

Effectiveness of Planned Teaching Program on knowledge of “Child Abuse and its Prevention” among mothers of school aged children

*Mrs Ranju Vasudevan Pillai

Assistant Prof., Theerthanker Mahveer College of Nursing, Theerthanker Mahveer University, Moradabad, Utter Pradesh (India)

ARTICLE DETAILS

Article History

Published Online: 10 October 2018

Keywords

child abuse, prevention of child abuse, mother's knowledge, planned teaching program

Corresponding Author

Email: ranjusathishv[at]gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Child abuse is a significant public health problem. Mothers being the primary care giver can take major steps in prevention of child abuse. **Objective:** to determine the effectiveness of planned teaching program on knowledge of child abuse and its prevention among mothers of school aged children. **Material and method:** An evaluative approach with one group pretest -posttest design was adopted for this study in order to accomplish the objectives. Fifty mothers of school- aged children were selected using convenience sampling. Pre-test was conducted using demographic proforma and structured knowledge questionnaire and planned teaching programme on “child abuse and its prevention” was administered. The post-test was conducted on the seventh day using the same tool. **Result:** The findings of the study show that the planned teaching programme was effective in all the areas for improving the knowledge of “child abuse and its prevention” of the mothers of school of school age children.

1. Introduction

Child abuse is a worldwide problem and has existed in all societies and cultures. Rights of children have often been ignored and this has resulted in tragic consequences. Every society regardless of its cultural and social background can and must stop violence against children.

According to WHO: “child abuse and maltreatment constitutes all forms of physical and/ or emotional ill treatment, sexual abuse, neglect or negligent treatment or commercial 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.”

Physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse and child neglect are the major forms of child abuse. The forms of child abuse to which children could be exposed vary according to his/her age and stage of development. The far reaching impact and consequences of the traumatic experiences on the children lasts even as they grow into adulthood. .

Child abuse is a major problem in our society. Mothers play a major role in protection of their children. Imparting education to the mothers on the issue can help them to understand better, the vulnerability of their children and provide them with a secure environment for their healthy development

Need for study

Worldwide there were three million reports of child abuse and neglect per year. Nineteen percent of the world’s children live in India. Child abuse is a serious problem that has a significant long term impact on individuals, families and communities. Raising awareness and understanding of child abuse is the first important step towards addressing the issue.

In the Indian society mother plays an important role in the upbringing of their children. Increasing awareness and

understanding of the phenomena among mothers can result in lower levels of abuse. If mothers are educated on child abuse they can prevent or even identify abuse as it occurs. They can inturn educate their children to protect themselves and seek timely help if abuse occurs. Keeping this in view the researcher felt it is essential to educate mothers using us a planned teaching programme on “child abuse and its prevention and to determine its effectiveness in terms of gain in knowledge.

Objectives of the study

- 1) To determine the pre- test level of knowledge on “child abuse and its prevention” among mothers of school - aged children.
- 2) To determine the effectiveness of the planned teaching programme on knowledge of child abuse and its prevention among the mothers of school-aged children in terms of gain in knowledge.
- 3) To find the association between pretest knowledge of the mothers with selected demographic variables

Hypothesis

To achieve the stated objectives following hypotheses have been developed and is tested at 0.05 level of significance.

H1: The mean post-test knowledge score of mothers of school- aged children on child abuse and its prevention will be significantly higher than that of the mean pre-test knowledge score.

H2: There will be a significant association between the pretest level of knowledge of mothers of school-aged children on child abuse and its prevention and selected demographic variables

2. Materials and methods

2.1 Research Approach

Evaluative approach with one group pretest -posttest design was adopted for this study in order to accomplish the objectives.

2.2 Research Design

The research design selected for this study was quasi experimental, i.e., one group pretest- posttest design (O1 X O2) for collection and analysis of data because this study was intended to ascertain the gain in knowledge by the mothers who were subjected to PTP.

2.3 Variables under study

Dependent variable

In the present study, knowledge is the dependent variable.

Independent variable

In this study, it refers to the planned teaching programme (PTP) on child abuse and its prevention

2.4 Setting of the study

The study was conducted in a selected community in Mangalore taluk in Dakshina Kannada district of Karnataka State in India.

2.5 Population

Target population

The population selected were mothers of school-aged children.

Accessible population

In the present study, the accessible population consisted of 50 mothers of school-aged children (in the age group of 6-12 years) residing in a selected Village of Mangalore, Karnataka during the period of data collection.

2.6 Sample And Sampling Technique

Here the study sample comprised of 50 mothers who have school-aged children in the age group of 6-12years residing in Sankolige Mangalore. Convenience sampling was used for selecting the samples.

Sampling Criteria

Inclusion criteria

1. Mothers who had children between 6-12 years of age.
2. Mothers who were willing to participate in the study
3. Mothers who were to read and write and understand Kannada.

Exclusion criteria

1. Mothers who had special training in child upbringing e.g. teachers, health workers etc.

2.7 Data Collection Tools And Techniques

Tool was divided into two sections.

Section-A: Demographic Performa. It consisted of 8 items.

Section-B: Knowledge questionnaire .Draft of the knowledge questionnaire consisted of 25 items on knowledge of child abuse and its prevention. The concept of child abuse had 17 items and concept of child abuse prevention and management had 8 items

2.8 Development And Description Of Planned Teaching Programme

Planned teaching programme on "child abuse and its prevention" was developed by the investigator after reviewing literature, and seeking opinions from experts.

Description of the PTP

The content area of the PTP was organized into Definition of child abuse; Types of child abuse Causes of child abuse and risk factors, Signs of child abuse, Consequences of child abuse, Prevention of child abuse and Management of abused child.

Data Collection

Data collection refers to the steps of gathering information needed to address a research problem. The data collection was done from 20th October 2009 to 12th November 2009 in Sankolige village, Mangalore. Formal written permission was obtained from the District Health Officer and from the Medical Officer of Kotekar PHC

The information about the mothers was collected from PHC Kotekar, two schools, and from an aganwadi where mothers come for self-help group meetings. Mothers were divided in to three groups according to their convenience. The Pre-test knowledge questionnaire was administered. Then the planned teaching programme was administered soon after pre-testing, which took an hour. On the 7th day post-test was conducted for each group by the investigator using the same questionnaire at the same place. The data collected was then compiled for data analysis

Data Analysis

Descriptive statistics (frequency, percentage, range, mean, median, standard deviation) and inferential statistics ('t' test and chi-square test) was used for the analysis and interpretation of data.

3. Result and Discussion

The data was analyzed and organized in the following sections

I. Sample characteristics.

Majority of samples (82%) were aged between 36-45 years. Maximum percentage of samples (48%) had two children and education up to secondary school (46%). Majority of samples were housewives (66%), Muslims (60%), from nuclear family (68%) and, had some previous information on child abuse (90%). Maximum percentage (46%) of mothers got information on child abuse from newspapers.

II. Evaluation of the PTP in terms of gain in knowledge.

Table 1: Frequency and percentage distribution of pre-test and post-test knowledge according to level of knowledge of mothers N=50

Grades	Knowledge scores			
	Pre-test		Post -test	
	Frequency	percentage	Frequency	Percentage
V good (81-100%)	0	0	43	86%
Good (61-80%)	15	30	7	14%
Average (41-60%)	26	52	0	0
Poor (<40%)	9	18	0	0

Table 2: Mean, standard deviation, mean difference and 't' value and significance of pre-test and post-test knowledge scores of mother of school-aged children N=50

	Mean knowledge score	Standard deviation	Mean difference	't' value
Pre -test	13.34	3.75	8.82	17.802*
Post-test	22.16	1.73		

Table value: $t_{(49)} = 2.021, p < 0.05$; *significant

The significance of difference between pre-test and post-test knowledge scores of mothers which was tested and founded to be ($t_{49} = 17.802, p < 0.05$ significant).

A study which supports the findings of present study is on effectiveness of clinic based parent education program to reduce the risk of infant and toddler maltreatment conducted in Washington. Sample included 199 parents from three subgroups: two from community samples and a group of mothers and children in residential drug treatment. Results showed that the programs were effective for whole group and also for subgroups. It also showed a relationship between program attendance and magnitude of gain in observed practices

III. Association between the pre-test level of knowledge and selected variables

There was a significant association between religion and knowledge and pre-test knowledge score ($\chi^2 = 5.97$). There

was no significant association between pre-test knowledge and the demographic variables such as age, number of children, educational status, occupation, type of family, previous information on child abuse and source of information.

4. Conclusion

The findings of the study show that the planned teaching programme was effective in all the areas for improving the knowledge of "child abuse and its prevention" of the mothers of school of school age children.

Acknowledgments

Author would like to thank Prof Susan Anand for her guidance and support during the study.

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