

A Comparative Study to Assess the Knowledge on Child Abuse among Mothers Residing in Urban and Rural Community

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ABSTRACT

Child abuse is a serious physical and psycho-social problem which adversely affect the health and overall development of a child. It is very pathetic that many parents sometimes unknowingly abuse their child. Parents do not differentiate between the methods of disciplining the child and the form of abuse and neglect. The objective of the present study is to assess and compare the knowledge on child abuse among mothers residing in selected urban and rural community. Quantitative approach and descriptive research design was adopted for this comparative study. The study was conducted among hundred mothers who are having children below 12 years and who fulfill the inclusion criteria. The tool consisted of two parts. Section A included Demographic Variables such as Age, Religion, Education, Occupation, Monthly Income, and Type of family. Section B included Structured questionnaire to assess the knowledge on child abuse among mothers residing in selected urban and rural community. The results of the study revealed that Mean value of knowledge on child abuse among rural mothers was 12.44 and urban mothers was 11.98. When both the groups were compared it showed that t value -0.53 was statistically significant at $P < 0.001$. There was no significant association between the knowledge on child abuse among mothers residing in urban and rural community with their demographic variables. The study concluded that knowledge on child abuse was better among mothers residing in rural community than the urban mothers

Keywords: *Child abuse, Knowledge, Demographic variables, Urban mothers, Rural mothers*

Introduction

Child abuse is a common and serious problem in our nation. India is home to almost 19% of the world's children; nearly 40% of its population and 69% of Indian children are victims of child abuse. Child abuse is one of the most common types of violence against children. This type of violence can have implications for both the physical and mental health of the children, and can influence the health status long after the abuse has occurred [1]. According to World Health Organization, Child abuse or maltreatment constitutes all forms of physical and/or emotional ill-treatment, sexual abuse, neglect or negligent treatment or commercial or other exploitation, resulting in actual or potential harm to the

child's health, survival, development or dignity in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power. Children who survive abuse grow up more likely to negatively impact our society in many ways, which may be in form of violence, crime, drug abuse and disease. Causes of child abuse in India are high crime rate, lack of or few social services, high poverty rate, high employment rate, personal history of abuse as a child, teenage parents, young single parent, severe stress, domestic violence, history of depression, low self-esteem, multiple young children, unwanted pregnancy, handicap, unwanted child in family, separation from mother in neonatal period, physically unattractive. Children who experience child abuse and neglect are 59% more likely to be arrested as juveniles, 28% more likely to be arrested as adults and 30% more likely to commit violent crime. A long term study also found out that up to 80% of abused people had at least one psychiatric disorder at age 21, with problems including depression, anxiety, eating disorders, and suicide attempts. Children who survive abuse to adulthood in turn are more likely to abuse their own children [2]

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In Indian society, parents play a significant role in upbringing of the child. If mothers have a good awareness regarding child abuse they can detect the signs and prevent the occurrence of child abuse. Since they are unaware of what is abuse and neglect, it is very difficult for them to protect their children being abused by others. It is the prime responsibilities of the mothers to ensure the optimum climate for the child to grow and develop. The mother should have knowledge regarding the child abuse and neglect because while the bruises fade with time, the scars of child abuse never fades, children are never the same again after an abuser has entered their lives; they lose not only the innocence of child abuse but the chance of a normal future.

Methodology

Quantitative approach and descriptive design was adopted for this present study. The study was conducted during 2017 in places of Maraimalai nagar (urban area) and Potheri (rural area) of Kancheepuram district of Tamilnadu among mothers having children below 12 years and who fulfill the inclusion criteria. Hundred samples were selected by Non-probability Purposive

sampling technique. The tool used for the study consisted of two parts. Section A included Demographic Variables such as Age, Religion, Education, Occupation, Monthly Income and Type of family. Section B included structured questionnaire containing thirty questions to assess the knowledge on child abuse among Mothers residing in selected urban and rural community. Formal approval was obtained from the institution review board and institutional ethical committee of SRM Institute of science and technology, Kattankulathur, Kancheepuram, Tamilnadu, India. Content validity was obtained from the various experts from the field of nursing, biostatistician and research experts. Data collection was done after obtaining consent from the samples. The confidentiality on the data and finding were ensured to the subjects. Approximately each participant took 15-20 minutes for answering the questionnaire. Descriptive and inferential statistics were used for data analysis.

Results

Table 1 shows the results on Frequency and percentage distribution of knowledge on child abuse among rural and urban mothers.

Table 1: Frequency and percentage distribution of knowledge on child abuse among rural and urban mothers
N = 100

Knowledge	Urban		Rural	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Inadequate	19	38	20	40
Moderate	31	62	25	50
Adequate	0	0	5	10
Total	50	100	50	100

The above Table 1 reveals that among 100 subjects 19(38%) in urban and 20(40%) in rural were having inadequate knowledge, 31(62%) in urban and 25(50%) were having moderate knowledge. 0(0%)in urban and 5(10%) in rural were having adequate knowledge on child abuse.

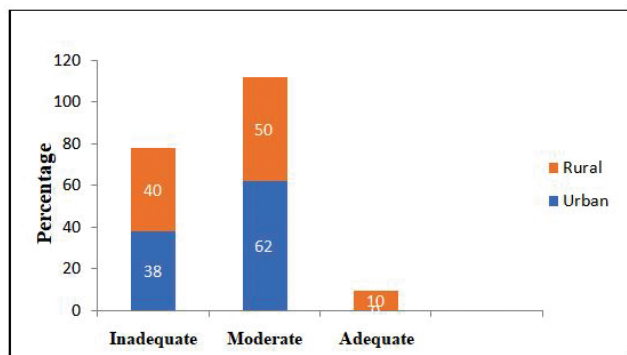


Fig. 1: (a) Percentage distribution of knowledge on child abuse between rural and urban mothers

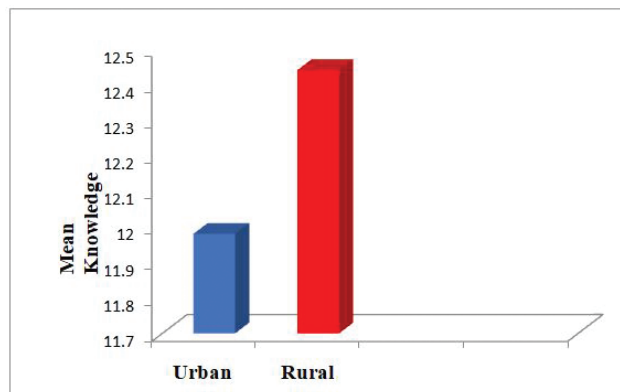


Fig. 1: (b) Comparison of mean values on knowledge between rural and urban mothers

Table 2: Comparative t-test of knowledge on Child abuse between Rural and Urban mothers

N = 100

	Groups	n	Mean	Standard Deviation	Standard error Mean	T Value
Knowledge	Urban	50	11.98	3.094	0.438	-0.53
	Rural	50	12.44	5.361	0.738	

Significant at $P < 0.001$

The above table 2 reveals that Mean value of knowledge on child abuse among urban mothers was 11.98 and was 12.44 among rural mothers. This shows that rural mothers have better knowledge than urban mothers. When both the groups were compared it showed that t value -0.53 was statistically significant at $P < 0.001$.

Discussion

The results of present comparative study reveals that among 100 samples, 19(38%) subjects had inadequate knowledge on child abuse in urban and 20(40%) subjects had inadequate knowledge on child abuse in rural. 31(62%) subjects had moderately adequate knowledge on child abuse in urban and 25(50%) subjects had moderately adequate knowledge on child abuse in rural. 0 (0%) subjects had adequate knowledge on child abuse in urban and 5(10%) subjects had adequate knowledge on child abuse in rural. Mean value of knowledge among rural mothers 12.44 was greater than urban mothers 11.98. Results shows that rural mothers have better knowledge than urban mothers. When both the groups were compared it shows that t value -0.53 was statistically significant at $P < 0.001$. Hence there was significant difference in the knowledge on child abuse among mothers between urban and rural community.

Many studies also supports that there is difference in knowledge level on child abuse among mothers residing in different areas. **Thangavelu SN.,2016**^[3] study to assess the level of knowledge regarding child abuse among mothers in selected areas at Latur, found that 15% of mothers had inadequate knowledge and 85% were having moderate knowledge regarding child abuse. **Akoijam Mamata Devi.,2016**^[4] study on knowledge regarding child abuse among parents showed that 39% have obtained knowledge about child abuse recently from health personnel, 8% parents had good knowledge and 92% parents knowledge level was average on child abuse. The present study findings was consistent with **BinshaPappachan C et al.,2017**^[5] study on knowledge

of mothers regarding child abuse. The findings of the study developed the fact that most of the mother, about 60% had excellent knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse, about 34% have good knowledge, 6% had average knowledge and none of the mother had poor knowledge. Results showed that awareness scores regarding all aspect of child abuse was good in mothers residing in rural areas

Conclusion

The findings of the study revealed that the knowledge about child abuse among mothers residing in rural community was better than the urban mothers. There was also statistical significant difference in knowledge on child abuse among mothers residing in rural and urban community ($P < 0.001$). In Indian society, parents play a significant role in upbringing of the child.. If mothers have a good awareness regarding child abuse they can detect the signs and prevent the occurrence of child abuse. Creating awareness and educating mothers regarding child abuse will help to reduce the incidence of child abuse.

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