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A Study to Assess the Effectiveness of Child Abuse Prevention Programme on Knowledge Regarding Prevention of Child Abuse among Mothers at Selected Schools, Puducherry

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ABSTRACT: Child abuse is a type of cruelty upon child, which includes mental abuse, physical abuse, and sexual abuse or exploitation. It induces acute stress in victims to increase chances of developmental problems during childhood, adolescence, and adulthood. It is perhaps the most widely recognized, successive and exceptionally predominant difficulties in the current environment. Child sexual abuse is a type of maltreatment considered a global health problem. It is a type of maltreatment that involves the participation of a minor in sexual activity that they cannot understand, for which they are not prepared, and in which they are not in a position to give their consent (**World Health Organization (WHO), 2017**). According to **Times of India 2023 statistics**, over 90% of Indian children experience some form of abuse before they reach the age of 18. The study was undertaken with the objective to assess the pre-test and post-test level of knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse among mothers & to evaluate the effectiveness of child abuse prevention programme on knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse. Pre Experimental with One group pretest post test design was used to assess the Knowledge level of mothers regarding prevention of child abuse by a structured questionnaire. Child abuse prevention programme on prevention of child abuse was administered for one week. The findings of the present study concluded that 15(30%) had inadequate knowledge, followed by 30 (60%) had moderate knowledge and 5(10%) had high knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse. In post-test, 41(82%) had high knowledge on prevention of child abuse among mothers and the mean knowledge score was 10.32 in pre test raised to 22.05 in post test. There is a significant difference between pre-test and post test knowledge scores of mothers regarding prevention of child abuse.

KEY WORDS: child abuse prevention programme, mothers, prevention of child abuse

I. INTRODUCTION

Child abuse is a type of cruelty upon child, which includes mental abuse, physical abuse, and sexual abuse or exploitation. child maltreatment causes traumatic stress, which disrupts homeostasis causing both immediate and long-term endocrine changes in metabolism and neurophysiology. Child sexual abuse is a type of maltreatment considered a global health problem. It is a type of maltreatment that involves the participation of a minor in sexual activity that they cannot understand, for which they are not prepared, and in which they are not in a position to give their consent (**World Health Organization (WHO), 2017**). It induces acute stress in victims to increase chances of developmental problems during childhood, adolescence, and adulthood. It is perhaps the most widely recognized, successive and exceptionally predominant difficulties in the current environment. Child sexual abuse in India is a prevalent and devastating issue, with a shocking 28.9% of children experiencing some form of sexual crime, and a devastating **92,105** calls reporting abuse and violence against children during the pandemic-induced lockdown (**India Today Report, 2023**). According to **Times of India 2023 statistics**, over 90% of Indian children experience some form of abuse before they reach the age of 18. When sexual abuse goes unreported and children are not given the protective and therapeutic assistance they need, they are left to suffer in silence. So this study was undertaken with the objective to assess the pre-test and post-test level of knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse among mothers & to evaluate the effectiveness of child abuse prevention programme on knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THIS STUDY

1. To assess the pretest and posttest level of knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse among mothers
2. To evaluate the effectiveness of child abuse prevention programme on knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse among mothers

HYPOTHESIS

H₁: There will be a significant difference between pretest and posttest level of knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse among mothers

H₂: There will be a significant effectiveness of child abuse prevention programme on knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse among mothers

III. METHODOLOGY

RESEARCH APPROACH: According to the statement of the problem and to accomplish the study quantitative research approach was adopted.

RESEARCH DESIGN: Pre-experimental one group pretest-post test research design was used in this study .

RESEARCH VARIABLES:

Independent variable- child abuse prevention programme

Dependent variable- knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse among mothers

RESEARCH SETTING: The study was conducted at selected school, Puducherry.

POPULATION: In this study, population comprises of all mothers of selected school.

SAMPLE:The samples for this study were all mothers having children in the age group of 6- 12 years

SAMPLE SIZE: The sample size was 50 mothers.

SAMPLING TECHNIQUE: Purposive sampling technique was used for this study.

SAMPLING CRITERIA:

INCLUSION CRITERIA:

Mothers

- ✓ Having children in the age group of 6-12 years
- ✓ who know to read and write tamil or English
- ✓ who are willing to participate in the study

EXCLUSION CRITERIA:

Mothers

- ✓ who were sick at the time of data collection.
- ✓ Who were physically and mentally challenged

IV. RESULTS

Table 1: Percentage distribution of knowledge levels of mothers on prevention of child abuse in pre test and post test

Levels of knowledge	N= 50			
	Pre test		Post test	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Adequate knowledge	05	10%	41	82%
Moderately adequate knowledge	30	60%	09	18%
Inadequate knowledge	15	30%	00	00%

Table 1: Frequency and Percentage Distribution of Pre-test Post-test Knowledge Score of mothers on prevention of child abuse (N=50) reveals that, among all mothers, in pre-test, 15(30%) had inadequate knowledge, followed by 30(60%) had moderately adequate knowledge and 5(10%) had adequate knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse. In post-test, majority of mothers 41(82%) had adequate knowledge ,09(18%) had moderately adequate and no one had inadequate knowledge.

Table 2: Distribution of mean knowledge score of mothers

N = 50

Group	Mean	Sd	Mean difference	't' test	P value
Pretest	10.32	2.14	11.73	31.214	<0.001**
Post test	22.05	1.28			

Table 2: The mean knowledge score was 10.32 whereas in post test raised to 22.05 with the difference of 11.73. The 't' test value (31.214) revealed that there was a significant difference in the mean knowledge score of the mothers between pretest & Post test at 0.001 level. So the stated hypotheses H1 (There is a significant difference between pre-test and post test knowledge scores of mothers on prevention of child abuse) and H2 (There will be a significant effectiveness of child abuse prevention programme on knowledge regarding child abuse .) was accepted.

V. DISCUSSION

On the basis of the study and the statistical analysis, it was found that child abuse prevention programme brought significant changes on knowledge among mothers. The result shows that there was significant improvement in knowledge level of mothers after the administration of child abuse prevention programme on prevention of child abuse . The result of the study showed that child abuse prevention programme improved the knowledge level of the mothers.

VI. CONCLUSION

- ✓ The pre-test study concluded that mothers had inadequate knowledge in pre-test but after child abuse prevention programme on knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse, there was a significant improvement on knowledge of mothers.
- ✓ There was a significant difference between pre-test and post-test knowledge score with respect to different variables.

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