

A Study to Assess the Mother's Awareness on Child Abuse in Maraimalai Nagar

T Sujatha *, V P Dhivya, M Padmakala

SRM college of nursing

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Child abuse is the physical, sexual and emotional maltreatment of the child. Child abuse is any activity that is done forcefully against the child. **Aim:** The main aim of the study was to assess the awareness on child abuse among mothers in Maraimalai Nagar. **Method:** Non experimental descriptive research design was adopted to assess the level of awareness on child abuse among mothers. 100 mothers who fulfilled the inclusion criteria were selected by using non probability convenient sampling technique. Structured questionnaire was used to assess the demographic variables and awareness regarding child abuse among mothers. The Study was conducted at Maraimalai Nagar. Reliability of tool was established by split half method. **Results:** The findings depicted that majority 38% mothers had inadequate knowledge among child abuse, 62% mothers had moderately adequate knowledge and none of the mothers had adequate knowledge. **Conclusion:** Most of the situation, the mothers ignore to take preventive measures where their children could be a victim of child abuse. Thus, we affirmed the need for making mothers aware about child abuse and how it can be prevented.

Keywords: Awareness, child abuse, mothers.

INTRODUCTION

Child abuse is the physical, sexual or emotional maltreatment of the child. Child abuse is any activity that is done forcefully against the child's will. The World Health Organization [WHO] distinguishes four types of child abuse i.e., physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional, psychological abuse, and neglect. Child abuse is a serious and common problem in and around the nation. Studies have suggested that up to one in four girls and one in eight boys will be sexually abused before they are eighteen years old¹.

Child abuse has negative outcome in children and adolescents that can extend into adulthood. Abused children often suffer physical injuries and stress that may disrupt early brain development. Children who are abused or neglected are at higher risk for health problems such as depression, alcoholism, drug abuse, smoking, sexual promiscuity, suicide and certain chronic diseases². Child sexual abuse or child molestation is a form of child abuse in which an adult or older adolescent use a child for sexual stimulation. Sexual abuse includes acts or behaviors where an adult, older or more powerful person uses a child for sexual purpose. It includes any, touching for sexual purpose. Fondling of breasts, buttocks, genitals, oral sex, sexual intercourse, an adult exposing themselves to the child, or seeking to have a child touch them for a sexual purpose. Child sexual abuse can occur in a variety of places, including home, school or work places. Most child abuse occurs within the family. Risk factors include one parent child, broken families, family issues, work frustration, a parental history of childhood abuse, and domestic violence. Child neglect and mistreatment is also

more common in families living in poverty and among young parents who are drug or alcohol abusers. Although it is certainly true that child abuse occurs outside the home, most often children are abused by a caregiver or someone they know, not a stranger³.

Joanna Cahallyoung et al., (2014), conducted a study on long term effects of child abuse and neglect on emotion process in adulthood. The findings showed an impact of child abuse and neglect on emotions processing in middle adulthood. It had an effect on the IQ. The study was to determine whether child maltreatment has a long term impact on emotion processing abilities in adulthood and whether IQ, psychopathology mediate the relationship between childhood maltreatment and emotion processing in adulthood⁴.

David fergusson et al., (2013), conducted a study on childhood sexual abuse and adult developmental outcomes. The study aimed at the linkage between child sexual abuse and a wide range of developmental outcomes over a protracted time period to age 30. Data from 900 members of the New Zealand birth cohort the Christ church health and development were examined, child sexual abuse prior to age 16 was assessed at age 18 and 21 years in addition to mental health, psychological wellbeing, sexual risk taking behaviors, physical health and socio economic outcomes to age 20 result showed that child sexual abuse will be traumatic life event in which the negative consequences influences a number of adult development outcomes that span mental disorders, psychological wellbeing, sexual risk taking, physical health and socio economic wellbeing⁵.

Table 1: Frequency & percentage distribution of demographic variables among mothers. N=100

S. No.	Demographic Variables	Class	No. of Mothers	Percentage
1	Mother age	20-29 years	13	13%
		30-39years	54	54%
		40-49years	28	28%
		>50 Years	5	5%
		No formal education	3	3%
2	Mother education	Primary education	14	14%
		Middle education	51	51%
		Higher secondary	16	16%
		High graduate	13	13%
		Post graduate	3	3%
		No formal education	11	11%
		Primary education	11	11%
3	Father education	Middle education	35	35%
		Higher secondary	11	11%
		High graduate	22	22%
		Post graduate	10	10%
		Government	3	3%
4	Mothers occupation	Private	8	8%
		Business	24	24%
		Coolie	8	8%
		House wife	41	41%
		Any others	16	16%
		Government	9	9%
		Private	25	25%
5	Fathers occupation	Business	27	27%
		Coolie	35	35%
		Any others	4	4%
		<= Rs.1520	4	4%
		Rs. 1521-4555	1	1%
		Rs. 4556-7593	18	18%
		Rs. 7594-11361	26	26%
6	Family income	Rs. 11362-15187	17	17%
		Rs. 15188-30374	27	27%
		>= Rs. 30375	7	7%
		Nuclear	81	81%
		Joint	15	15%
		Extended	4	4%
		< 3	71	71%
8	Number of children's in the family	3 – 4	23	23%
		5 – 6	6	6%
		> 6	0	0%
9	Age of the girl children	0- 3 Years	12	12%
		4-6 years	11	11%
		7-10 years	35	35%
		11-14 years	29	29%
		15-18years	13	13%
10	Does the child have a baby sitter?	Yes	2	2%
		No	98	98%
11	Do you have other maids in the house	Yes	2	2%
		No	98	98%

David et al., (2013), conducted a study on, child sexual abuse in India, with the aim to discuss the nature and incidence of sexual abuse of minors in India, socio cultural and familial risk factors were discussed. The conclusion was implication for counselors working with children in India who were sexually abused were highlighted⁶. These

results have intend the researchers to undertake the present study to assess the Mothers awareness on Child abuse.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

A study to assess the Mother's awareness on child abuse in Maraimalai Nagar.

Table 2: Association of mother's level of knowledge and demographic variable. N=100

S. No.	Demographic Variables	Class	Level of Knowledge		Chi-Square test
			Inadequate	Moderate	
1	Mother age	20-29 years	4	9	2.508 df 3 P 0.474
		30-39years	18	36	
		40-49years	14	14	
		>50 Years	2	3	
2	Mother education	No formal education	3	0	16.485 df 5 P 0.006 Significant
		Primary education	9	5	
		Middle education	21	30	
		Higher secondary	2	14	
		High graduate	2	11	
		Post graduate	1	2	
3	Father education	No formal education	6	5	19.823 df 5 P 0.001 Significant
		Primary education	3	8	
		Middle education	22	13	
		Higher secondary	2	9	
		High graduate	4	18	
		Post graduate	1	9	
4	Mothers occupation	Government	2	1	13.247 df 5 P 0.021* Significant
		Private	2	6	
		Business	14	10	
		Coolie	4	4	
		House wife	8	33	
		Any others	8	8	
5	Fathers occupation	Government	0	9	24.600 df 4 P 0.000 Significant
		Private	4	21	
		Business	11	16	
		Coolie	23	12	
		Any others	0	4	
		<= Rs.1520	3	1	
6	Family income	Rs. 1521-4555	1	0	21.237 df 6 P 0.002 Significant
		Rs. 4556-7593	12	6	
		Rs. 7594-11361	13	13	
		Rs. 11362-15187	3	14	
		Rs. 15188-30374	4	23	
		>= Rs. 30375	2	5	
7	Types of family	Nuclear	28	53	6.957 df 2 P 0.031 Significant
		Joint	6	9	
8	Number of children's in the family	Extended	4	0	7.580 df 2 P 0.023 Significant
		< 3	21	50	
		3 – 4	13	10	
9	Age of the girl children	5 – 6	4	2	9.897 df 4 P 0.042 Significant
		0- 3 Years	9	3	
		4-6 years	5	6	
		7-10 years	13	22	
		11-14 years	7	22	
10	Does the child have a baby sitter?	15-18years	4	9	0.125 df 1 P 0.724
		Yes	1	1	
11	Do you have other maids in the house	No	37	61	3.330 df 1 0.068
		Yes	2	0	

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

To assess the level of awareness on child abuse among mother's.

To associate the level of awareness on child abuse among mothers with their selected demographic variables.

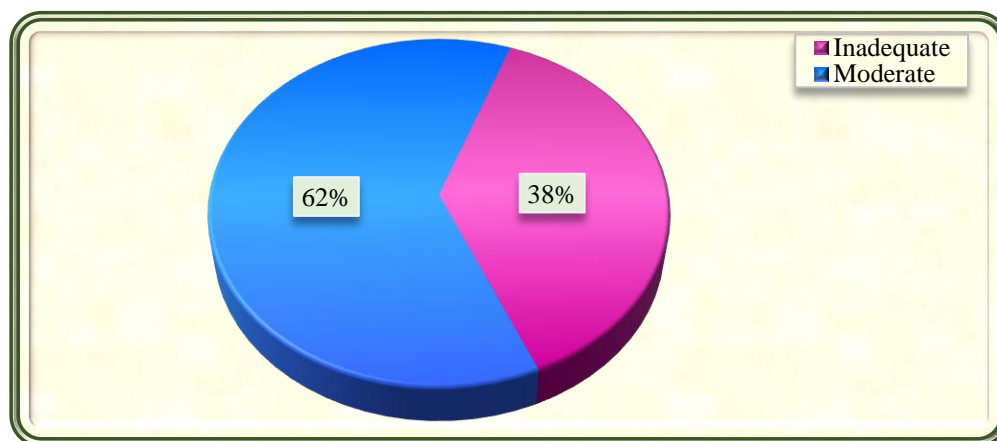


Figure 1: Assessment of level of knowledge among mothers on child abuse.

METHODOLOGY AND MATERIALS

Research approach used in this study was quantitative approach, the study was conducted at Maraimalai Nagar, Kancheepuram district. 100 samples used for this study. Samples were non probability convenience sampling technique. Informed consent was obtained from the samples related to the study purpose, types of data, nature of commitments and participation. The ethical guidelines were followed throughout the study.

Development description and interpretation of the tool

Structured questionnaire was used as a tool for data collection. The structured interview method was used to assess the awareness on child abuse among mothers in Maraimalai Nagar.

Section A

Structured questionnaire were used to assess demographic variables such as mothers age, mothers education, father education, mother occupation, father occupation, family income, types of family.

Section B

An interview schedule to assess the mother's awareness on child abuse

Section C

The level of knowledge question regarding child abuse.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

An interview with structured questionnaire used to assess the awareness on child abuse among mother's in Maraimalai Nagar. The collected data were analyzed by descriptive and inferential statistics.

In accordance with demographic variables, 54% Of the mother belongs to 30-39 age, 61% have completed middle education, 41% were housewives, 81% belongs to nuclear family, 71% were having less than 3 children, 35% of them having girl child of age 7-10years and 98% of them have no maids or baby sitter at their home.

Fig 1. reveals that the level of mothers knowledge on child abuse. It depicts that majority 38% mothers had inadequate knowledge about child abuse, 62% mothers had moderately adequate knowledge and none of the mothers had adequate knowledge.

From table 2 , it shows that there was a significant association of Mothers knowledge to the demographic variables such as Mother's Education, Father's Education,

Father's Occupation and Family Income are significant (since the p values are less than 0.01) at 1% level of significance . Similarly, the p-value corresponding to the demographic variable such as Mother's Occupation, Type of Family, No. of children in the family and Age of girl children" are significant (since the p values are less than 0.05) at 5% level of significance All other variables are not significant at 5% level since the p-values are not less than 0.05. Similar study was conducted by Binshapappachan (2013) on prevention of child abuse, population, mother's poor knowledge. The study findings revealed that most of the mothers (60%) had excellent knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse, about (34%) of them had good knowledge, about (6%) had average knowledge and none of the mothers had poor knowledge⁶.

CONCLUSION

Most of the situation, the mothers ignore to take preventive measures where their children could be a victim of child abuse. Thus, we affirmed the need for making mothers aware about child abuse and how it can be prevented.

RECOMMENDATION

The following recommendation are done based on the study

Similar study can be performed for a large samples for better results

A comparative study to assess the knowledge, and attitude on child abuse among parents and family members can be done.

A similar and comparative study can be done for longer duration.

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