



A STUDY TO DETERMINE THE KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDE OF MOTHERS REGARDING PREVENTION OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE IN A SELECTED RURAL AREA OF JABALPUR, MADHYA PRADESH

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ABSTRACT

This study investigates the knowledge and attitude of mothers in a selected rural area of Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, regarding the prevention of child sexual abuse. The objectives of the study include assessing the knowledge and attitude scores of mothers, examining the association of knowledge and attitude scores with socio-demographic variables, and testing hypotheses related to the associations. The methodology employed a quantitative research approach, utilizing a structured questionnaire to collect data from 60 mothers using non-probability convenient sampling. The study's findings indicated varying levels of knowledge and attitudes among the participants. Associations between socio-demographic variables and knowledge and attitude scores were explored and found to be statistically significant. The study underscores the importance of awareness and positive attitudes in combating child sexual abuse for the well-being and future development of the nation's children.

KEYWORDS: Child sexual abuse prevention, Knowledge, Attitude, Mothers, Rural area, Socio-demographic variables

INTRODUCTION

Child sexual abuse is a prevalent yet often unnoticed issue that impacts the well-being of children. This study focuses on understanding the knowledge and attitude of mothers residing in a rural area of Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, regarding the prevention of child sexual abuse. By assessing their knowledge and attitude, the study aims to contribute to efforts aimed at safeguarding children from this menace.

OBJECTIVES

1. To assess the knowledge score of mothers regarding the prevention of child sexual abuse.
2. To assess the attitude score of mothers regarding the prevention of child sexual abuse.
3. To explore the association between knowledge scores and selected socio-demographic variables.
4. To explore the association between attitude scores and selected socio-demographic variables.

HYPOTHESES

- H1: There will be a significant association between knowledge regarding prevention of child sexual abuse and socio-demographic variables.
- H2: There will be a significant association between attitude regarding prevention of child sexual abuse and socio-demographic variables.

METHODOLOGY

This study employed a quantitative research approach to assess mothers' knowledge and attitudes about preventing child sexual abuse. A structured questionnaire was utilized as the data collection tool. The study was conducted in a selected rural area of Jabalpur, and 60 mothers were included as participants through non-probability convenient sampling.

RESULTS

The study's results were presented in several sections. Demographic characteristics of the participants were reported, along with frequency, percentage, mean, and standard deviation of knowledge and attitude scores. Associations between knowledge and attitude scores and socio-demographic variables were explored using chi-square tests and found to be statistically significant.

Section I: Frequency and Percentage Distribution of Mothers According to Socio-Demographic Variables: The socio-demographic characteristics of the participants were analysed and presented as follows:

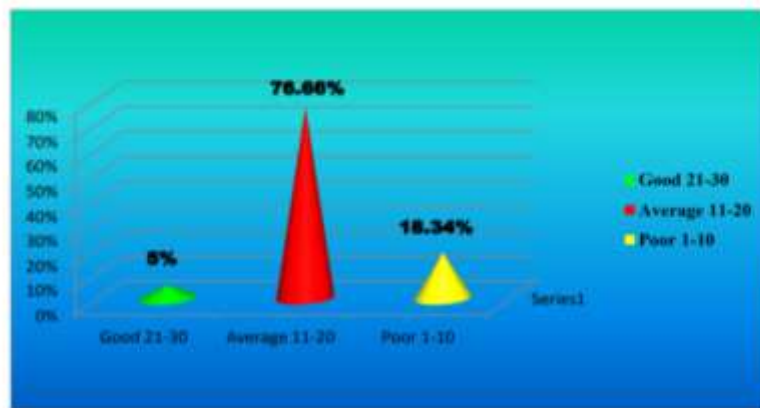
- Age: Among the 60 mothers, 34 (56.67%) were in the age group of < 25 years, 14 (23.33%) were aged 26-30 years, while 6 (10%) were aged 31-35 years, and an equal number were above 35 years.
- Education: Among the participants, 11 (18.34%) were illiterate, 13 (21.66%) had primary education, 35 (58.34%) had higher secondary education, and only 1 (1.66%) was a graduate.

- Occupation: Of the 60 mothers, 39 (65%) were homemakers, 13 (21.66%) were self-employed, and 4 (6.67%) were engaged in private or government service each.
- Family Structure: 22 (36.66%) mothers belonged to nuclear families, while 38 (63.34%) were from joint families.
- History of Substance Abuse: Among the participants, 40 (66.66%) had a history of substance abuse in the family, while 20 (33.34%) did not.

Section II: Knowledge Score of Mothers Regarding Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse: The participants' knowledge about preventing child sexual abuse was evaluated and categorized as follows:

- Good Knowledge: 3 (5%)
- Average Knowledge: 46 (76.66%)
- Poor Knowledge: 11 (18.34%)

FIGURE 8 BAR DIAGRAM SHOWING DISTRIBUTION OF KNOWLEDGE SCORE OF MOTHERS.



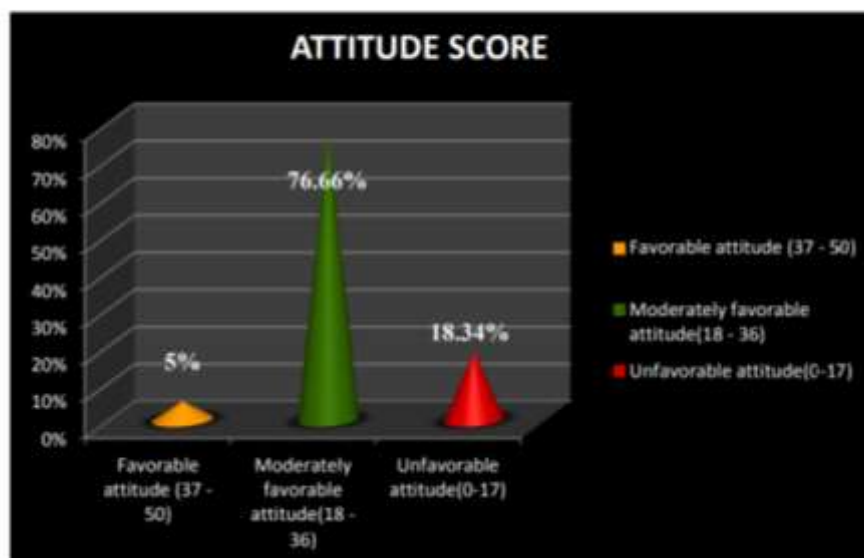
The mean knowledge score of mothers was 14.1, with a standard deviation of 4.6.

Section III: Attitude Score of Mothers Regarding Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse: The attitudes of mothers towards preventing child sexual abuse were assessed and grouped as:

- Favourable Attitude: 3 (5%)
- Moderately Favourable Attitude: 46 (76.66%)
- Unfavourable Attitude: 11 (18.34%)

The mean attitude score of mothers was 14.1, with a standard deviation of 4.6.

FIGURE 8 BAR DIAGRAM SHOWING DISTRIBUTION OF ATTITUDE SCORE OF MOTHERS.





Section IV: Association Between Selected Demographic Variables and Knowledge Score:

The associations between socio-demographic variables and knowledge scores were explored using chi-square tests. The results indicated statistically significant associations:

- Age: The calculated chi-square value was 34.86 ($P < 0.001$), indicating a significant association between age and knowledge score.
- Education: The chi-square value obtained was 40.92 ($P < 0.001$), showing a significant association between education level and knowledge score.
- Occupation: The chi-square value obtained was 54.78 ($P < 0.001$), signifying a significant association between occupation and knowledge score.
- Family Structure: The calculated chi-square value was 15.6 ($P < 0.001$), indicating a significant association between family structure and knowledge score.
- History of Substance Abuse: The chi-square value obtained was 5.4 ($P < 0.05$), suggesting a significant association between history of substance abuse and knowledge score.

Section V: Association Between Selected Socio-Demographic Variables and Attitude Score:

Similar associations were explored between socio-demographic variables and attitude scores, and the chi-square tests yielded significant results:

- Age: The calculated chi-square value was 34.86 ($P < 0.001$), indicating a significant association between age and attitude score.
- Education: The chi-square value obtained was 40.92 ($P < 0.001$), showing a significant association between education level and attitude score.
- Occupation: The chi-square value obtained was 54.78 ($P < 0.001$), signifying a significant association between occupation and attitude score.
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- History of Substance Abuse: The chi-square value obtained was 5.4 ($P < 0.05$), suggesting a significant association between history of substance abuse and attitude score.

CONCLUSION

The study highlighted the critical role of parents, family members, teachers, and community individuals in protecting children from sexual exploitation and abuse. It emphasized the need for awareness, positive attitudes, and strict law enforcement to combat child sexual abuse effectively. The findings underscore the importance of sensitizing parents and promoting a positive attitude towards available resources for preventing child abuse. This study contributes to efforts aimed at creating a safe environment for children's development and progress.

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