



A STUDY TO ASSESS THE LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE ON RISK FACTOR ON STOMACH FLU AMONG SCHOOL CHILDREN AT SELECTED SCHOOL, PUDUCHERRY.

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ABSTRACT:

This study was conducted to assess the level of knowledge on risk factor on stomach flu among school children in selected Thirubhuvanai Government school, Puducherry. A descriptive research design was used among 50 school children. The nature and purpose of the study was explained to school children and written consent was obtained from study. Each school children were selected through purposive sampling method and was assessed the level of knowledge on risk factor on stomach flu among school children by using self-Structured knowledge questionnaire.

KEYWORDS: Stomach flu, school children, Risk factor, self structured questionnaire.

INTRODUCTION:

Stomach flu is defined as the inflammation of the mucus membranes of the gastrointestinal tract and is characterized by diarrhea or vomiting. Diarrhea includes increases in volume or fluidity of stools, changes in consistency, and increased frequency of defecation. The World Health Organization (WHO) defines diarrhea as the “passage of loose or watery stools at least three times in a 24 h period”, with more emphasis on the change in stool consistency rather than on frequency.

Stomach flu are one of the leading causes of morbidity and mortality globally and account for more deaths in early childhood after the neonatal period than any other etiology save pneumonia. Diarrheal diseases are associated with an estimated 1.3 million deaths annually, with most occurring in resource-limited countries; note that up to 25% of deaths in young children living in Africa and south-east Asia are attributable to acute gastroenteritis. The youngest children are most vulnerable with the incidence of severe gastroenteritis being highest in the first 2 years of life.^{8,9} Morbidity due to diarrhoea is further concentrated in marginalized communities within resource-limited countries.

Stomach flu is a major cause of morbidity and mortality in pediatric populations worldwide. Globally, an estimated 800 000 infants and young children die from diarrhea each year. Mortality is uncommon in

developed countries, but diarrhea is often associated with substantial medical and healthcare costs and thus has a high economic impact on society.

Though many studies are conducted in the area of the risk factor on stomach, the researcher could not find any valid study to assess the level of knowledge on risk factor on stomach flu among school children's. Hence, the researcher felt the need to assess the level of knowledge on risk factor on stomach flu among school children in selected Thirubhuvanai Govt. school, Puducherry

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:

A study to assess the level of knowledge on risk factor on stomach flu among school children at selected school, Puducherry.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To assess the level of knowledge on risk factor on stomach flu among school children.
2. To associate the level of knowledge on risk factor on stomach flu among school children with their selected demographic variables.

OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS:

ASSESS

In this study, it refers to determining the level of knowledge on risk factor on stomach flu among school children.

KNOWLEDGE

In this study, it refers to self –structured knowledge questionnaire on risk factor on stomach flu among school children.

RISK FACTOR

In this study, it refers to that increases a person's chances of developing a disease which measured through the self -structured knowledge questionnaire on risk factor on stomach flu among school children prepared by the researcher.

SCHOOL CHILDREN FOR STOMACH FLU

In this study, it refers to intestinal infection marked by watery diarrhea, abdominal cramps, nausea or vomiting, and sometimes fever for the school children.

HYPOTHESIS:

- H1: There is a significant association between the level of knowledge on risk factor on stomach flu among school children with their selected demographic variables.

ASSUMPTIONS:

1. The school children had the risk on stomach flu.
2. The school children were co-operate with investigators for assess the level of knowledge on risk factor on stomach flu.

DELIMITATIONS:

1. The study was delimited for a period of 4 weeks.
2. The Study was limited to sample size of 50.
3. Delimited for Thirubhuvanai Government school, Puducherry.

LIMITATIONS:

The study is limited to

1. The school children who are willing to participate in the study.
2. The school children who are available at the time of data collection.
3. The school children who know to read and write Tamil or English.

METHODOLOGY:

RESEARCH APPROACH: A quantitative research approach was adapted for this study.

RESEARCH DESIGN: A descriptive Research Design was adapted for this study

SETTING OF THE STUDY:

The study was conducted in Government High school Thirubhuvanai, Puducherry.

POPULATION:

The target population for this study comprises of school children.

SAMPLE:

The study sample consists of school children, Government High School, Thirubhuvanai Puducherry who fulfill the inclusion criteria.

SAMPLE SIZE: 50

SAMPLING TECHNIQUE:

The sampling technique used for the study was purposive sampling technique.

Sample Criteria**Inclusion criteria:**

1. The school children who are willing to participate in the study.
2. The school children who are available at the time of data collection.
3. The school children who know to read and write Tamil or English

Exclusion criteria:

1. The school children who are not willing to participate in this study.
2. The school children who are not available at the time of data collection.
3. The school children who are not read and write in Tamil and English.

TOOLS FOR RESEARCH:

The tool used for this study is a standardized tool, and the tool consists of 2 sections namely,

Section A: Demographic Variables

It consists of Age, religion, father's education, mother's education, father's occupation, mother's occupation, monthly income, type of family, utilization of available health resources and exposure of health information regarding the personal hygiene and infections..

Section B: Self -Structured Knowledge Questionnaire on Risk Factor on Stomach Flu.

DATA COLLECTION PROCESS:

The formal permission obtained from the concerned authorities. The school children were selected by using purposive sampling technique. The researcher introduced herself and explained about the purposes of the study to the school children. Each day 5 to 8 samples were selected and the researcher obtained the consent from the school children. After that the researcher assessed the school children with demographic variables and Self -structured knowledge questionnaire on risk factor on stomach flu. Likewise the researcher was selected 50 school children. At last the researcher assessed the level of knowledge on risk factor on stomach flu among school children.

PLAN FOR THE DATA ANALYSIS

1. Descriptive statistics: Frequency distribution, mean and standard deviation was used to assess the demographic Variables and assess the level of knowledge on risk factor on stomach flu among school children.

2. Inferential statistics:

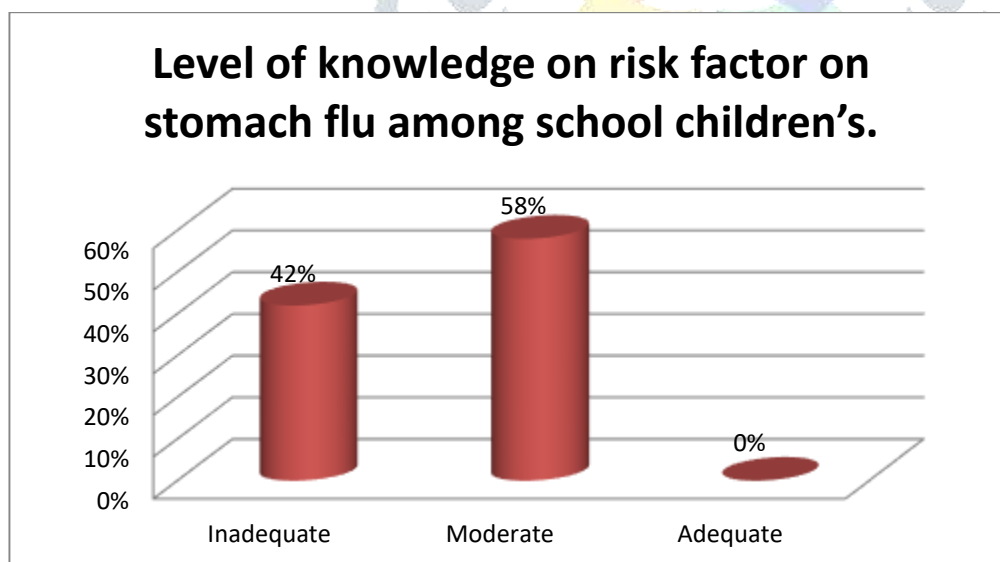
A. Chi-square test determines the association of the level of knowledge on risk factor on stomach flu among school children with their selected demographic Variables.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:-

The first objective of the study, to assess the level of knowledge on risk factor on stomach flu among school children.

In this study, Majority of the school childrens 29 (58%) had moderate level of knowledge on risk factor on stomach flu, 21 (42%) had inadequate level of knowledge on risk factor on stomach flu and none of them 0 (0%) had adequate level of knowledge on risk factor on stomach flu. The mean and standard deviation of level of knowledge on risk factor on stomach flu among school children's (8.840±1.645).

This study was supported by Ghassan Ghssein et al (2018) conducted a Surveillance Study on Acute Gastroenteritis Etiologies in Hospitalized Children in South Lebanon (SAGE study). The sample consists of 198 children. Data were collected in demographic, clinical and routine laboratory characteristics. The results shows that Males had a higher incidence of AGE (57.1%). Pathogens were detected in 57.6% (n=114) of admitted patients, among them single pathogens were found in 51.0% (n=101) of cases that consisted of: Entamoebahistolytica 26.3% (n=52), rotavirus 18.7% (n=37), adenovirus 6.1% (n=12) and mixed co-pathogens found in 6.6% (n=13). Breast-fed children were significantly less prone to rotavirus (p=0.041). Moreover, children who had received the rotavirus vaccine were significantly less prone to rotavirus (p=0.032). The study concludes that the high prevalence of E. histolytica infection as the major cause of pediatric gastroenteritis in hospitalized children, during the summer period likely reflecting the insanitary water supplies and lack of hygiene. Moreover the 42.4% of unidentified causative pathogens should prompt us to widen our diagnostic laboratory arsenal by adopting new diagnostic technologies.



The second objective of the study, to associate the level of knowledge on risk factor on stomach flu among school children with their selected demographic variables.

The demographic variables **family income, Utilization of available health resource and Exposure of health information regarding the personal hygiene and infection** had shown **statistically significant** association with the level of knowledge on risk factor on stomach flu among school children's with chi-square value of ($\chi^2=8.047$, d.f=3) ($\chi^2=12.7$, d.f=1) and ($\chi^2=14.2$, d.f=2) at $p<0.05$ level respectively.

The other demographic variables had not shown statistically significant association with the level of knowledge on risk factor on stomach flu among school children's respectively.

Hence (H1) Hypothesis accepted.

This result was supported by, the study **Chetan S Patali (2018)** was conducted a descriptive study to Assess the Knowledge of Mothers Regarding the Nutrition for Under Five Children in Selected Areas of Bagalkot with a View to Develop a Self Instructional Module. A total 100 subjects were selected through non-probability purposive sampling technique. Exploratory design was used. Data was collected by structured questionnaire. The results show that majority of the mothers 41% had satisfactory knowledge level (41 mothers), inadequate knowledge about 36% (36 mothers) and 23% (23 mothers) were had adequate knowledge. There is significant association between knowledge with age, educational status of mother, occupation of mother, religion, type of family, total number of under-fives in the family, monthly income of the family, and place of residence. The study concludes that Education programme should give importance to equip the mothers with adequate knowledge regarding nutrition thereby preventing from threat of nutritional deficiencies.

CONCLUSION:

This study implies that, Majority of the school childrens 29 (58%) had moderate level of knowledge on risk factor on stomach flu, 21 (42%) had inadequate level of knowledge on risk factor on stomach flu and none of them 0 (0%) had adequate level of knowledge on risk factor on stomach flu. The mean and standard deviation of level of knowledge on risk factor on stomach flu among school children's is (8.840 ± 1.645) .

NURSING RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on findings of the present study, the following recommendations have been made,

- Create awareness about dietary risk factor on stomach flu among school children must be generated so as to prevent its occurrence, lead to early diagnosis and management and prevent its progression and complications .
- Similar study can be conducted in other parts of the country with a large sample.
- The study can be implemented at the various states of India.

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