



Research Article

## ASSESSMENT OF KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDE REGARDING PREVENTION OF CHILD ABUSE AMONG MOTHERS HAVING SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN IN SELECTED RURAL COMMUNITIES OF WEST BENGAL

Piyali Mishra<sup>1</sup>, Seuli Pal<sup>2</sup> and Annapurna Dey<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>M.sc Nursing in Child Health Nursing, Sister Tutor

<sup>2</sup>Reader, College of Nursing, Medical College & Hospital, Kolkata

<sup>3</sup>Clinical Instructor, Govt. College of Nursing, Burdwan

### ARTICLE INFO

#### Article History:

Received 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2023

Received in revised form 12<sup>th</sup> January, 2024

Accepted 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2024

Published online 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2024

#### Key words:

knowledge, attitude, childabuse, mothers, school age children

### ABSTRACT

Prevalence of every forms of child abuse, child violence is increasing in children throughout the world. The impact or the consequences of child abuse is more severe as the physical scar may get healed but the emotional scar is for lifetime. A descriptive research study was undertaken for assessment of knowledge and attitude regarding prevention of child abuse among mothers having school age children. **Materials and methods:** Quantitative research approach was adopted for this study. Convenience sampling technique was adopted to select 236 mothers in selected rural communities. Semi-structured questionnaire was used to collect data on socio-demographic variables, structured questionnaire to assess knowledge and 5-point Likert scale to assess attitude regarding prevention of child abuse. **Results:** Findings reveals that 30.08 % of respondents had good knowledge 18.64% had excellent knowledge and 70.76% had moderately favourable attitude and 14.41% had favourable attitude regarding prevention of child abuse. There was positive correlation between knowledge and attitude. Findings also reveals that there was significant association between knowledge with age ( $p < 0.001$ ), monthly family income ( $p < 0.05$ ) and there was significant association between attitude and education of mother at 0.05 level of significance. A nationwide study of such kind using qualitative tools as well as conducting awareness raising activities especially focusing on general abuse and sexual abuse is recommended.

Copyright© The author(s) 2024. This is an open access article distributed under the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

### INTRODUCTION

Child abuse is physical, physiological and emotional maltreatment of children. Child Abuse is a globally relative issue as this issue can be witnessed in family across the world. According to [childhelp.org](http://childhelp.org) "child abuse is when a parent or care giver, whether through action or failing to act, causing injury, death, emotional harm and risk or serious harm to a child." Child abuse is not as bruises and broken bones. Physical abuse can be seen, other types of Abuse, such as emotional abuse and negligence leave deep scars. Girls and boys of all ages, ethnic groups and socioeconomic levels experience high rates of child abuse and neglect .1

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 negligence and mistreatment are also very usual in families living in poverty and among those young parents who are abusing drug or alcohol. 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 stranger. 2

Today, preventing child from being abused is proposed as a healthy priority in various countries owing to its widespread risk factors and extreme effects it exerts on the growth and development of children ,families and society .Different factors are associated with this phenomenon ,including drug abuse , the psychological status and the education level of parents ,family conflicts ,residential areas ,lack of knowledge related with child growth and development , attitudes towards education as well . Parents normally try to be perfect and worried about their child development; however, on occasions they give themselves the right to punish their children in their preferred manner and that cause the most common type of domestic violence, i.e. child abuse .3

It was noted that majority of child abuse caused due to lack of awareness of parents regarding child abuse and its prevention. Though several research studies have been conducted on child abuse very few studies conducted on knowledge and attitude of mothers regarding prevention of child abuse in rural communities of West Bengal. Though child abuse seems higher in urban areas, the disadvantage of rural area is most of the child abuses remain underreported or non -reported because of fear, ignorance and or lack of awareness.

\*Corresponding author: Piyali Mishra

Department of General Medicine, MRMCW, Hyderabad

Management of abuse of children must be extensively effective. Early recognition and reporting are most important for prevention of child abuse.

### Statement of the Problem

Assessment of knowledge and attitude regarding prevention of child abuse among mothers having school age children in selected rural communities of West Bengal.

### Objectives of the study

1. To identify knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse among mothers having school age children.
2. To assess attitude regarding prevention of child abuse among mothers having school age children.
3. To ascertain the correlation between knowledge and attitude regarding prevention of child abuse among mothers having school age children.
4. To determine the association between knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse among mothers having school age children and selected demographic variables.
5. To determine the association between attitude regarding prevention of child abuse among mothers having school age children and selected demographic variables

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

Descriptive survey research design was conducted during February – March in 2023, in rural communities of West Bengal. Study was conducted among mothers having school age children between 6-12 years, who were willing to participate and were able to read ,write and understand English or Bengali and were present at the time of data collection, mothers who had major physical or mental illness were excluded. A total of 236 of mothers were included in the study by using non-probability convenience sampling technique. Samples confidentiality was positively ensured .Structured questionnaire was prepared to assess knowledge and 5 point Likert scale was prepared to assess attitude of mothers and data were analysed by using descriptive and inferential statistics . Sample characteristics were described through frequency and percentage , level of knowledge and level of attitude was described through frequency percentage , Correlation coefficient was calculated to determine the relation between knowledge and attitude and chi square was calculated to identify association between knowledge and selected demographic variables and to determine association between attitude and selected demographic variables .

## RESULTS

**Table 1 n=236**

Demographic characteristics	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Age (in years)		
Below 25	20	8.48
25-35	199	84.32
Above 35 yrs.	17	7.20
Monthly family income (Rs.)		
<5000	30	12.71
5001 – 10000	177	75

>10000	29	12.29
Education		
Primary	87	36.86
Secondary	115	48.73
Above secondary	34	14.41

**Table 2  
n=236**

Level of knowledge score	Grading	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Excellent	>80%	44	18.64
Very good	61-80%	68	28.81
Good	40-60%	71	30.08
Poor	<40%	53	22.47

Maximum score – 34 Minimum score – 0

**Table 3  
n=236**

Level of attitude	Score	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Favourable attitude	>60	34	14.41
Moderately favourable attitude	42-60	167	70.76
Unfavourable attitude	<42	35	14.83

Maximum score – 75 Minimum score – 15

**Table 4  
n=236**

Variables	Mean	Correlation coefficient(r)	't' value
Knowledge	19.93		
		0.307	4.931***
Attitude	50.13		

't'(df234), 3.97, p<0.001

**Table 5  
n=236**

Variables	Knowledge		$\chi^2$ Value
	<Median	≥Median	
<b>Age in years</b>			
≤25	10	10	*30.41
>25	198	18	
<b>Monthly family income</b>			
≤ Rs.10000	100	107	4.400*
> Rs.10000	8	21	

(df1)10.83 p<0.001, (df1)3.841 p<0.05

**Table 6  
n=236**

Variables	Attitude		$\chi^2$ Value
	<Median	≥Median	
<b>Education</b>			
≤secondary	103	99	5.429*
>secondary	10	24	

(df1)3.841 p<0.05

### Sample characteristics

Socio-demographic characteristics ( Table 1) of mothers shows that 84.32% belongs to 25-35 years of age , 75% of

mothers monthly family income was within 5001-10000 and among respondents 48.73% had secondary level of education .

### Major findings

Data presented in (table 2) reveals that among respondents 30.08% had good knowledge and 18.84% of mothers had excellent knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse. (Table 3) shows that 70.76% of mothers had moderately favourable attitude and 14.41 % had favourable attitude regarding prevention of child abuse.

### Correlation between knowledge and attitude regarding prevention of child abuse among mothers having school age children

(Table 4) indicates that there was positive correlation (0.307) between knowledge and attitude regarding prevention of child abuse among mothers having school age children which was significant at 0.001 level of significance .This was significant because computed 't' value (4.931) was greater than table value (3.97) at df234 at 0.001 level of significance .Hence it can be inferred that attitude depends upon knowledge of mothers as if knowledge is increased ,there will be favourable attitude among mothers having school age children regarding prevention of child abuse .

### Association between knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse among mothers having school age children and selected demographic variables

Data presented in table 5 reveals that chi-square calculated between median knowledge score and age of mothers having school age children. Calculated chi-square (30.41) was greater than tabulated chi square (10.83) value at 0.001 level of significance. So, there was statistically significant association between knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse and age of mothers having school age children at 0.001 level of significance.

Table 5 also shows that there is significant association between monthly family income and knowledge of mothers regarding prevention of child abuse. This was statistically significant as calculated chi – square value (4.400) was more than tabulated chi-square value (3.841) at df1 at 0.05 level of significance.

### Association between attitude regarding prevention of child abuse among mothers having school age children and selected demographic variables

Data from table 6 shows that chi-square calculated between attitude regarding prevention of child abuse and education of mothers having school age children .Calculated chi-square (5.429) was more than tabulated chi-square at 0.05 level of significance .Hence, it can be inferred that there was statistically significant association between attitude regarding prevention of child abuse and education of mothers having school age children at 0.05 level of significance .

## DISCUSSION

Present Study reveals that among respondents maximum 30.08% of mothers had good knowledge 18.64% mothers had excellent level of knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse.

Above study was supported by another quite similar descriptive study by Yadav N, Kumari N, Parmeshwari, Pooja, Poonia P. on knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse

among parents at selected rural area of Jodhpur (2020). They found that among respondents 39% of mothers had good knowledge, 33.3% had fair level of knowledge, 26.6% of mothers had poor knowledge and 1.66 % of mothers had excellent level of knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse.<sup>4</sup>

In contrast, another study was conducted by Kaur M to assess the knowledge and attitude regarding prevention of child abuse among mothers having school age children residing at selected rural areas of District Patiala, Punjab with a view to develop an information booklet (2023). Among the respondents majority of 69% mothers had average level of knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse where as in present study 30.08% of respondents had good knowledge .<sup>5</sup> Present study reveals that among mothers having school age children majority of mothers 70.76% of mothers had moderately favourable attitude and 14.41% of mothers had favourable attitude regarding prevention of child abuse.

The study supported by another quite similar study conducted by Kaleeswari S on level of knowledge ,attitude and expressed practice among mothers having school age children in selected village of Sivasaki (2016) . Data reveals that among respondents majority 57% of mothers had moderately favourable attitude and 16% of mothers had favourable attitude regarding prevention of child abuse.<sup>6</sup>

The Study also supported by another study conducted by Mandeep Kaur to assess the knowledge and attitude regarding prevention of child abuse among mothers of school going children residing at selected rural areas of district Patiala ,Punjab with a view to develop an information booklet. Data reveals that majority of mothers 65% had moderately favourable attitude, and 7% of mothers having school age children had favourable attitude regarding prevention of child abuse .<sup>5</sup>

### Limitation

Study was limited to non-probability convenience sampling technique and structured questionnaire was used for data collection therefore the responses were restricted.

## CONCLUSION

30.08 %mothers had good knowledge and 70.76% moderately favourable attitude regarding prevention of child abuse. It can be improved through generating awareness through awareness programmes and providing informational booklet in schools and communities.

## References

1. Butchart, K., & Harvey, A. (2006). Preventing child maltreatment: A guide to taking action and generating evidence. Geneva: World Health Organization.
2. Ssa.gov. (2013). The US Social Security department specifically defines an adult child as being over 18. Retrieved from <https://www.ssa.gov/>
3. India.com. (n.d.). Recent statistics of child abuse. Retrieved from <https://www.google.co.in/amp/s/www.india.com/buzz/childabuse-in-india>
4. Yadav, N., Kumari, N., Parmeshwari, Pooja, Pooja, & Poonia, P. (2021). Knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse among parents at selected

- rural area of western Rajasthan. *International Journal of Community Medicine and Public Health*, 8(1), 212-216.
5. Kaur, M. (2023). A Descriptive Study to Assess the Knowledge and Attitude Regarding Prevention of Child Abuse Among Mothers of School Going Children Residing at Selected Rural Areas of District Patiala, Punjab with a view to develop an Information Booklet. *International Journal of Research and Publication Review*, 4(3), 1455-1460.
  6. Kaleeswari, S. (2016). The level of knowledge, attitude and expressed practice regarding prevention of child abuse among mothers having school age children in selected village at Sivasaki (Master's thesis). Thanthai Roever College of Nursing Perambalu. Retrieved from <https://repository-tnmgrmu.ac.in/3150/>

**How to cite this article:**

Piyali Mishra, Seuli Pal and Annapurna Dey. (2024). Assessment of knowledge and attitude regarding prevention of child abuse among mothers having school age children in selected rural communities of west bengal. *International Journal of Current Advanced Research*.13 (2), pp.2843-2846.

\*\*\*\*\*