

# Effectiveness of awareness program on child abuse prevention among mothers of school children in rural community of West Bengal.

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## Abstract:

**Background:** A pre experimental study was conducted to assess the effect of awareness program on knowledge regarding child abuse and its prevention among mothers of school children in a selected rural community, Howrah, West Bengal, with the objectives to evaluate the effectiveness of awareness program on child abuse and prevention among the mothers of school children in terms of change in knowledge and to identify the association between pretest knowledge score with selected demographic variables.

**Materials and Methods:** The conceptual framework of the study was based on General System Model of Ludwig Von Bertalanffy. One group pre-test post-test design was used to conduct the study on 48 mothers of school children using non probability purposive sampling technique at rural school. A structured questionnaire for collection of demographic data and a structured knowledge questionnaire were used for data collection.

**Result:** The study findings revealed that the mean post test knowledge score (23.02) was significantly higher than the mean pre test knowledge score (12.64) and the result of 't' test is 16.74 which is significantly higher than the table value of 2.02 at df 47 at 0.05 level of significance.

**Conclusion:** The findings of the study showed that the awareness program was effective in improving knowledge of mothers. It was found that, there was significant association between pre test knowledge scores and mother's educational status.

**Keywords:** Child abuse, Knowledge of mother, rural community.

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## I. Introduction

Children are the gift, which has much potential with one, will be the best resources for the nation. One fourth of India's population is comprised of children between five to fourteen years of age i.e. school going children. Social and economic development of the nation is possible only through care and development of this group.

The issue of child abuse has been recognized as a major social problem prevalent within and outside the homes and among all socio-economic groups of both the developed and the developing nations of whole world<sup>(1)</sup>.

All form of physical and/or emotional ill treatment, sexual abuse, neglect or negligent treatment or commercial or other exploitation are different forms of child abuse or child maltreatment, which resulting in survival, potential harm to child's health, development or dignity in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power.

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 maltreatment is also more common in families living in poverty and among young parents who are drug or alcohol abusers. Most of the cases child abuse occurs outside the home, generally children are abused by a caregiver or known person, not a stranger. Prevention of child abuse is an inevitable part of the society. The impact of child maltreatment can be profound. Child abuse and maltreatment affect various systems of the child which may later leads to many other disorders.

### **Background of the study:**

Child abuse and neglect is an important global problem with a serious impact on the victims' physical and mental health, well-being and development throughout their lives. Out of the many parental causes of child abuse, the important reason among them is lack of knowledge.

According to UNICEF,<sup>(2)</sup> violence against children can be "physical and mental abuse and injury, neglect or negligent treatment, exploitation and sexual abuse. Violence can occur at homes, schools, orphanages, residential care facilities, on the streets, in the workplace, in prisons and in places of detention." Such, violence can impact the normal growth and development of a child impairing their mental, physical and social being. In some extreme cases abuse of a child can cause of death.

The Telegraph (2018)<sup>(3)</sup> reported that every day, 55 children are raped in India. More than one lakh cases of sexual crimes against children are pending before the courts, according to National Crime Records Bureau data from 2016, due to which a victim in Delhi or Bihar will have to wait till 2029 for justice. In Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, victims in 2016 can hope for justice in 2026; in Maharashtra, a victim has to wait till 2032. In Gujarat and Arunachal Pradesh, with the current pace of slow justice delivery, children victimized in 2016 should not think of justice before 2071.

### **Objective of the study**

1. To evaluate the effectiveness of awareness program on child abuse and prevention among the mothers of school children in terms of change in knowledge.
2. To identify the association between pre test knowledge score with selected demographic variable.

### **Hypothesis:**

**H<sub>1</sub>:** The mean post test knowledge score of the mother regarding child abuse and prevention is significantly higher than the mean pre test knowledge score after introduction of awareness program at 0.05 level of significance.

**H<sub>2</sub>:** There is a significant association between pre test knowledge level of the mother on child abuse and its prevention with selected demographic variables at 0.05 level of significance.

## **II. Methodology**

**Research Approach:** Pre experimental approach.

**Research Design:** One group pre test – post test design.

**Population:** Mother of school children.

**Settings:** Abhaynagar G.S.F.P. School, Abhaynagar, Nischinda, Howrah district, West Bengal.

**Sampling Technique:** Non –probability purposive sampling technique.

**Sample size:** 48 mothers.

### **Instruments**

**I)** A Performa was used to collect demographic data such as age, religion, education, occupation, marital status, type of family, socioeconomic status, no of children, child's age, child's sex

**II)** Knowledge was assessed with ---items structured Knowledge Questionnaire on child abuse prevention under the following 7 dimensions concept ,physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, child neglect, child right, prevention of child abuse.

### **Data collection technique:**

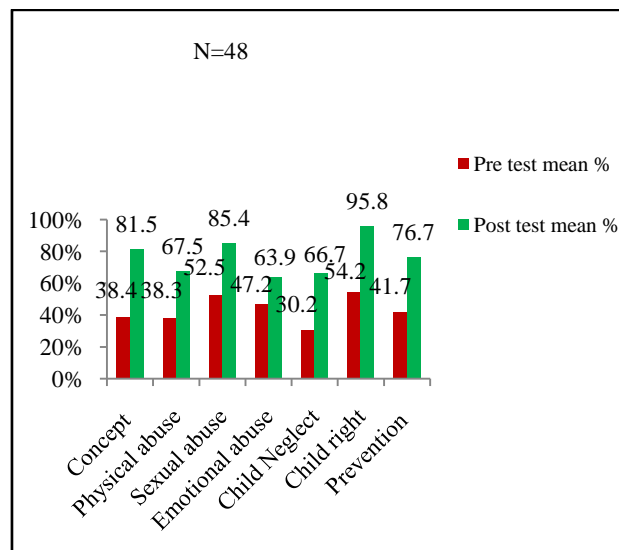
Data was collected from 16.11.2018 to 22.11.2018 and Non probability purposive sampling technique was used.

## **III. Results**

**Table-1: Sample Characteristics**

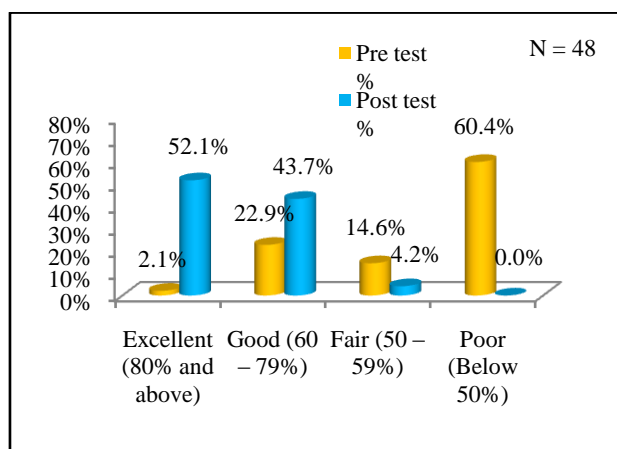
<b>Demographic Variables</b>	<b>Frequency(No)</b>	<b>Percentage(%)</b>
<b>Age</b>		
18-25 years	19	39.6
26-35 years	25	52.1
>36 years	4	8.3

<b>Religion</b>		
Hindu	45	93.7
Muslim	3	6.3
<b>Education</b>		
Primary	20	41.7
Madhyamik	19	39.6
H.S. & Above	9	18.7
<b>Occupation</b>		
House wife	40	83.4
Self-Employed	4	8.3
Government Service	4	8.3
<b>Marital Status</b>		
Married	46	95.8
Divorce	2	4.2
<b>Type of Family</b>		
Nuclear Family	37	77.1
Joint Family	11	22.9
<b>Socio-economic status</b>		
A. P. L.		
B. P. L.	27	56.3
	21	43.7
<b>No of Children</b>		
One		
Two	26	54.2
Threeand above	18	37.5
	4	8.3
<b>Child's Age</b>		
5 – 7 years		
8 – 10 years	25	52.1
11 – 12 years	16	33.3
	7	14.6
<b>Child's Sex</b>		
Male		
Female	25	52.1
	23	47.9



**Figure 1:** Bar diagram showing area wise percentage distribution of pre test and post test knowledge score of mothers.

Data presented in figure 1 shows that maximum knowledge score 95.8% is found in the area of child right in post test, which is 54.2% in pre test. In the area of concept of child abuse post test knowledge score is 81.5%, which is 38.4% in pre test. In the area of physical abuse post test knowledge score is 67.5%, which is 38.3% in pre test. In the area of sexual abuse post test knowledge score is 85.4%, which is 52.5% in pre test. In the area of emotional abuse post test knowledge score is 63.9%, which is 47.2% in pre test. In the area of child neglect post test knowledge score is 66.7%, which is 30.2% in pre test. In the area of child abuse prevention post test knowledge score is 76.7%, which is 41.7% in pre test.



**Figure 2:** Bar (Cylinder) diagram showing percentage distribution of level of mother's knowledge regarding child abuse and its prevention.

Figure 2 shows that in pre test among 48 mothers, 60.4% mothers have poor knowledge, 14.6% mothers have fair knowledge, 22.9% mothers have good knowledge and only 2.1% mothers have excellent knowledge regarding child abuse and its prevention. In post test 52.1% mothers have excellent knowledge, 43.7% mothers have good knowledge, only 4.2% mothers have fair knowledge and none of the mothers have poor knowledge regarding child abuse and its prevention.

**Table 2:** Mean,  $M_D$ , SD,  $SD_D$ ,  $SE_{MD}$  and 't' value of pre test and post test knowledge score of mothers on child abuse and its prevention. N=48

Knowledge Score	Mean	$M_D$	SD	$SD_D$	$SE_{MD}$	't' value
Pre test	12.64	10.38	5.82	4.29	0.62	16.74*
Post test	23.02		2.99			

\* 't' (47) = 2.02;  $p < 0.05$

Data presented in table 2 shows that the mean post test knowledge score is 23.02 and the mean pre test knowledge score is 12.64. The mean difference is 10.38. SD of pre test knowledge score is 5.82, whereas the SD of post test knowledge score is 2.99, which shows that pre test knowledge score is more dispersed than the post test knowledge score.  $SE_{MD}$  is 0.62. A paired 't' is calculated to find out the difference between post test and pre test knowledge score, the obtained value of 't' is 16.74 which is greater than table value ( $t_{47} = 2.02$ ) at 0.05 level of significance.

**Table 3:** Area wise mean percentage, actual and modified gain score of pre test and post test knowledge scores of mother. N=48

Sl. No	Knowledge area	Max. possible Score	Pre test mean %	Post test mean %	Actual gain %	Modified gain score
1	Concept	9	38.4	81.5	43.1	0.70
2	Physical abuse	5	38.3	67.5	29.2	0.47
3	Sexual abuse	5	52.5	85.4	32.9	0.69
4	Emotional abuse	3	47.2	63.9	16.7	0.32
5	Child neglect	2	30.2	66.7	36.5	0.52
6	Child right	1	54.2	95.8	41.6	0.91

7	Prevention	5	41.7	76.7	35	0.60
<b>Total</b>		30	43.2	76.8	33.6	0.59

Data presented in table 3 shows that, maximum modified gain is found in the area of child right 0.91 and second highest modified gain 0.70 in the area of concept of child abuse, which is almost near to modified gain of 0.69 in the area of sexual abuse. Lowest modified gain 0.32 is found in the area of emotional abuse.

The mean knowledge score of the subjects were compared in the seven knowledge areas of child abuse and its prevention in relation to actual and modified gain score. The difference between the mean pre test and post test percentage score indicates actual gain. It was also seen that, the mean post test score 76.8% was higher than the mean pre test score 43.2%.

**Table 4:** Chi san quare value showing association between mother’s education and pre test knowledge score of mother.

N=48

Variables	Knowledge score		Chi <sup>2</sup> Value	Inference
	At and Above Median	Below Median		
Primary	5	15	8.57	Significant
Madhyamik and above	19	9		

df (1)  $\chi^2 = 3.84, P > 0.05$

Table 4 shows that, among 48 mothers, 20 mothers have primary level of education and 28 mothers have Madhyamik and above level of education. Among 20 mothers of primary level of education, 5 mothers scored at and above median and 15 mothers scored below median. On the other hand among the mothers of Madhyamik and above level of education 19 mothers scored at and above median and 9 mothers scored below median. Chi square value is computed. The Chi square value 8.57 is more than the table value 3.84 at df 1 shows that, there is significant association between the mother’s educational status and pre test knowledge score of mother on child abuse and its prevention.

#### IV. Discussion

Findings in the present study reveals that, the overall mean pre test knowledge score regarding child abuse among 48 mothers is 12.64 with the standard deviation of 5.82 and mean post test knowledge score is 23.02 with the standard deviation of 2.99. The ‘t’ test value is 16.74 which are statistically significant.

The result of the present study is supported by the study of Nandhini G<sup>(4)</sup> which showed that the overall mean of knowledge score regarding child abuse among 50 mothers was 12.78 with the standard deviation of 3.55 in pre test and in post test overall mean knowledge score was 22.72 with the standard deviation of 2.76. The ‘t’ test value was 27.49 which was statistically significant.

The findings of study is supported by the findings of the study conducted by Malla C et al<sup>(5)</sup> which shows that mean pre test knowledge score was 11.03 with standard deviation 2.213 and the mean post test knowledge score was 25.25 with standard deviation 2.025. The ‘t’ test value was 48.668 which was statistically significant.

#### V. Conclusion

The study is conducted to assess the effectiveness of awareness programme on knowledge regarding child abuse and its prevention among mothers of school children. The result of the study confirms that the post test knowledge score is higher than the pre test knowledge score and the awareness programme is found to be an effective method for improving the knowledge of mothers of school children on child abuse and its prevention. Thereby, mothers can apply the knowledge effectively which in turn to promote children’s wellbeing.

#### Limitations:

The limitations of the present study are:

- ❖ Small sample size.
- ❖ No randomization for selection of sample.
- ❖ The study did not use a control group hence exposing the findings to possible bias.
- ❖ No attempt was made to conduct a follow up measure in respect to retention of gain in the knowledge level of the study sample.

#### Recommendations:

On the basis of the findings of the present study, the following recommendations are made:

- A similar study can be carried out on a large sample.
- A comparative study can be done in rural and urban mothers of school children.
- A comparative study can be conducted with private and government school children mothers.
- A similar study could be conducted among the nursing students.
- A similar study could be conducted among the health workers.

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