

Effect of an Awareness Programme on Knowledge of Child Abuse among Mothers at Selected District, W.B.

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WEST BENGAL, INDIA

The West Bengal University of Health Sciences June, 2020

Abstract

The investigator conducted a pre-experimental research study to evaluate effectiveness of an awareness programme on knowledge of child abuse among mothers at selected district W.B. The conceptual framework of the study was adopted from Ludwing Von Bertalanffy general system model. The one group pre-test post-test design was adopted on 70 mothers of Dangal village, Paschim Bardhaman, Purposive sampling technique was used. Semi-structured interview schedule, and structured interview schedule were used for data collection. The study finding revealed that the mean post-test was 14.9 higher than the mean of pre-test 9.74. So difference between post-test and pre-test knowledge score was found to be statistically significant as evident from paired „t“ test where „t“ (69) = 3.37, $p < 0.001$ * obtain value was 8.45 * which indicate the effectiveness of awareness programme, and there was no significant association of pre-test knowledge score with selected demographic variables. The similar study can be conducted for assessment of knowledge and attitude among mothers regarding child abuse

Date of Submission: 01-09-2021

Date of acceptance: 15-09-2021

I. Introduction

Background of the study

Child abuse in India is often a hidden phenomenon especially when it happens in the home or by family members. While physical abuse might be the most visible, but other types of abuse such as emotional and neglect also leave a deep, lasting scars, ignoring a child's need, putting them in unsurprised dangerous situation or making a child feel worthless are also child abuse. Regardless of the types of child abuse, the result is serious emotional harm.¹

In India, survey was conducted by WCD ministry, carried out across 13 states and with a sample size of 12,447, revealed that 53.22% of children reported having faced one or more forms of sexual abuse, with Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Assam and Delhi reporting the highest percentage of such incidents. The survey, found that 2 out of every 3 children had been physically abused. Over 50% were subjected to one or other form of physical abuse and more boys than girls were abused physically. The first ever survey on child abuse in the country disclosed that nearly 65% of school children reported facing corporal punishment, beatings by teachers mostly in government schools, and children were physically abused in families also, 88.6% of the cases parents were perpetrators. More than 50% had been sexually abused. The study also interviewed 2,324 young adults between the ages of 18 and 24, almost half of whom reported being physically or sexually abused as children. When it comes to emotional abuse, every second child was subjected to emotional assault and in 83% of the cases, parents were the abusers.⁵

Need of the study

Child abuse in India is focused with regards to abuse has generally been in the more public domain such as child labour, prostitution, marriage etc. Intra-family abuse or abuse that takes place in institutions such as schools or government homes has received minimal attention. Numbers of cases of child abuse in the home are hard to attain because most of these crimes goes to unreported. Societal abuse that are a result of poverty such as malnutrition, lack of education, poor health, neglect are recognized in various forms by the Indian legal system. But India does not have a law that protects children against abuse in the home. Mal-treatment of care givers has the potential to emotionally and mentally harm children to a very different degree. Studies in intra familial child abuse in the US have shown correlation to delinquency, crime, teenage pregnancy and other psychosocial problems.⁷

So the researcher would like to conduct an awareness programme on child abuse among mothers which can spread awareness and can protect to their child from abuse, because when abuse occurs it becomes a difficult decision for a child to make as to whether to say something, especially where a parent and thus the usual confident of a child is the abuser. They fear that they will not be believe or taken seriously, or that their experiences were their fault and they did something to deserve the abuse that they received.

II. Research methodology

Research approach :Pre-experimental research approach

Research design : One group pre-test post-test design

Variables Independent variables: Awareness programme on child abuse

Dependent variables: Knowledge of mothers on child abuse.

Demographic variables: Age, religion, education, occupation, number of children.

Settings of the study : At Dangal villaga, Kankasa block, Paschim Bardhaman, W.B

Population : All mothers those were residing in West Bengal and having children

Sample : Mothers those having children 6 yrs to 11 yrs of age at Dangal village, Paschim Bardhaman.

Inclusion criteria : Mothers those having child 6 yrs to 11 yrs of age in selected area and willing to participate .

Exclusion criteria

- a) Mothers who are not willing to participate in the study
- b) Mothers who are not understand the language of Bengali.
- c) Mothers those having child physically & mentally challenged.
- d) Mothers who are physically & mentally challenged.

Sample size: In this study, total sample was 70

Data collection tools and techniques

Table – 1 : Data collection tool and techniques

Tool No	Data collection Tool	Variable	Technique
1	Semi structured Interview schedule .	Socio demographic Variable and general information	Interviewing
2	Structured interview schedule.	Knowledge regarding child abuse.	Interviewing

III. Analysis and interpretation of data

Table 2: Percentage of agreement among experts on validation of criteria checklist of awareness programme regarding child abuse

Criteria	% agreement	%disagreement	Remarks
Content	86%	14%	Modified
<input type="checkbox"/> Content reflects the Objectives <input type="checkbox"/> Content is relevant <input type="checkbox"/> Content is adequate			
Organization of content	100%	Nil	No change
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Organized in logical sequence ● Continuity ● Integration 			
Language	86%	14%	Modified
<input type="checkbox"/> Simple and understanding <input type="checkbox"/> Comprehensive at the level <input type="checkbox"/> Of learners ability. <input type="checkbox"/> Suggestion			
Feasibility	100%	Nil	No change
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Acceptability to the Community mother. ● Suitable for community Setting. 			
Overall organization	86%	14%	Modified

- Attractive added and
- Relevant made it
- Interesting attractive.

Table 3: Frequency and percentage of sample characteristics

n = 70

Sample characteristics	Frequency	Percentage
Age (In years)		
26 – 32	45	64.29
33 – 39	21	30.00
40 – 46	4	5.71
Religion		
Hindu	51	72.86
Muslim	19	27.14
Education		
Primary	3	4.28
Secondary	47	67.14
Higher secondary	16	22.86
Graduate	4	5.72

Data presented in the table 3 shows that most of the (64.29%) mothers were between 26-32 yrs of age group, 30% of them were between 33-39 yrs of age and only 5.71% were between 40- 46 yrs of age group.

Majority (72.86%) of mothers were Hindu and 27.14% of mothers were Muslim.

Most of (67.14%) mothers were having secondary education, 22.86% of mothers were having higher secondary education, 5.72% of mothers were having graduate and only 4.28% of mothers were having primary education.

Table 4: Frequency and percentage of sample characteristics.

n =

Sample characteristics	Frequency	Percentage
Occupation		
Housewife	54	77.14
Daily labour	10	14.29
Business	5	7.14
Service (Private)	1	1.43
No. of children		
1	36	51.43
2	31	44.28
>2	3	4.29
Age of last child(In years)		
6-8	43	61.43
9-11	27	38.57

Data presented in the table 4 shows that most of the (77.14%) mothers were housewife, 14.29 % of them were daily labour, 7.14% were engaged in business, and only 1.43% were service holder in private company.

Majority (51.43%) of mothers were having no of children 1, 44.28% of them were having no of children 2 and only 4.29% of mothers those having no of children 3.

Most of (61.43%) mothers were having age of last child between 6-8 years and 38.57% of them those having age of last child between 9-11 years.

Table 5: Frequency and percentage distribution of pre-test and post-test knowledge score regarding child abuse.

Knowledge score	Range of Score (Total =20)	Pre-test		Post-test	
		Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Excellent (>75)	16-20	0	0	34	48.57
Good (51-75)	11-15	30	42.86	31	44.29
Average(26-50)	6-10	35	50.00	5	7.14
Poor (0-25)	0-5	5	7.14	0	0

Data presented in table 5 shows that the pre-test and post-test knowledge score of the mothers.

In pre-test 42.86% mothers had good knowledge, 50% mothers had average knowledge and only 7.14% mothers had poor knowledge.

In post-test 48.57% mothers had excellent knowledge, 44.29% mothers had good knowledge, and 7.14% mothers had average knowledge regarding child abuse.

Table 6: The area wise distribution of pre-test and post-test knowledge score

n = 70

Content area of		Pre-test gain	Post-test gain	Actual Modified Knowledge programme	Awareness Score	Maximum Mean Mean% Mean Mean% (%)
I	Definition and Cause and types	3	1.53	50.93	2.31	77
II	Of child abuse	8	3.8	47.5	5.8	72.5
III	Signs and Symptoms of Child abuse	4	2.2	3.06	76.42	21.42
IV	Prevention of Child abuse	5	2.2	44	3.65	73

Data presented in the table 6 reveals that there was gain in the knowledge score in each area on child abuse. Actual gain and modified gain between knowledge score of pre and post test in different area of child abuse.

- Area I related to definition and epidemiology of child abuse, actual gain in knowledge score is 26.07% and modified gain is 0.78
- Area II related to cause and type of child abuse, actual gain in knowledge score is 25% and modified gain is 2
- Area III related to sign and symptoms of child abuse actual gain in knowledge score is 21.42% and modified gain is 0.86
- Area IV related to prevention of child abuse, actual gain in knowledge score is 29% and modified gain is 1.45

Table 7: Mean, Median, Standard deviation, mean difference and paired „t“ test value of pre-test and post-test knowledge score of mothers.

Knowledge Score	Mean	Median	SD	Mean difference	„t“ value
Pre-test	9.74	10	2.89		
Post-test	14.9	15	2.73	5.16	8.45*

„t“ (df₆₉) = 1.98 p < 0.05 „t“ (df₆₉) = 3.37 p < 0.001

Data presented in table 7 shows that the mean post-test knowledge score (14.9) was apparently higher than the mean pre-test knowledge score (9.74). The data further indicate the median of the post-test knowledge score (15) was higher than the median of pre-test knowledge score (10). The standard deviation of pre-test knowledge score (2.89) seemed to be more dispersed than the post-test knowledge score (2.73)

The obtain difference between the mean post-test and pre-test knowledge score was found to be statistically

significant as evident from „t“ value. The table value of „f“ was 3.37 at df 69 at 0.001, obtained value was 8.45 *. Therefore the mean difference between pre-test and post-test knowledge score was a true difference, not by a chance. So it is statistically proved that calculated „t“ value was 8.45 * is higher than table value at

level of significance. Hence the research hypothesis is H₁ is accepted and null hypothesis H₀ is rejected. It implied that awareness programme on child abuse was effective in enhancing the knowledge of mothers.

Table 8: This table showing association between pre-test knowledge score (<median and >median) and selected demographic variables (median = 10).

Variables	Knowledge score		Obtained chi- square value
	At and below Median	Above Median	
n = 70			
Age (In years)			
<30	23	11	
>30	17	19	2.978
Religion			
Hindu	30	21	
Muslim	10	9	0.216
Education			
Upto secondary	32	19	
Above secondary	8	11	0.725

$\chi^2 = 3.84$ df (1) $p < 0.05$

Data presented in the table 8 shows that there was no significant association ($P < 0.05$) between pre-test knowledge score of mothers regard to age, religion, education.

IV. Discussion

- About 64.29% of mothers belong to the age group of 26-32 years.
- About 72.86% of mothers were Hindu.
- About 67.14% of mothers were having secondary level of education.
- Majority of mothers 77.14% were housewife.
- About 51.43% of mothers were having no of children 1.
- About 61.43% of mothers were having age of their last child between 6-8 years

The findings shows that in pre-test 42.86% mothers had good knowledge, 50% mothers had average knowledge, only 7.14% of mothers had poor score in pre-test regarding child abuse.

But in post-test, about 48.57% mothers had excellent knowledge, 44.29% of mothers had good knowledge and 7.14% of mothers had average knowledge.

Area wise distribution of pre-test and post-test knowledge score reveal that there was gain in knowledge in each area on child abuse. The pre-test and post-test mean score shows that maximum gain in score was in the area of prevention of child abuse (29%).

The findings shows that the mean post-test knowledge score (14.9) is apparently higher than the mean pre-test knowledge score (9.74) with a mean difference of 5.16.

The table value of „t“ was 3.37 at df 69 at 0.001, obtained value was 8.45*. So it is statistically proved that calculated „t“ value was 8.45* is higher than table value at 0.001 level of significance. Hence the research hypothesis H₁ is accepted and null hypothesis H₀ is rejected. It implied that awareness programme on child abuse was effective in enhancing the knowledge of mothers.

Finding shows that there was no significant association between pre-test knowledge score with selected demographic variables.

V. Conclusion

On the basis of the finding of the study following conclusion is drawn-

There is deficiency in knowledge among mothers on child abuse prior to administration of awareness

programme. Even it was found that awareness programme is effective in enhancing the knowledge of mothers regarding child abuse. So it can be concluded that by increasing the knowledge of child abuse among mothers would help to recognise and prevent their child from abuse and neglect, and thereby reducing the adverse effect of child abuse for life time and even mortality and morbidity caused by abused.

Acknowledgement

My sincere and heartfelt gratitude to “almighty God” for abundant blessing in my courage, strength and wisdom from beginning to the end of the dissertation without which nothing could have been possible.

Several dignitaries have extended their valuable time, advice, and assistance to me during the preparation of thesis. I extend with gratitude my sincere thanks to all of them.

The investigator expresses her grateful thanks to Mrs. Maitreyee Chowdhury, reader cum acting principal, Govt. College of Nursing Purba Bardhaman for her inspiration and support throughout the study.

The investigator expresses her gratitude and sincere thanks to Mrs. Manika Mazumder, senior lecturer, Govt. College of Nursing Purba Bardhaman who has guided the researcher since the conception of the study to the last in spite for her busy schedule.

The investigator expresses her deepest gratitude and respect to other respected guide Mrs. Madhushri Roy, senior lecturer, Govt. College of Nursing Purba Bardhaman, for her excellent guidance, support and constant encouragement.

The investigator is grateful to The Director of Health Services and The Joint Director of Health Services (Nursing), Govt. of West Bengal, Swasthya Bhavan, Gn-29, Saltlake, Kolkata for giving permission for conducting of research study.

The investigator is grateful to all the validators for giving their valuable time for validation and refining of data collection tool and content.

The investigator is thankful to The Chief Medical Officer of Health, Paschim Bardhaman, and Block Medical Officer of Health, Panagarh BPHC, Kankasa, Paschim Bardhaman for giving their valuable permission for conducting the research study smoothly.

The investigator is grateful to Dr. Sandip Mukhopadhyaya Associate Professor, Department of Pharmacology, member secretary of Institutional Ethics Committee of Burdwan Medical College and Hospital Purba Bardhaman for ethical approval of research study.

The investigator is grateful to offer special thanks to all the community mothers for participating and sparing their valuable time and giving information for the entire research endeavour as a memorable experience.

The investigator also thankful to the institution Govt. College of Nursing, and all the faculty members and staffs for their constant help and support. The investigator expresses thankful attitude for the help and huge co-operation entire post graduate class mates of Govt. College of Nursing Purba Bardhaman for helping in each and every step. It would be very unfair not to mention the support of own family members specially husband, little child, mother and all member of the family who support in all around to complete the research work.

And finally cordial thanks to each and every person who was important for the completion and success of this research work and could not mention them all personally one by one as someone could be missed.

(Sulata Patra)

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Sulata Patra. "Effect of an Awareness Programme on Knowledge of Child Abuse among Mothers at Selected District, W.B." *IOSR Journal of Nursing and Health Science (IOSR-JNHS)*, 10(5), 2021, pp. 38-44.