



A STUDY TO ASSESS THE KNOWLEDGE AND AWARENESS REGARDING CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AMONG PARENTS OF SCHOOL-AGE ATTENDING PAEDIATRIC OP AT SMVMCH, PUDUCHERRY

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ABSTRACT:

Introduction: Child sexual abuse is an evil living in our prevalent society yet something not talked about often. It is the root cause of several health problems and an array of other consequences. **Objectives of the study:** The main objective of the study to assess the knowledge and awareness regarding child sexual abuse among parents of school age. **Methodology:** The research approach used for this study was quantitative research approach. A descriptive design was adopted for this present study. By using convenient sampling technique, 30 parents of school age attending paediatric OP were selected for the present study. **Results:** The present study reveals that, majority 16 (53.3%) of them had inadequate knowledge, 12 (40%) of them had moderately adequate knowledge and 2(6.7%) of them had adequate knowledge regarding child sexual abuse. **Conclusion:** The study findings concluded that there is a majority parents of school age had inadequate knowledge child sexual abuse.

Keywords: Knowledge, awareness, child sexual abuse

INTRODUCTION:

Child abuse is a significant issue in India, with nearly 55% of children experiencing some form of abuse. Physical abuse, including hitting, slapping, burning, and beating, is common, with 25% of children experiencing it. Mental harassment is also increasing, with 11% of children claiming to have been victims of emotional or verbal abuse by their caregivers. The Childline India Foundation reported a 50% increase in phone calls during the lockdown, with 30% related to protection from abuse. The World Health Organization warns of an increase in child abuse due to the spread of COVID-19 and home quarantine, with parents being the most common

perpetrators. The Childline India Foundation (CIF) is responsible for setting up, managing, and monitoring the CHILDLINE 1098 service across the country. The POSCOA was enacted to address and prevent sexual harassment, exploitation, sexual assault, abuse pornography, and immoral acts against children. Recognizing all cases of child abuse requires considering every child potentially at risk.

NEED FOR THE STUDY

The World Health Organization estimates that up to 1 billion children aged 2-17 years have experienced physical, sexual, or emotional violence or neglect in the past year. In the USA, 1 in 5 girls and 1 in 20 boys are victims of child sexual abuse. In the US, 28% of youth aged 14-17 have been sexually victimized. In India, the prevalence of all forms of child abuse is extremely high, with 66% of physical abuse, 50% of sexual abuse, and 50% of emotional abuse. In 2021, 4,469 cases were filed under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO) Act in Tamil Nadu, ranking fourth in the country for crimes against children, particularly girls. To prevent sexual abuse against female children, it is crucial for parents to have adequate knowledge of types of abuse, reporting personnel, and ways to protect children from sexual abuse.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

A study to assess the knowledge and awareness regarding child sexual abuse among parents of school-age attending paediatric OP at SMVMCH, Puducherry.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To assess the knowledge and awareness regarding child sexual abuse among parents of school age.
- To associate the level of knowledge and awareness regarding child sexual abuse among parents of school age with selected demographic variables.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

A quantitative research approach and descriptive design was selected for the present study. The present study was on 30 parents of school age attending paediatric OP at SMVMCH, Puducherry who meet the inclusion criteria. Using a convenient sampling technique the samples were selected for the present study. The tool consists of demographic variables and structured questionnaires. The data of the study was evaluated by using descriptive and inferential statistics.

MAJOR FINDING

Regarding the age in years, the majority 16 (53.3%) were in the age group of 21-30 years, 10 (33.3%) were in the age group of 30-40 years. In the aspect of religion majority, 24 (80%) were Hindu, 3 (10%) were Muslim and 3 (10%) were Christian. In the aspect of residence, the data shows majority 22 (73.3%) were in urban area and 8 (26.7%) were in rural area. In the aspect of father occupation status majority, 23 (76.6%) were private

employee, 3 (10%) were daily wager and 2 (6.7%) were government employee. Regarding mother occupation status majority, 25 (83.3%) were housewives, 2 (6.7%) were private employee and 2 (6.7%) were daily wager. Regarding previous information regarding prevention of sexual abuse, the data shows that the majority 18(60%) had no previous information and 12 (40%) had previous information. With regards to source of information majority, 3 (10%) were had information from health professionals, 3 (10%) had information from family members and 6 (20%) from electronic media.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

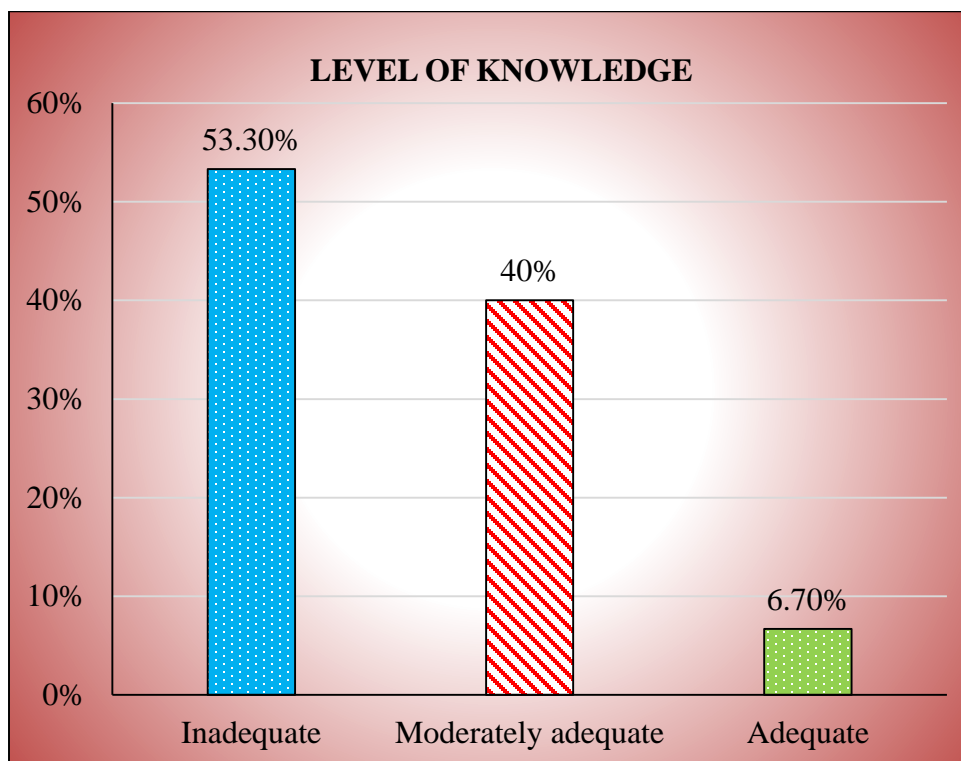
The study was conducted study to assess the knowledge and awareness regarding child sexual abuse among parents of school-age attending paediatric OP at SMVMCH, Puducherry. The table 1 reveals the frequency and percentage-wise distribution of knowledge and awareness regarding child sexual abuse among parents of school age. The finding shows that, majority 16 (53.3%) of them had inadequate knowledge, 12 (40%) of them had moderately adequate knowledge and 2(6.7%) of them had adequate knowledge regarding child sexual abuse.

On association of the knowledge and awareness regarding child sexual abuse among parents of school age with their selected demographic variables shows that there is no significance association between Age, religion, type of family, residence, educational status, occupation of father, occupation of mother, previous information regarding prevention of sexual abuse, source of information with knowledge and awareness regarding child sexual abuse among parents of school age with their selected demographic variables.

Table 1: Distribution of the knowledge and awareness regarding child sexual abuse among parents of school age N=30

S.NO	LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE	FREQUENCY (n)	PERCENTAGE %
1.	Inadequate	16	53.3%
2.	Moderately adequate	12	40%
3.	Adequate	2	6.7%

Figure 1: Percentage wise distribution of the knowledge and awareness regarding child sexual abuse among parents of school age



CONCLUSION:

The study assessed the knowledge and awareness regarding child sexual abuse among parents of school-age attending paediatric OP at SMVMCH, Puducherry. The study findings concluded that there is a majority parents of school age had inadequate knowledge child sexual abuse.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

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

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