



Knowledge of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder among Mothers of School Children – A Descriptive Study

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ABSTRACT

Attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is one of the popular neurological developmental disorders among children, adolescents, and even adults. It is manifested by difficulty in attention, hyperactivity, and impulsiveness.¹ Many children suffer from attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.² ADHD cannot be prevented, but if detected in advance, early initiation of appropriate treatment is possible.³ Therefore, maternal awareness regarding the condition is essential to promote its early detection and to equip them to seek medical care at the earliest possible. So the present study was carried out to assess mothers' knowledge regarding ADHD. The objective of the study is to assess the knowledge of ADHD among mothers of school children at a selected school in Pathanamthitta district. The descriptive research design was selected and the study was conducted among 120 mothers of school children. They were selected using a non-probability consecutive sampling technique. The data was collected by using a structured questionnaire and analyzed by descriptive statistics. The result discloses that the mean \pm standard deviation of the knowledge scores of mothers was 7.87 ± 2.87 also study revealed that 8.3% (10) of mothers have good knowledge regarding ADHD, 57.5% (69) of mothers have average knowledge and 34.2% (41) of them have poor knowledge. No significant association was found between the study variables and the selected baseline details of the participants.

Keywords: Knowledge of mothers, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, attention deficit, hyperactivity.

INTRODUCTION

The knowledge and attitude of parents about attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is a determinant of public health as it may influence management and rehabilitation approaches.⁴ Parents of children with ADHD experience several difficulties while raising their children and report lower levels of knowledge about their children's lives and behaviours.⁵ The general public who know more about ADHD better tolerate the strange behaviour of children with ADHD than those who know less.⁶ Parental knowledge of ADHD is critical in how they raise their affected children, including how the disorder is diagnosed, how ADHD treatment affects the daily life of affected children, and increasing treatment compliance.⁷ A recent review suggested that parents of children with suspected ADHD need a well-informed understanding of ADHD before they make decisions on managing their children's illness.⁸ Parents of children with ADHD have many misconceptions of the disorder.⁹

Objectives

1. To assess the knowledge of mothers of school children at a selected school.
2. To find the association between the knowledge of mothers and their selected baseline variables.

Methodology

A quantitative research approach and a descriptive research design were adopted for the study. The study was conducted among mothers of school children. The setting of the study was a selected school in Tiruvalla. The population selected for the study was mothers of school children studying in third to fifth standard. The sample size was 120. Non-probability consecutive sampling technique was used by the researcher to get the pre-determined size of the sample. Samples were selected based on the study criteria and structured knowledge questionnaire to mothers to mark the answers.

Tool: structured knowledge questionnaire

MAJOR FINDING OF THE STUDY**Table 1:1 Frequency and percentage distribution of mothers based on their selected baseline variables.**

N=120		
Variable	f	%
Age of the mothers		
Below 30 years	7	5.8%
30 to 40 years	81	67.5%
Above 40 years	32	26.7%
Education of mothers		
Degree	38	31.7%
Pre-degree	41	34.2%
High school	40	33.3%
Primary school	1	0.8%
Mother's occupation		
Homemakers	95	79.2%
Health professionals	11	9.2%
Teachers	11	9.2%
Others	3	2.5%
Place of residence		
Urban	33	27.5%
rural	87	72.5%
Consanguineous marriage		
No	120	100%
Yes	0	0
Antenatal history		
Normal	114	91.67%
Antenatal complications	4	32%
Alcohol	2	1.7%
Family history		
ADHD	10	8.33%
Developmental delay	1	0.8%
M.R	1	0.8%
Normal	108	90%
Family income		
Less than 20,000	79	65.8%
20,000 to 40,000	33	27.5%
40,000 to 80,000	6	5%
Greater than 80,000	2	1.7%
Previous knowledge		
Nil	45	37.5%
From social media	29	24.2%
Magazines	5	4.2%
Classes	21	17.5%
From life experience	20	16.7%

Knowledge level of mothers regarding ADHD

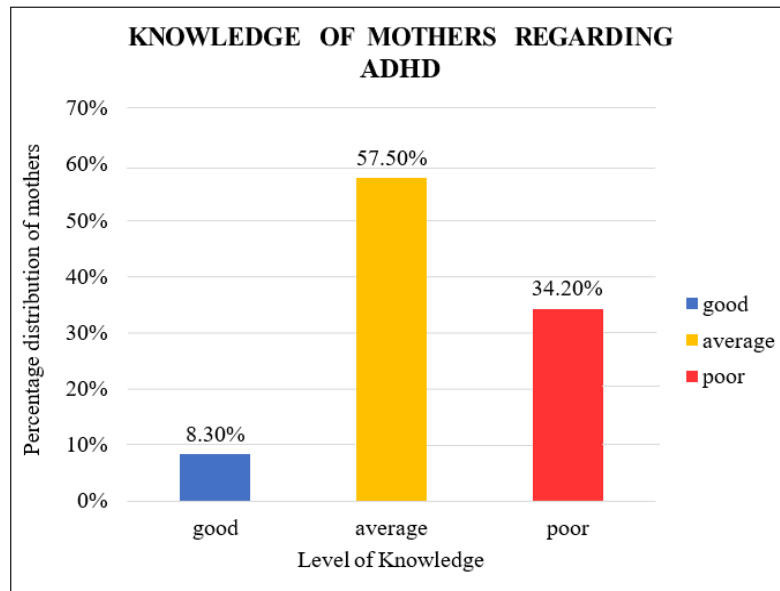


Table 1:2 The mean and standard deviation of mothers' knowledge scores

variable	\bar{x}	S D
Knowledge	7.87	2.87

N= 120

The above table 1:2 reveals that the mean \pm standard deviation of the knowledge scores of mothers was 7.87 ± 2.87

Table 1:3 Association between knowledge among mothers regarding ADHD and selected baseline variable.

The association between the knowledge of mothers and their selected baseline variables was assessed using the Chi-square Test because more than 20% of the cells had an expected frequency of less than five.

N=120

Baseline variable	Good knowledge	Average knowledge	Poor knowledge	χ^2	df	p
Mother's age						
≤ 40 years	7	55	28	5.318	4	0.256
> 40 years	3	14	13			
Mother's occupation						
Home maker	4	55	35	9.930	2	0.007
Employed (health professionals, teachers & others)	6	14	6			
Mother's education						
Pre degree & above	6	21	10	4.78	2	0.091
Up to SSLC	4	48	31			
Place of residence						
Town	2	22	9	1.58	2	0.454
Village	8	47	32			
Family history						
Nil	9	62	37	0.004	2	0.988

Yes (ADHD, MR, Developmental delay)	9	45	22			
Previous knowledge						
Nil	1	24	19	4.80	2	0.090
Yes (social media, magazines & classes)	9	45	22			

Table 1: 3 shows that there is no significant association between the knowledge of mothers and selected baseline variables.

CONCLUSION

This study aims to assess the knowledge of mothers of school children regarding ADHD. Thus, this study found that 57.5% (69) of mothers have average knowledge about ADHD, 34.2% (41) of them have poor knowledge and 8.30% (10) mothers have good knowledge. The mean \pm standard deviation of the knowledge scores of mothers is 7.87 ± 2.87 . Mothers are the best persons to recognize the signs and symptoms of a disease in their children. Therefore, this study showed the need for enhancing the mother's knowledge as a major part of nursing care. Nurses have the opportunity and must be encouraged to provide knowledge to the parents regarding the disease.

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