A Study To Assess The Adverse Effects of Childhood Maltreatment Among The School Age Children At Selected Community Area, Puducherry.

K. Deepalakshmi[1] C. Snega Lemaire[2]

[1]*Assistant Professor in Department of Child Health Nursing, Sri Manakula Vinayagar Nursing College, Puducherry-605107*

[2]*B.Sc., (Nursing)-IV Year, Sri Manakula Vinayagar Nursing College, Puducherry-605 107*

ABSTRACT

Introduction: Child maltreatment, a significant and distressing social issue, refers to the abuse and neglect that children may experience in their early years. This broad term encompasses various forms of maltreatment, including physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect. The consequences of child maltreatment can be severe and long-lasting, affecting the physical, psychological, and emotional development of the child. It can lead to various health issues, emotional problems, and adverse behaviors in adolescence and adulthood. **Aim of the study**: The main aim of the study to assess the adverse effects of childhood maltreatment among school age children and to associate the adverse effects of childhood maltreatment among school age children with selected demographic variables. **Methodology:** A quantitative research approach was adopted for the present study. By using convenient sampling technique 30 school-age children was selected for the present study. **Results:** majority 22 (73.3%) of them had inadequate, 8(26.7%) of them had moderate on adverse effects of childhood maltreatment among school age children. There is no significance association between Age, religion, gender, educational status, Family's monthly income, residential area, and source of information with adverse effects of childhood maltreatment among school age children. **Conclusion:** The study findings concluded that majority of the school age children had inadequate adverse effects of childhood maltreatment among school age children.

Key word: Adverse effects, childhood maltreatment, school age children, community area.

INTRODUCTION:

Child maltreatment, a significant and distressing social issue, refers to the abuse and neglect that children may experience in their early years. This broad term encompasses various forms of maltreatment, including physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect.

The causes of child maltreatment are diverse and multifaceted, often rooted in a combination of individual, familial, community, and societal factors. These can include parental factors like Mental health issues, substance abuse, a history of being abused themselves, lack of parenting knowledge, or unmanaged stress can contribute to a caregiver's propensity to maltreat a child. Environmental Factors like Poverty, social isolation, community violence, and lack of support systems can create conditions where child maltreatment is more likely. Cultural and Societal Influences certain societal norms or cultural beliefs may inadvertently condone or overlook aspects of child maltreatment.

The consequences of child maltreatment can be severe and long-lasting, affecting the physical, psychological, and emotional development of the child. It can lead to various health issues, emotional problems, and adverse behaviors in adolescence and adulthood. Understanding the causes and consequences of child maltreatment is crucial for developing effective prevention and intervention strategies.

NEED FOR THE STUDY

Global status report on violence prevention developed by WHO reports that 25% of all adults were physically abused, 36% were emotionally abused and 20% of women and 7.7% of men were sexually abused as a child. It also estimated that the prevalence of child maltreatment in South East Asian region was 88%.

India is home to over 19% of the world's children or 42% (more than one-third) of India's total population. Among them, approx 50% of these children need protection and care. As per the latest census of 2011, the total child population in India is 4441.5 lakhs. As per the NCRB data, in 2020, a total of 28.9% of the total child population faced some kind of crime against them but only 65.6% of the total crime committed is reported.

Childhood maltreatment can be linked to later physical, psychological, and behavioural consequences as well as costs to society as a whole. The researcher felt school age children need to have adequate knowledge of types of abuse, personnel to whom they have to report the abuse and different ways to protect children from child maltreatment. Thus, we can prevent child maltreatment against children, which helps to create healthy children for the development of a healthy nation. So, the researcher selected the study to assess the adverse effects of childhood maltreatment among the school age children at selected community area, Puducherry

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

A study to assess the adverse effects of childhood maltreatment among the school age children at Kalitheerthalkuppam, Puducherry

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To assess the adverse effects of childhood maltreatment among school age children.
2. To associate the adverse effects of childhood maltreatment among school age children with selected demographic variables.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

A quantitative research approach was adopted for the present study. A descriptive design was selected for the present study. The present study was conducted at in Kalitheerthalkuppam, Puducherry. The population comprised of all school-age children. By using convenient sampling technique 30 school-age children was selected for the present study. The structured questionnaires consist of 25 items regarding the childhood maltreatment. It includes definition, types, methods, clinical manifestations, management and prevention of child maltreatment. The outcome of the study was evaluated by using descriptive and inferential statistics.

Inclusion criteria:

1. Both male and female school-age children.
2. School-age children who were available during data collection.
3. School-age children who could speak Tamil / English.

Exclusion criteria:

1. School-age children who were not willing to participate in this study

SECTION A: Demographic variables include Age, religion, gender, educational status, Family's monthly income, residential area, source of information

SECTION B: The structured questionnaires consist of 25 items regarding the childhood maltreatment. It includes definition, types, methods, clinical manifestations, management and prevention of child maltreatment.

SCORING INTERPRETATION:

S.NO	SCORE	INTERPRETATION
1	0-49%	Inadequate
2	50 – 75%	Moderate
3	76-100%	Adequate

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

The data collected was analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics.

SECTION A: Description of demographic variables of school-age children

SECTION B: Assessment of the adverse effects of childhood maltreatment among school age children.

SECTION C: Association of the adverse effects of childhood maltreatment among school age children with selected demographic variables.
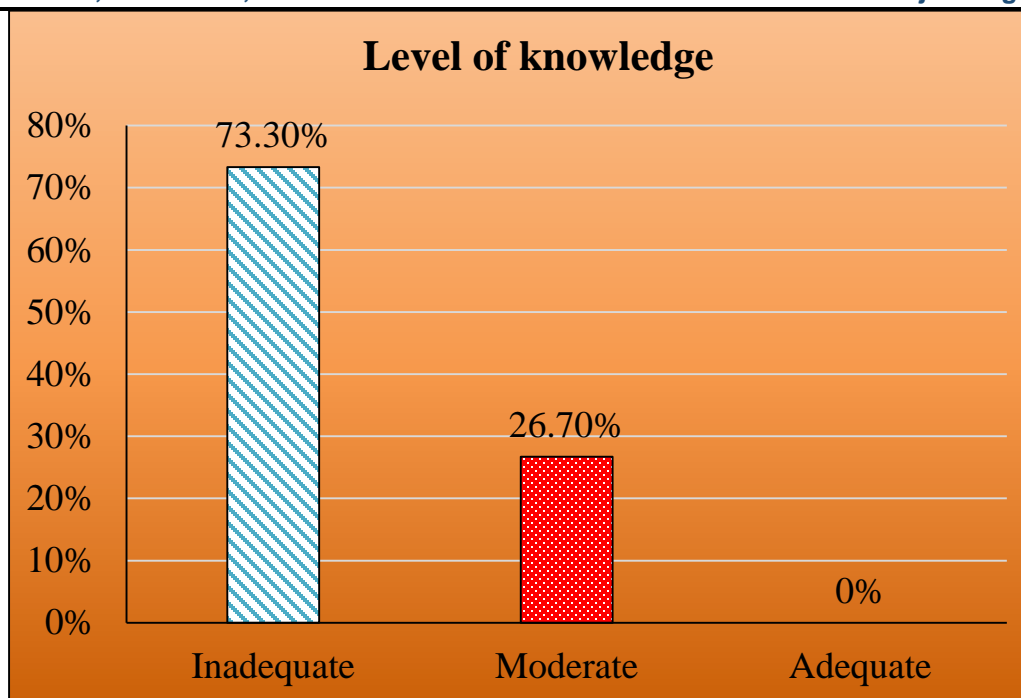
Table-1: Distribution of the adverse effects of childhood maltreatment among school age children. (N = 30)

S.NO	ADVERSE EFFECTS	FREQUENCY (n)	PERCENTAGE %
1.	Inadequate	22	73.3%
2.	Moderate	8	26.7%
3.	Adequate	0	0%

Table 1: The above table reveals the frequency and percentage-wise distribution of level of the adverse effects of childhood maltreatment among school age children. The finding shows that, majority 22 (73.3%) of them had inadequate, 8 (26.7%) of them had moderate adverse effects of childhood maltreatment among school age children.

Figure 1 : Percentage wise distribution of the adverse effects of childhood maltreatment among school age children.

Level of knowledge

SECTION C: Association of the adverse effects of childhood maltreatment among school age children with selected demographic variables

Table 2: Association of the adverse effects of childhood maltreatment among school age children with selected demographic variables (N = 30)

S.No	Demographic variables	Frequency (N)	Chi-square X^2 value
1	**Age in years**		
	a) 8-9years	4	$X^2 = 1.673$
	b) 9-10years	10	p =0.433
	c) 10-11 years	10	(NS)
	d) 12and above	6	
2.	**Gender:**		$X^2 = 0.104$
	a) Male	12	p = 0.949
	b) Female	18	(NS)
3	**Religion:**		
	a) Hindu	25	
	b) Muslim	3	$X^2 = 3.485$
	c) Christian	2	p = 0.323
	d) Others	0	(NS)
4.	**Occupational Status**		

*p<0.05 -		a) Primary	4	$X^2 = 2.548$
		b) Secondary	10	p =0.280
		c) Higher secondary	16	(NS)
	5.	**Income:**		
		a) 5000-10,000	2	$X^2 = 1.088$
		b) 10,000-20,000	25	p = 0.580
		c) 20,000-30,000	3	(NS)
		d) 30,000 and above	0	
	6.	**Residential area:**		$X^2 = 2.164$
		a) Urban	18	p = 0.572
		b) rural	12	(NS)
	7.	**Type of family**		$X^2 = 3.614$
		a) Nuclear family	9	p = 0.572
		b) Joint family	21	(NS)
	8.	**Previous information regarding child maltreatment**		$X2 = 1.088$
		a) Yes	5	p = 0.580
		b) No	25	(NS)
	9.	**Source of information**		
		a) Television	2	$X2 = 2.782$
		b) Newspaper	1	p = 2.231
		c) Social media	2	(NS)
		d) None	25	

Significant; p<0.01 - Highly Significant

Table 3: The above table shows that there is no significance association between Age, religion, gender, occupational status, Family's monthly income, residential area, source of information with adverse effects of childhood maltreatment among school age children.

MAJOR FINDING OF THE STUDY

The study reveals that, majority 22 (73.3%) of them had inadequate, 8(26.7%) of them had moderate on adverse effects of childhood maltreatment among school age children. There there is no significance association between Age, religion, gender, educational status, Family's monthly income, residential area, source of information with adverse effects of childhood maltreatment among school age children.

CONCLUSION

The present study to assess the adverse effects of childhood maltreatment among school-age children at Kalitheerthalkuppam, Puducherry. The study findings concluded that majority of the school age children had inadequate adverse effects of childhood maltreatment. there is no significance association between Age, religion, gender, educational status, Family's monthly income, residential area, source of information with adverse effects of childhood maltreatment among school age children.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Same study can be conducted with large samples.
- Same study to can be conducted to assess knowledge on child abuse on school age children.

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