



Knowledge and attitude on Care of Child during Common Childhood Illnesses among the mothers at Anagaputhur

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Abstract

Introduction: In today's age of evidence-based medicine and continuing use of folk remedies for the treatment of medical conditions warrants evaluation. While going through the literatures, there are limited numbers of studies related to knowledge, attitude, and practices during common childhood illness among mothers. The objectives of the study were to assess the knowledge and attitude of the mothers towards care of the child during common childhood illnesses and to find the relationship between knowledge of mothers during common childhood illnesses. It was also found there was significant positive correlation ($p < 0.001$) between knowledge and attitude. The study concluded that majority of mothers have good knowledge and favourable attitude towards care of the child during common childhood illnesses.

Keywords: Knowledge, Attitude, Common Childhood Illnesses

Introduction

An initial step is necessary to highlight the knowledge and attitude among mothers during common childhood illnesses. This initiation gives in-depth information for the necessity to provide awareness programme if their knowledge and attitude are found unsatisfied.

Objectives:

The objectives of the study were to assess the knowledge and attitude of the mothers towards care of the child during common childhood illnesses and to find the relationship between knowledge of tribes during common childhood illnesses.

Materials and method

A descriptive survey was conducted among 200 mothers residing in Anagaputhur, Chennai, TamilNadu. Cluster random sampling technique was used to select the research settings and final sample were selected through purposive sampling technique. Face to face interview with the help of structured questionnaire was used to collect data. The areas included were, attitude towards care of the child during common cold, fever, diarrhoea, tooth ache, ear ache and febrile convulsion.

Mean and standard deviation of area wise knowledge level on care of the child during common childhood illnesses

Areas of knowledge	Maximum possible score	mean	Standard deviation
Common childhood illness	2	1.7100	0.45490
Common cold	8	6.8250	0.94809
Diarrhoea	12	8.8050	1.22658
Fever	5	3.9200	0.81666
Tooth ache	5	3.9000	0.92969
Ear ache	2	1.4400	0.49763
Febrile convulsion	6	2.4950	1.06094

Results

The analysis of the baseline characteristics revealed that majority of the care takers 139 (69.5%) belonged to the age group of 36-52 years, majority 168 (84%) were female care takers, majority 116 (58.0%) had educational qualification of primary school, majority of them 148 (74%) were living in nuclear families.

Majority 158 (79%) of the sample had favourable attitude, 42 (21%) of them had moderately favourable attitude and none of them had unfavourable attitude on care of the child during common childhood illnesses. The mean attitude score regarding the common childhood illness is 52.75 ± 3.82 . The relationship between knowledge and attitude on common childhood illness was computed using Pearson's correlation coefficient. It revealed that there was a significant positive correlation ($r = .334$, $p < 0.001$) between knowledge and attitude, which indicates that as knowledge level increases attitude level also increases.

Discussion

The findings of the present study showed that, majority 155 (77.5%) of mothers had good knowledge with a mean score of 29.235 ± 4.066 and 158 (79%) had favourable attitude with a mean score of 52.755 ± 3.825 on care of the child during common childhood illnesses.

Conclusion

Mothers in Anagaputhur had knowledge and attitude level on caring the child during common childhood illnesses that are comparatively good. It has given a base to look into their different practices during various common childhood illnesses.

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