



A STUDY TO DETERMINE THE KNOWLEDGE AMONG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHILDREN REGARDING PREVENTION OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE IN A SELECTED SCHOOL IN PUNGANUR AT TRICHY

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ABSTRACT

Child abuse is a major health problem impairing the health and welfare of children and adolescents worldwide. Child abuse may include any act or failure to act by a parent or a care giver that result in actual or potential harm to a child, and can occur in a child's home, or in the organization, schools or communities in which the child interacts. **Aim:** To find out the level of knowledge regarding various measures to prevent the child sexual abuse among the elementary school children between the age group 9-11 years. **Methodology:** The study was conducted among 50 elementary school going children between 9-11 years. Who were asked to complete the structured questionnaire consisting of questions regarding their knowledge on child abuse pre and post test was conducted.

Result: The study reveals that the majority of the sample 34 (68%) had moderate knowledge, 13 (26%) had inadequate knowledge, only 3 (6%) had adequate knowledge in pre test. Post test results reveals that more than half 27 (54%) of respondent gained moderate knowledge, 23 (46%) of respondent gained adequate knowledge and none of the respondent had inadequate knowledge in post test. **Conclusion:** Elementary school children have lack of knowledge about the prevention of child abuse. Thus there is a need of gaining more information about child abuse.

Keyword: child abuse, elementary school, prevention of child sexual abuse

INTRODUCTION: Child abuse or maltreatment is any kind of physical, sexual and psychological maltreatment or neglect of a child or children, especially by parent or a caregiver. Child abuse can occur in a child home or in the organization, school or communities in which the child interacts.

According to WHO an estimate of 40 million children worldwide are victims of child abuse every year. The WHO (2007) estimated that 150 millions girls and 73 million boys under 18 have forced of sexual violence. Statistics shows there are many occurred incidence on sexual abuse among children and it mainly due to ignorance regarding good touch and bad touch and also out of fear the children's are not revealing the truth and hence the aim of the study to assess knowledge on prevention of child sexual abuse among school children.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:

A study to determine the knowledge among elementary school children regarding prevention of child sexual abuse in a selected school in Punganur at Trichy

OBJECTIVE:

- To assess the pre knowledge regarding prevention of child sexual abuse
- To assess the post knowledge regarding prevention of child sexual abuse
- To evaluate the effectiveness of teaching module among elementary school children regarding child sexual abuse
- To find out the association between the knowledge on prevention of child sexual abuse and selected demographic variables

HYPOTHESIS:

H0: There is no significance difference between the pre test, and post test the level of knowledge regarding prevention of child sexual abuse among the elementary school children.

METHODOLOGY:

The study was conducted at S.A.S. Matriculation School, Punganur at Trichy. The setting was chosen on the basis of the feasibility of the study in terms of adequacy of the sample and the cooperation by the school authorities and students. Random sampling technique was used for the study such that each member of a population has an equal probability of being selected as sample. Simple random sampling was adopted. A list of students with standard 4th and 5th was prepared and each were assigned numbers between 1-60 lots were casted & 50 lots were selected the study samples. From the 4th standard taken 27 students and from 5th standard 23 students who fulfilled the inclusive criteria of the study was selected.

On the first day of data collection the pre test was administered structured questionnaire for the 50 samples, following which a video clips presentation on prevention of child sexual abuse was conducted. After two weeks post test was conducted to the same samples. The ethical principle was followed throughout the study.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION:

The first and second objective of the study was to assess the level of pre and post test knowledge regarding prevention of child sexual abuse

Table I

OVER ALL DISTRIBUTION OF SAMPLE BASED ON THE LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE ON PREVENTION OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE IN PRE-TEST AND POST-TEST

Level of knowledge	Pre-test		Post-test	
	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Inadequate	13	26%	0	0
Moderate	34	68%	27	54%
Adequate	3	6%	23	46%

OVER ALL DISTRIBUTION OF SAMPLE BASED ON THE LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE ON PREVENTION OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE IN PRE-TEST AND POST-TEST

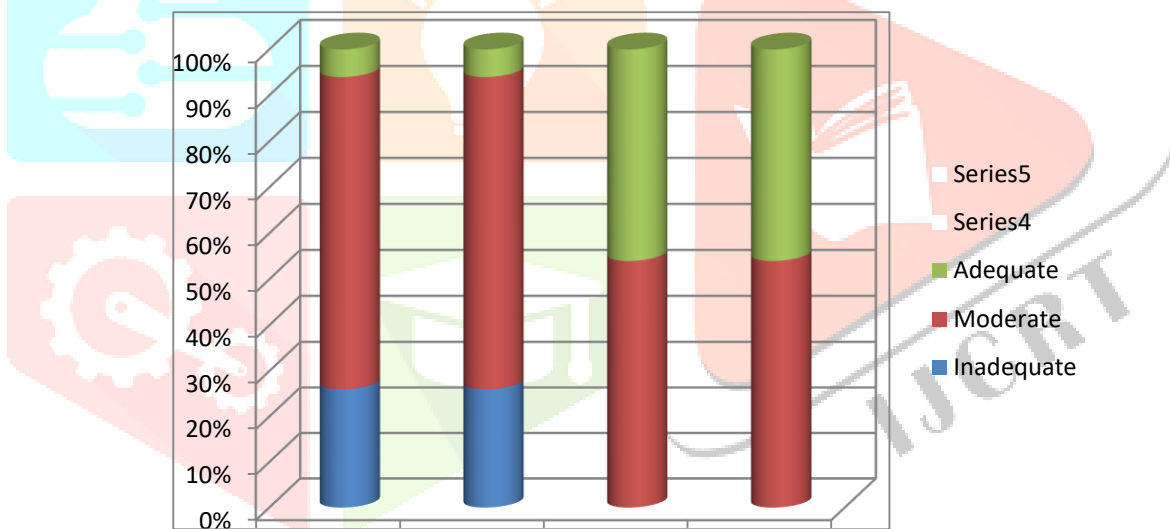


Figure 1

The above figure revealed that the majority of the respondent 34(68%) had moderate knowledge, 13(26%) had inadequate knowledge, only 3(6%) had adequate knowledge in pre test. In post test reveals that after teaching about prevention of child sexual abuse that more than half 27(54%) gained moderate knowledge, 23(46%) gained adequate knowledge and none of the respondent had inadequate knowledge in post test. Third objective of the study was to evaluate the effectiveness of teaching module among elementary school children regarding child sexual abuse.

Table: II

MEAN AND STANDARD DEVIATION OF THE LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE IN PRE TEST AND POST TEST AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE

N=50

Sl. No.	Level of knowledge	Mean	Standard deviation	df	't' value	'p' value
1	Pre test	7	2.005	49	9.01956	2.00*
2	Post test	10	2.29	49		

*Significant $P < 0.05$

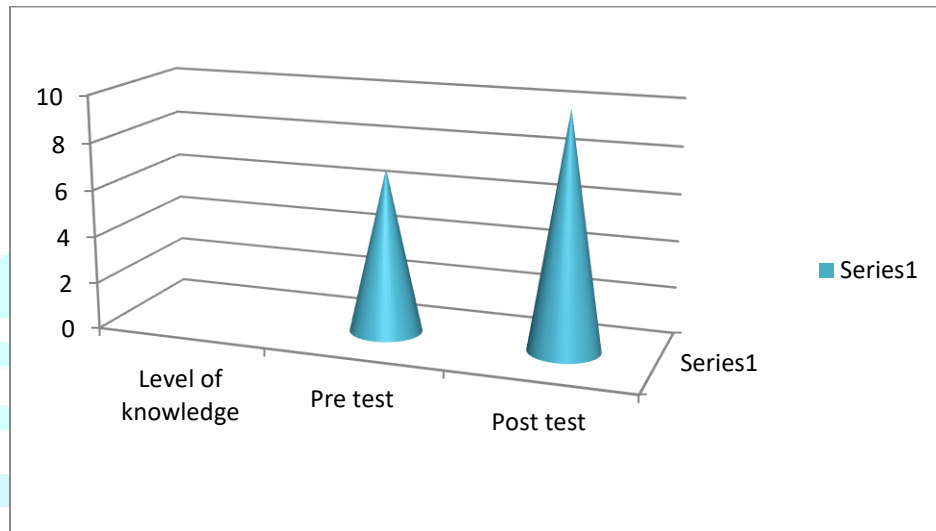


Figure 2

The above figure represented that there is a significance difference between the pre test and post test level of knowledge regarding prevention of child sexual abuse among the elementary school children. Which was statistically significance $p < 0.05$ with the pre test mean value 7 and post test mean value 10.

The fourth objective of the study, find out the association between knowledge on prevention of child sexual abuse and selected demographic variables.

Table III
ASSOCIATION BETWEEN THE LEVELS OF KNOWLEDGE WITH THE DEMOGRAPHIC
VARIBALES IN PRE TEST

N=50

Sl. No.	Demographic variables	Knowledge			<i>df</i>	χ^2	'p' value
		Inadequate	Moderate	Adequate			
1	Age						
	9-10	10	26	1	2	2.7441	5.99 (NS)
	10-11	3	8	2			
2	Sex						
	Male	6	17	2	2	0.4102	5.99 (NS)
	Female	7	17	1			
3	Religion						
	Christian	1	31	2	6	31.2671	12.59 (S)*
	Hindu	10	3	1			
	Muslim	2	0	0			
4	About family						
	Nuclear	9	18	2	2	10.5005	5.99 (S)*
	Joint	4	16	1			
5	Parental education						
	Primary education	1	5	0	6	12.6148	12.59 (S)*
	Higher secondary	6	13	0			
	Graduate	3	8	1			
	Illiterate	4	7	2			
6	Parental occupation						
	Daily wages	6	12	2	4	10.9893	9.49 (S)*
	Private employee	5	11	4			
	Government employee	2	8	0			
7	Do you affected by any child sexual abuse?						
	Yes	1	3	1	2	14.8519	5.99 (S)*
	No	12	31	2			

*Significant

p<0.05

The above table revealed that there is significance association between the demographic variables such as religion, about the family, parental occupation, parental education, previously affected with child sexual abuse in pre test.

Table IV

ASSOCIATION BETWEEN THE LEVELS OF KNOWLEDGE WITH THE DEMOGRAPHIC
VARIABLES IN POST TEST

N=50

Sl. No.	Demographic variables	Knowledge			<i>df</i>	χ^2	' <i>p</i> ' value
		Inadequate	Moderate	Adequate			
1	Age						
	9-10	0	20	16	2	0.6511	5.99 (NS)
	10-11	0	6	8			
2	Sex						
	Male	0	14	11	2	0.3204	5.99 (NS)
	Female	0	12	13			
3	Religion						
	Christian	0	25	18	6	15.5057	12.59 (S)*
	Hindu	0	1	4			
	Muslim	0	1	1			
4	About family						
	Nuclear	0	12	16	2	2.1311	5.99 (S)*
	Joint	0	14	8			
5	Parental education						
	Primary education	0	7	4	6	6.4279	12.59 (S)*
	Higher secondary	0	2	4			
	Graduate	0	13	5			
	Illiterate	0	5	10			
6	Parental occupation						
	Daily wages	0	11	10	4	0.204	9.49 (S)*
	Private employee	0	11	8			
	Government employee	0	6	4			
7	Do you affected by any child sexual abuse?						
	Yes	0	3	2	2	14.3731	5.99 (S)*
	No	0	21	24			

*Significant

 $p < 0.05$

The above table shows that in post test the association between the level of knowledge regarding prevention of child sexual abuse among school children with the selected demographic variables. The chi square test was used to find out the association and the findings shows that there is no significance association between the demographic variables except (religion, previously affected with child sexual abuse) age, sex, about family, parental occupation, and education.

CONCLUSION:

This study concluded that majority of the elementary school children had inadequate knowledge in pre test after giving teaching module majority of them had adequate knowledge on prevention of child sexual abuse. There is also a need in gaining more information and knowledge about child sexual abuse. This can be achieved by including topics on child sexual abuse in their school curriculum and conducted of school based child abuse awareness program.

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