

ORIGINAL RESEARCH

A study to assess the knowledge and attitude of mothers regarding prevention of child abuse in a selected village of Faridkot

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ABSTRACT

The present study was conducted to assess the knowledge and attitude of mothers regarding prevention of child abuse in a selected village of Faridkot. A quantitative approach and exploratory descriptive research design was used for the study. Sample size was 60 mothers selected by non-probability purposive sampling technique. The data was collected with the help of self-structured questionnaire and attitude scale. Descriptive and inferential statistics were used to analysis the data. Discussion was based on the objectives statistical analysis, current trends and previous selected research. The study revealed that majority of mothers that were 58% had average knowledge, 25% mothers had good knowledge and 17% mothers had poor knowledge. 88.3% had neutral attitude, 10% had positive attitude and 1.7% of mothers had negative attitude. The mean and standard deviation of knowledge and attitude 17.58±4.74 and 40.08±8.3 respectively. Hence, it was concluded that there was a moderate correlation between knowledge and attitude score that is $r=0.7$. From the finding of the study following conclusion were drawn that the knowledge of mothers regarding prevention of child abuse was average. Attitude of mothers regarding prevention of child abuse was neutral.

Keywords: Assess, Knowledge, Attitude, Mothers, Prevention, Child abuse.

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INTRODUCTION

Child abuse is among the most prevalent and most complicated psycho-social issues in today's society. Every day, thousands of children and adolescents are burnt, beaten, suffering from hunger or maltreated by their caregivers. Though certain children are not targeted as victims of various forms of physical or sexual maltreatment, yet, they do suffer from psychological maltreatment like being ostracized, ridiculed or scared. ¹ Child abuse is a social problem frequently encountered in all cultures and societies. There are many studies on child abuse, and this article aims to contribute to the efforts of preventing such abuse by focusing on their mother and fathers' abusive tendencies and examining the child abuse potential of parents using a number of variables.² India is home to over 19 percent of the world's children, making it the country with the largest child population in the world. It inherently defines the country's role in becoming a safe haven for children in this ever changing society. The nation therefore provides its children with a host of rights –

fundamental and legal while enshrining the importance of their protection, care and development in its overall policies, schemes and objectives.³

Regardless of every affirmative action taken with respect to children through numerous acts and amendments, their condition has not changed much over time. The fact that children are the most vulnerable section of the society has not varied even after decades of independence. Initiating from the first 5-Year Plan, successive governments came up with various policy reforms and laws for changing the conditions of children and uplifting their standards of living. Yet exploitation, abuse, labor and abandonment remain the ground reality of children across India amongst these, Child Abuse is one of the most common, frequent and highly prevalent challenges in the present atmosphere. The root cause of which, is mostly found in the poverty ridden sections of the society.⁴

Child abuse or child maltreatment is physical, sexual, and psychological maltreatment or neglect of a child or children, especially by a parent or a caregiver.

Child abuse may include any act or failure to act by a parent or a 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 with. The terms child abuse and child maltreatment are often used interchangeably, although some researchers make a distinction between them, treating child maltreatment as an umbrella term to cover neglect, exploitation, and trafficking. Different jurisdictions have developed their own stance towards mandatory reporting, different definitions of what constitutes child abuse to remove children from their families or for prosecuting a criminal charge.⁵

STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

A study to assess the knowledge and attitude of mothers regarding prevention of child abuse in a selected village of Faridkot.

OBJECTIVES

1. To assess the knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse among mothers in selected village of Faridkot, Punjab.
2. To assess the attitude regarding prevention of child abuse among mothers in selected village of Faridkot, Punjab.
3. To find out the co relation between knowledge and attitude regarding prevention of child abuse among mothers in selected village of Faridkot, Punjab.
4. To find out significant association between knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse in selected village of Faridkot, Punjab.
5. To find out significant association between attitude prevention of child abuse among mothers in selected village of Faridkot, Punjab

METHODOLOGY

RESEARCH APPROACH: A Quantitative research approach was used.

RESEARCH DESIGN: A descriptive research design was used for the study.

TARGET PUPULATION: The target population for the study were mothers of selected village of Faridkot.

SAMPLE AND SAMPLE SIZE: The sample size was 60 mothers.

FINDINGS

SECTION I: Objective 1: Assess the knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse among mothers in selected village of Faridkot, Punjab.

Table: 1: Frequency and percentage distribution of level of knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse among mothers in selected village of Faridkot, Punjab.
N=60

S.no.	Level of Knowledge	Score	n	%age
1.	Good	21-25	15	25
2.	Average	16-20	35	58
3.	Poor	<15	10	17

Table 1 depict that 35(58%) mother had Average level of knowledge, 10(17%) mother had poor level of knowledge and 15(25%) mother had good level of knowledge.

SAMPLE TECHNIQUE: The non-probability purposive sampling technique was used.

INCLUSIN AND EXCLUSION CRITERIA

Inclusion criteria:

1. The mothers of selected children who were willing to participate in study.
2. The mother of children who were able to understand English and Punjabi.

Exclusion criteria:

The mothers of children who were not available during the period of data collection

SELECTION AND DEVLOPMENT OF TOOL

Section-A Description of Tool:

It includes socio demographic variables consist of 7 items to collect sample characteristics Which include Age of mothers (in years), Religion, Education status of mother, Family type, Occupational status of mothers, Income status of family in rupees, number of children.

Section-B: self-structured questionnaire for assessing knowledge regarding child abuse

Section-C: self-structured attitude scale (five point Likert scale) for assessing attitude regarding child abuse.

CRITERION MEASURES

Criterion measures to analyze the tool were follows

SECTION-B (KNOWLEDGE QUESTIONARE)

Knowledge criteria:

Knowledge score was categorized into 3 levels;

Level	Score	%
Good	21-25	70-100
Average	16-20	36-60
Poor	<15	30

Maximum score = 25

Minimum score = 0

SECTION C (Attitude scale)

Attitude score was categorized into 3 levels:

Attitude	Score	%
positive	51-75	68-100
Neutral	26-50	34-66
Negative	1-25	1-33

Maximum score = 75

Minimum score = 1

Hence, it was concluded that majority of women had Average level of knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse.

SECTION-II: Objective 2: To assess the attitude regarding prevention of child abuse among mothers in selected village of Faridkot, Punjab.

Table: 2: Frequency and percentage distribution of level of Attitude regarding prevention of child abuse among mothers in selected village of Faridkot, Punjab.

N=60

S.no.	Attitude	Score	n	%age
1.	Positive	51-75	06	10
2.	Neutral	26-50	53	83.3
3.	Negative	1-25	01	1.7

Table 2 depict that majority of mothers 83.3% had neutral attitude followed by 10% had positive attitude and only 1.7% had negative attitude.

Hence, it was concluded that majority of the mothers had neutral attitude.

SECTION- IV Objective 3: To find out the relationship between knowledge and attitude regarding prevention of child abuse among mother in selected village of Faridkot, Punjab.

Table: 3: Relationship between knowledge and attitude regarding prevention child abuse among mothers in selected village of Faridkot, Punjab.

N=60

Relationship	Mean	SD	R
Knowledge	17.58	+4.74	0.7
Attitude	40.08	+8.3	

Table 3, revealed that mean and standard deviation for knowledge were 17.58 and +4.74 respectively and for attitude were 40.08 and +8.3 respectively. The knowledge and relationship between knowledge and attitude was found out to be 0.7.

Hence, it was concluding that there was moderate relationship between knowledge and attitude.

- Children in India 2012- A Statistical Appraisal"- Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India

CONCLUSION

From the findings of the study results were drawn that the majority of the mother had average knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse. Mother had neutral attitude toward prevention of child abuse. The result were drawn that there was a moderate and non-significant relationship between knowledge and attitude regarding prevention of child abuse among mothers.

ETHECAL CONSINDRATION

Written permission was taken from the Sarpanch of village Pakhi district Faridkot, was taken. After that informed verbal consent was taken from the mothers who were included in the study.

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