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RESEARCH ARTICLE

TO ASSESS THE LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE REGARDING CHILD ABUSE AND ITS PREVENTION AMONG PARENTS OF CHILDREN ADMITTED IN GGSMCH FARIDKOT, PUNJAB.

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Abstract

Aim: The aim of the study is to assess the level of knowledge regarding child abuse and its prevention among parents of children admitted in GGSMCH Faridkot, Punjab.

Material and Methods: A descriptive research design is used to conduct this research study. 60 parents of children 0-14 years admitted in GGSMCH Faridkot were selected for this research study. Convenient Sampling Technique was used for data collection and self-structured questionnaire was used to assess the knowledge of mothers regarding child abuse and its prevention. Data was collected by interview schedule and analyzed by descriptive and inferential statistics.

Results: The findings of the study revealed that out of 60 parents 75% were having adequate knowledge and 25% were having inadequate knowledge. There was significant association of knowledge of parents with Informant, Age and Occupation. Statistically analyzed by chi square test at 0.05 level of significance.

Conclusion: It was concluded that majority of Parents of children admitted in GGSMCH were having adequate knowledge regarding child abuse and its prevention.

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Introduction:-

“Childhood should be carefree, playing in the sun; not living a nightmare in the darkness of the soul.”

Dave Pelzer

Childhood is a most fun and memorable time in anyone's life. It's a first stage of life in which we enjoy in whatever way we like. Besides, this is the time that shapes up the future.^[1] Children generally have fewer rights than adults and are classed as unable to make decision and legally must always be under the care and responsibility of parents, adults, divorced or single parent: Children are world's most valuable resources and asset. Besides childhood being pivotal period and being the framework of our existence, this period is not same for every little one as many of them experience ill treatment.^[2]

According to WHO, “Child abuse or maltreatment constitutes all forms of physical and/or emotional ill-treatment sexual abuse, neglect or negligent treatment or commercial or the other exploitation, resulting in actual or potential harm to the child's health, survival, development or dignity in the context of the relationship of responsibility, trust or power.”^[3]

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The number of cases registered for child abuse raised from 8,904 in the year 2014 to 14,913 in the year 2015, under the POSCO Act. Sexual offences and kidnapping account for 81% of the crimes against minors POSCO; State wise cases - Uttar Pradesh led the highest number of child abuse cases (3,078) followed by Madhya Pradesh (1,687 cases), Tamil Nadu (1,544 cases), Karnataka (1,480 cases) and Gujarat (1,416 cases).^[4]

Parenting is multidimensional. To respond to the varied needs of their children, parents must develop both depth and breadth of knowledge, ranging from being aware of developmental milestones and norms that help in keeping children safe and healthy to understanding their role of professionals (e.g., educators, child care workers, health care providers, social workers) and social systems (e.g., institutions, laws, policies) that interact with families and support parenting.^[5] It is worth assessing the knowledge of the parents regarding abuse and its prevention for the future studies implications.

Objectives of the study:-

1. To assess the level of knowledge regarding child abuse and its prevention among parents.
2. To find out the association between knowledge of parents regarding child abuse and its prevention with their selected demographic variables.

Material and Methods:-

Research approach

A quantitative research approach was used for the study.

Research design

Descriptive Research Design was used for the present study in order to assess the level of knowledge regarding child abuse and its prevention among parents of children admitted in GGSMCH Faridkot, Punjab.

Research Variables

Knowledge of parents regarding child abuse and its prevention.

Demographic Variables

It includes selected demographical variables of study participants like Informant (Father/Mother), Age, Number of children, Occupation, Educational status, Family income (annual), Type of family, Religion, Area, Source of information.

Research Setting

The study was conducted in Pediatrics Ward 1 and 2, NICU and PICU of Guru Gobind Singh Medical College and Hospital, Faridkot, Punjab

Sample size and Sampling Technique

Sample for this study comprised of 60 parents of children of age group 0-14 years admitted in Guru Gobind Singh Medical College and Hospital, Faridkot, Punjab through convenient sampling technique. Total 60 parents who have children of age 0-14 years were selected who met the inclusion and exclusion criteria.

Inclusion criteria

1. Parents having children of age 0-14 years.
2. Parents who were present at the time of data collection.

Exclusion criteria

Who were not willing to participate in the study.

Development of tool

The tool for data collection will be consists of two parts:

Part I: Demographic variables:

It includes selected demographical variables of study participants like Informant (Father/Mother), Age, Number of children, Occupation, Educational status, Family income (annual), Type of family, Religion, Area, Source of information.

Part II: Self-structured Questionnaire is used to assess the level of knowledge of parents regarding child abuse and its prevention. Tool was selected and developed by keeping in mind the objectives of study. It consists of 32 questions-15 questions related to child abuse and 17 related to its prevention.

Criterion measurement for assessment of care burden

Interpretation of Score:
Adequate Knowledge >16
Inadequate Knowledge <16

Reliability-

Reliability of tool was calculated by correlation coefficient method and the score was 0.9.

Pilot study (try out)

The data for pilot study was collected in the month of July 2020. A sample of 10 parents were selected for pilot study by using Convenient sampling technique.

Data collection procedure

The data collection for the study was carried out from 12-07-2020 to 15-07-2020 on 60 parents whose children were admitted in GGSMCH, Faridkot.

Data analysis

The data was categorized and summarized in master data sheet and then analyzed. Both descriptive and inferential statistics were used for analysis i.e mean, standard deviation, frequency, chi-square test, bar and pie diagrams were used to depict the findings.

Informant:

70% of study subjects were mothers and 30% were Fathers.

Age:

Majority of the parents (65%) were in the age group of 18-39 years and the rest were 35% in the age group of 34-49 years.

No of children:

Majority of the study subjects (95%) had children 1-3 and rest 5% had 4-6 children.

Occupation:

Majority of the study subjects (26.6 %) were at government job, 25% were at private job, 20% were labourers, 15% were businessman and 13.3% were at agriculture

Educational status:

Majority of the study subjects (41.6%) were literate, 26.6% were matric or senior secondary passed, 25% were graduate and post graduate and rest 6.6% were illiterate.

Family income (annual):

Majority of the study subjects (55%) had annual income below 50,000, 21.6% had in the range of 50,000-70,000. 11.6% were in the range of 70,000-1 lakh and rest 11.6% had above 1 lakh

Type of family:

Majority of the study subjects (76.6%) were in the nuclear family and rest 23.4% were in joint family.

Religion:

Majority of the study subjects were Sikhs (70%), 21.6% were Hindu, 5% were Muslims and rest 34% were Christians.

Area of residence:

Majority of the study subjects (63.4%) were the residence of urban area and the rest 36.6% were of rural area.

Source of information:

Majority of the study subjects (48.4%) had knowledge from television/radio, 36.6% had from newspaper/magazines, 8.4% had self-learning and the rest 6.6% had from friends/relatives.

Objective-1:-

To assess the level of knowledge regarding child abuse and its prevention among parents.

Mean and Standard Deviation of knowledge among parents N=60

Minimum score	Maximum score	Mean	± SD
07	29	19.83	5.34

The table 1 describes the minimum score is 07, maximum obtained score is 29, Maximum possible score is 32 overall mean is 19.83, median 21 and \pm SD is 5.34.

Frequency and percentage distribution of care burden level among care givers. N=60

Level of Knowledge	Criteria	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Adequate Knowledge	>50% (>16 score)	45	75
Inadequate knowledge	<50% (16 score)	15	25

The table 2 describes the distribution of level of knowledge among parents.

Objective-2

To find out the association between knowledge of parents regarding child abuse and its prevention with their selected demographic variables.

The chi square test was used to assess the association between the level of knowledge and selected demographic variables. There was significant association of knowledge with Informant, Age and Occupation. Statistically analyzed by chi square value of 28.9313, 9.011 and 9.466 respectively at df=1, 1 and 4 respectively significant (S*) at 0.05 the level of significance.

Conclusion:-

Mean and Standard deviation of knowledge regarding child abuse and its prevention is 19.83 and 5.34 respectively. Out of total samples 75% had adequate knowledge and rest 25% had inadequate knowledge regarding child abuse and its prevention. This study revealed that 64.4% m=Males and 35.6% Females had adequate knowledge regarding child abuse and its prevention.

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