim** To assess the level of knowledge regarding child abuse among the mothers attending Anganwadi centers, Tiruapti, To find out the association between the knowledge of mothers regarding child abuse with their selected socio demographic variables. **Method:** Total 100 samples were taken Non Probability Convenient sampling technique. Data was collected by structured Questionnaire. **Results:** Regarding the level of knowledge on child abuse out of 100 mothers (47%) have moderate knowledge regarding child abuse followed by (31%) of the mothers having in adequate knowledge and only (22%) of the mothers have adequate knowledge regarding child abuse. There is significant association between the level of knowledge regarding child abuse related to age, education, occupation, monthly family income, gender of the child, age of the child in years, have you attended any educational programme on child abuse, what is the source of information regarding child abuse were statistically significant at 0.01 level. Size of the family is statistically significant at 0.05 level. The mean score of knowledge was 21.56 and standard deviation score was 6.588. **Conclusion:** Based on the obtained findings the researcher prepared a book let which will help them to improve their knowledge on prevention of child abuse.

Keywords: Child abuse, Mothers, Anganwadi centers.

I. INTRODUCTION

Child abuse is a significant global problem with a serious impact on the victims of physical and mental health and development throughout their lives. Out of the many parental causes of child abuse, the important one is lack of knowledge regarding it. The issue of child abuse has been recognized as a major social problem, prevalent within and outside homes and among all socio-economic groups of both the developed and the developing nations of the world.

There is a clear evidence that child abuse is a global problem. It occurs in a variety of forms and is deeply rooted in cultural, economic and social practices¹. It is physical, sexual, or psychological maltreatment or neglect of a child, especially by a parent or

other caregiver. Child abuse may include any act or failure to act by a parent or other 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 with².

The world health organization (2016) defines child abuse and child maltreatment as “all forms of physical and/or emotional ill treatment, sexual abuse, neglect or negligent treatment or other exploitation, resulting in actual or potential harm to the child’s health, survival, development or dignity in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust (or) power.”³

The United States Federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (2016) defines child abuse and neglect as, at minimum, "any recent act or failure to act on the part of a parent or caretaker which results in death, serious physical or emotional harm, sexual abuse or exploitation" or "an act or failure to act which presents an imminent risk of serious harm.”⁴

NEED FOR THE STUDY:

According to WHO global estimates of 2018 report, 1 billion children aged 0-5 years have experienced physical, sexual, emotional and neglect. According to ISPCAN (International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect) 2018 report data shows that 5 children die every day because of child abuse, 1 out of 4 girls (or) 1 out of 5 boys over 1 billion children in the world wide experience abuse annually. According to UNICEF estimates of 2017 that 38 low and middle income countries, almost 17 million adults admitted having child abuse during their childhood.⁵

Across sectional study was conducted on “Prevalence of child abuse in Kerala, India” they have collected the data from 6957 Adolescents by using self report instrument and random sampling was done. The study results showed that the prevalence of child abuse was 89.9% suggesting that child maltreatment was wide spread. Physical and emotional abuses were also very common. Although sexual abuse was least common, a considerable proportion of adolescents reported it. The study concluded that abuse of the children is alarmingly common. There is an urgent need for improving the awareness of surrounding. This issue as it is a major public health challenge faced by the country.⁶

Prevention of child abuse is an inevitable part of the society. The impact of child maltreatment can be profound. Child abuse and maltreatment affects various systems of the child which may later leads to many other disorders. Parents should be aware of the incidences and issues happening in the society. Specially mothers should always take care of their children so that they can notice child’s behavior and make them aware of things and teach children about the good and bad touch at the early age so that they may avoid abusive instances.⁷

A descriptive study was conducted to “Assess the knowledge on child abuse among mothers residing at selected rural areas, in Bangalore” They have collected the data from 50 mothers using structured questionnaire and Non-probability Convenient sampling was done. The findings of this study reveal that 90% (45) of mothers have inadequate knowledge, 10% (5) have moderately adequate knowledge and none of them showed adequate knowledge regarding child abuse. The study concluded that It is very important to educate the mother on child abuse so that the children will be protected from the upcoming problems related to it.⁸

Awareness among the community is the first step toward controlling and solving the problem of child abuse and neglect. Our study showed that although educated mothers seems to be aware about different types of child abuse, many of their information is inadequate. Specialized centers, Media, schools, are responsible for spreading correct information about different types of child abuse to parents.⁷

II.METHODOLOGY

Research approach: Non – experimental research approach was adopted.

Research design: Descriptive research design.

Sample setting: Selected Anganwadi centers, Tirupati.

Population: mothers who are having the children below 5 years of age.

Sample: Mothers attending selected Anganwadi centers like Sanjeevaiah nagar, Gali street, Giripuram, Ambedhkar colony, Narasimhatheertham and Chinnagunta at, Tirupati.

Sample size: 100.

Sampling technique: Non probability convenient sampling technique was adopted.

CRITERIA FOR SAMPLE SELECTION:

Inclusion criteria: Mothers who are:

- ❖ Willing to participate in the study
- ❖ Having the children below 5 years of age
- ❖ Able to understand the Telugu and English Languages
- ❖ Attending the selected Anganwadi centers

Exclusion criteria:

Mothers who are:

- ❖ Not available at the time of data collection

Ethical consideration: the study was approved by the appropriate Ethical committee. Mothers were informed about the purpose of the study and about their rights to refuse or with drawl at any time.

III. RESULTS

SECTION – I

Table No 1: Frequency and percentage distribution of demographic variables among under five mothers
N= 100

SNO	DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLE	FREQUENCY 'f'	PERCENTAGE (%)	
1.	Age	a) <20	8	8.00
		b) 21-25	41	41.00
		c) 26-30	45	45.00
		d) >30	6	6.00
2.	Education of the mother	a) No formal education	7	7.00
		b) Primary education	46	46.00
		c) Secondary education	35	35.00
		d) Collegiate and above	12	12.00
3.	Occupation of the mother	a) Home maker	74	74.00
		b) Employee	23	23.00
		c) Daily wage worker/agriculture	3	3.00
4.	Religion	a) Hindu	75	75.00
		b) Christian	12	12.00
		c) Muslim	13	13.00

5	Type of family	a) Nuclear	73	73.00
		b) Joint	26	26.00
		c) Single parent	1	1.00
6.	Size of the family	a) Less than 3 members	20	20.00
		b) 3-6 members	71	71.00
		c) 7-9 members	8	8.00
		d) More than 9 members	1	1.00
7.	Monthly family income in rupees	a) ₹5001-10000	47	47.00
		b) ₹10001-20000	46	46.00
		c) ₹>20000	7	7.00
8	Number of children in the family	a) One	34	34.00
		b) Two	56	56.00
		c) Three	8	8.00
		d) More than three	2	2.00
9.	Gender of the child	a) Male	47	47.00
		b) Female	53	53.00
10.	Age of the child in years	a) 0-2	24	24.00
		b) 3-4	72	72.00
		c) >5	4	4.00
11	Have you attended any educational Programme on child abuse?	a) Yes	40	40.00
		b) No	60	60.00
12	Have you observed any case of child abuse?	a) Yes	29	29.00
		b) No	71	71.00
13	What is the source of information?	a) Mass media(TV/Internet)	38	38.00
		c) Print media(news paper/journal/magazines)	40	40.00
		d) Health care providers	4	4.00
		e) Friends and neighbors	18	18.00

Table 1: shows that out of 100 mothers 45 (45%) were age group of 26-30 years, 46 (46%) had primary education, 74 (74%) were home makers, 75 (75%) were Hindu, 73 (73%) of mothers adopted to nuclear family, 71 (71%) of mothers have 3-6 members in their family, 47 (47%) of mothers family income ₹5001-10000, 56 (56%) mothers having two children in their family, 53(53%) were had female child, 72 (72%) of children are age group of 3-4 years, 60(60%) not attended any educational Programme on child abuse, 71 (71%) were not observed any case of child abuse, (40%) were using print media as a source of information.

SECTION – II

Table No 2: Frequency and percentage distribution of their level of knowledge regarding child abuse among mothers.

S.NO	Variables	Inadequate knowledge		Moderate knowledge		Adequate knowledge	
		f	%	f	%	F	%
1	knowledge	31	31	47	47	22	22

Table2: shows that 100 mothers, 47 (47%) had moderate knowledge, 31 (31%) had in adequate knowledge, 22 (22%) had adequate knowledge regarding child abuse.

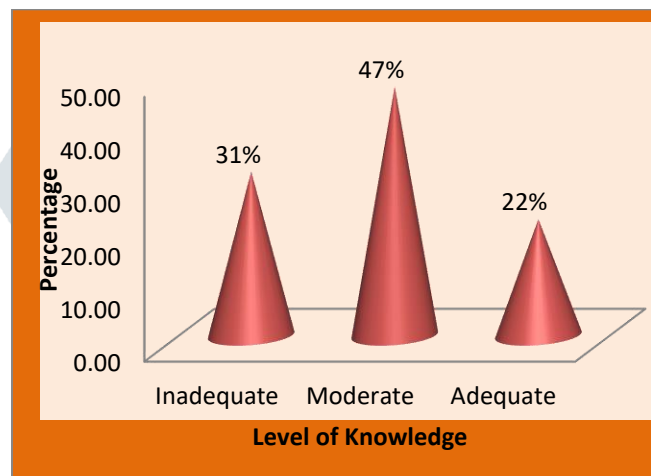


Fig1: Percentage distribution of level of knowledge regarding child abuse among mothers

SECTION – III

MEAN AND STANDARD DEVIATION N= 100

Sl. No	Category	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Standard deviation (SD)
1	Knowledge	10	35	21.56	6.588

Table 3: shows that the mean score of knowledge were 21.56 and standard deviation score were 6.588

SECTION-IV

Table No 4: Association between socio demographic variables with the knowledge levels regarding child abuse among mother **n=100**

DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES	CATEGORY	N%	Level of Knowledge			Total	Chisquare	p value
			Inadequate	Moderate	Adequate			
1 Age of the mother in years	< 20	N	5	3	0	8	42.954**	0.000
		%	5.00%	3.00%	0.00%	8.00%		
	21-25	N	17	24	0	41		
		%	17.00%	24.00%	0.00%	41.00%		
	26-30	N	9	20	16	45		
		%	9.00%	20.00%	16.00%	45.00%		
> 30	N	0	0	6	6			
	%	0.00%	0.00%	6.00%	6.00%			
2 Education of the mother	No formal education	N	4	3	0	7	26.457**	0.000
		%	4.00%	3.00%	0.00%	7.00%		
	Primary Education	N	17	26	3	46		
		%	17.00%	26.00%	3.00%	46.00%		
	Secondary Education	N	10	14	11	35		
		%	10.00%	14.00%	11.00%	35.00%		
Collegiate and above	N	0	4	8	12			
	%	0.00%	4.00%	8.00%	12.00%			
3 Occupation of the mother	Home maker	N	25	39	10	74	22.438**	0.000
		%	25.00%	39.00%	10.00%	74.00%		
	Employee	N	3	8	12	23		
		%	3.00%	8.00%	12.00%	23.00%		
	Daily wage worker/Agriculture	N	3	0	0	3		
		%	3.00%	0.00%	0.00%	3.00%		
4 Religion	Hindu	N	19	40	16	75	7.132	0.129
		%	19.00%	40.00%	16.00%	75.00%		
	Christian	N	7	3	2	12		
		%	7.00%	3.00%	2.00%	12.00%		
	Muslim	N	5	4	4	13		
		%	5.00%	4.00%	4.00%	13.00%		
5 Type of family	Nuclear	N	22	30	21	73	8.380	0.079
		%	22.00%	30.00%	21.00%	73.00%		
	Joint	N	9	16	1	26		
		%	9.00%	16.00%	1.00%	26.00%		
	Single Parent	N	0	1	0	1		
		%	0.00%	1.00%	0.00%	1.00%		
6 Size of the family	Less than 3 members	N	11	7	2	20	13.432*	0.037
		%	11.00%	7.00%	2.00%	20.00%		

	3-6 members	N	17	34	20	71		
		%	17.00%	34.00%	20.00%	71.00%		
	7-9 members	N	2	6	0	8		
		%	2.00%	6.00%	0.00%	8.00%		
	More than 9 members	N	1	0	0	1		
		%	1.00%	0.00%	0.00%	1.00%		
7 Monthly family income rupees	Rs. 5001-10000	N	24	16	7	47	17.753**	0.001
		%	24.00%	16.00%	7.00%	47.00%		
	10001-20000	N	5	28	13	46		
		%	5.00%	28.00%	13.00%	46.00%		
	>2000	N	2	3	2	7		
		%	2.00%	3.00%	2.00%	7.00%		
8 Number of the children in the family	One	N	16	13	5	34	7.993	0.239
		%	16.00%	13.00%	5.00%	34.00%		
	Two	N	13	28	15	56		
		%	13.00%	28.00%	15.00%	56.00%		
	Three	N	1	5	2	8		
		%	1.00%	5.00%	2.00%	8.00%		
More than three	N	1	1	0	2			
	%	1.00%	1.00%	0.00%	2.00%			
9 Gender of the child attending to the Anganwadi Centre	Male	N	12	17	18	47	13.775**	0.001
		%	12.00%	17.00%	18.00%	47.00%		
	Female	N	19	30	4	53		
		%	19.00%	30.00%	4.00%	53.00%		
10 Age of the child in years	0-2	N	5	13	6	24	16.881**	0.002
		%	5.00%	13.00%	6.00%	24.00%		
	3-4	N	26	34	12	72		
		%	26.00%	34.00%	12.00%	72.00%		
	> 5	N	0	0	4	4		
		%	0.00%	0.00%	4.00%	4.00%		
11 Have you attended any educational Programme on child abuse?	Yes	N	5	18	17	40	20.152**	0.000
		%	5.00%	18.00%	17.00%	40.00%		
	No	N	26	29	5	60		
		%	26.00%	29.00%	5.00%	60.00%		
12 Have you observed any case of child abuse?	Yes	N	12	14	3	29	3.956	0.138
		%	12.00%	14.00%	3.00%	29.00%		
	No	N	19	33	19	71		
		%	19.00%	33.00%	19.00%	71.00%		
13 What is the source of	Mass Media (TV/Internt)	N	13	22	3	38	25.180**	0.000
		%	13.00%	22.00%	3.00%	38.00%		

information regarding child abuse?	Print media (Newspaper/ Journal/ Magazines)	N	6	16	18	40
		%	6.00%	16.00%	18.00%	40.00%
	Health care providers	N	2	2	0	4
		%	2.00%	2.00%	0.00%	4.00%
	Friends and Neighbours	N	10	7	1	18
		%	10.00%	7.00%	1.00%	18.00%

❖ **Correlation is significant at the 0.01Level

❖ * Correlation is significant at the 0.05Level

Table No 4 shows that there is significant association between level of knowledge regarding child abuse related to age, education, occupation, monthly family income, gender of the child, age of the child in years, have you attended any educational programme on child abuse, what is the source of information regarding child abuse were statistically significant at 0.01 level. Size of the family is statistically significant at 0.05 level and where as remaining demographic variables (religion, type of the family, number of the children in the family, have you observed any case of child abuse) are not showing any significant association.

IV.DISCUSSION

Objective 1: To assess the level of knowledge regarding child abuse among the mothers.

Among 100 mothers 47 mothers had moderate knowledge and 31 mothers having inadequate knowledge and only 22 mothers had adequate knowledge regarding child abuse.

The findings were supported by a study conducted by Swapna M K (2019) on the level of knowledge regarding the prevention of child abuse among 100 mothers. The results showed that 40% had moderate knowledge, 37% had inadequate knowledge and 36% had adequate knowledge regarding child abuse.⁹

Objective 2: To find out the association between the knowledge of mothers regarding child abuse with their selected socio demographic variables.

There is significant association between the level of knowledge regarding child abuse related to age, education, occupation, monthly family income, gender of the child, age of the child in years, attended any educational programme on child abuse, source of information regarding child abuse and the level of knowledge at $P < 0.01$ level, and Size of the family and the level of knowledge at $P < 0.05$ level. So Null Hypothesis is rejected.

In relation to association between the demographic variables and knowledge levels, the findings were supported by a study conducted by Fatmeh Ahmad Alzoubia et al (2018) on mothers' knowledge & perception about child sexual abuse. The findings of the study showed that there were significant associations between the mothers' perception of CSA, and income, occupation and education.¹⁰

V. CONCLUSION:

There is significant association between the level of knowledge regarding child abuse related to age, education, occupation, monthly family income, gender of the child, age of the child in years, have you attended any educational programme on child abuse, what is the source of information regarding child abuse were statistically significant at 0.01 level. Size of the family is statistically significant at 0.05 level and where as remaining demographic variables (religion, type of the family, number of the children in the family, have you observed any case of child abuse) are not showing any significance. The mean score of knowledge was 21.56 and standard deviation score was 6.588. These findings suggested that health education and awareness programmes in order to improve knowledge regarding child abuse.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- A comparative study can be conducted among mothers to assess the knowledge on child abuse in urban and rural settings.
- A structured teaching programme can be conducted to compare the knowledge levels in both pre-test and post-test.
- A large scale survey can be conducted to assess the incidence of child abuse.
- Information booklets, pamphlets and self-instructional booklets can be made and distributed in the community to improve the awareness.

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