



PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS' KNOWLEDGE ON CHILD ABUSE AND ITS PREVENTION

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ABSTRACT Abuses are defined as “damage, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, negligent or maltreatment of a children”. This abuse may be of numerous kinds consistent with the World Health Organisation (WHO) – bodily, mental, emotional, psychological or inside the form of forget or exploitation. This study was done to assess the primary school teacher's knowledge on child abuse and its prevention. The non-probability purposive sampling technique was used for this study. A structured socio demographic data, and knowledge questionnaire on child abuse and its prevention was used in this study. Out of 50 schoolteachers maximum 20(40%) primary school teachers were having moderate knowledge, 19(38%) samples were having Inadequate Knowledge, 11(22%) samples were having Adequate Knowledge level regarding child abuse and its prevention. There is a significant association between the sociodemographic variables such as gender and the knowledge level of primary school teachers regarding child abuse. The current study has found that only less than one fourth (22%) schoolteachers irrespective of age, area of residency, family income, years of experience, and mode of information, are having adequate knowledge regarding child abuse and its prevention. Hence, it is concluded that, there is need to organize workshops and orientation programmes to the schoolteachers regarding child abuse to enhance their knowledge.

KEYWORDS : Child abuse; primary school teachers; knowledge

Introduction

Abuses are defined as “damage, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, negligent or maltreatment of a children”. This abuse may be of numerous kinds consistent with the World Health Organisation (WHO) – bodily, mental, emotional, psychological or inside the form of forget or exploitation. It brings approximately situations causing harm to a children health, welfare, and protection. Child abuse, in its diverse bureaucracy can be observed everywhere in India – in towns and rural houses, inside the houses of the wealthy and the poor, and inside the streets and schools. Wiping out child abuse in India requires a complex method a good way to require multi-stakeholder support.¹

India's Protection of Children Against Sexual Offences Act of 2012 (POCSO) and Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act have been recently bolstered in their intention of preventing children rights violation. There has additionally been a corresponding boom in the range of child abuse instances filed, due to focus about legal recourse, translating to an increase in a number of convictions. In 2016, the National Crime Records Bureau additionally spoke about the relationship of victims and accused in rape instances.²

In case of both physical and emotional trauma, the on the spot impact is right now felt. However, it could also bring about lasting lifelong physical and mental trauma. Other youngsters, families, and society additionally experience this trauma within the manner the stricken toddler communicates with them. Research has indicated direct neural impact from abuse – as visible within the emotional lobe, memory centre, decision-making centre and different mind functioning areas. As adults, sufferers of adolescence abuse are greater at risk of mental fitness trauma.³

Parents ought to teach kids approximately sexual advances or threats and guard them from abuse via the idea of unacceptable “terrible contact”. This communicate ought to be regular, pleasant, and frank, and train youngsters how their sexuality works in order that they don't unknowingly harass others. NGOs like Save the Children have committed offerings fighting toddler sex abuse and presenting rehab to sufferers of abuse. It conducts pan-India programmes attractive dad and mom, teachers, communities and even youngsters approximately sexual abuse. Adolescents are worried in difficult projects on Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH).⁴

The Ministry of Women and Child Development's 'e-box.' is an online reporting system infant permitting youngsters to document incidents of irrelevant touching and molestation, anonymously if they pick out. These reports are obtained by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights.⁵

Need for study

An overall of 1,28,531 cases of crime against kids were registered all

through 2020, displaying a lower of 13.2% over 2019 (1,48,090 cases). In percent terms, foremost crime heads underneath 'Crime Against Children' in the course of 2020 were Kidnapping & Abduction (42.6%) and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (38.8%) which includes child rape. The crime rate registered according to lakh children populace is 28.9 in 2020 in comparison with 33.2 in 2019.⁶

India is stated to have stated over 24 lakh times of online child sexual abuse during three-years period among 2017-20 with 80 according to cent of the sufferers being girls beneath the age of 14 years. A study on Child Abuse: India 2007, conducted by means of Ministry of Women and Child development (GOI) discovered that across distinctive kinds of abuse, it is young kids within the five–12-year group are most susceptible to abuse and exploitation. This involves bodily, sexual as well as emotional abuse.⁷

India stated over 24 lakh instances of online baby sexual abuse all through 3-year period among 2017-20 with 80 in step with cent of the sufferers being women below the age of 14 years, according to Interpol statistics. The figures had brought about the CBI to start a big operation towards the alleged peddlers of online baby sexual abuse material (CSAM) in India with numerous websites underneath the scanner for his or her liability in website hosting such fabric, officials stated.⁸

The purpose of a study was to determine teachers' knowledge on child abuse. Two hundred teachers, who work in the southeast region of the US in a large, ethnically diverse school system, were administered the ECAQ which contains questions on knowledge concerning: (1) signs and symptoms of child abuse, (2) laws, and (3) procedures for reporting child abuse as well as number of reports filed. In general, teachers reported a lack of awareness of the signs of child abuse and reporting procedures, which may affect their ability to report cases of suspected abuse.⁹

A study was conducted to investigate schoolteacher's knowledge regarding child abuse. The questionnaire consisting of 10 questions was sent to teachers in government schools and private schools. Questionnaire was framed to assess teachers' knowledge about child abuse, Results implies that 36.3% were government schoolteachers, 21.8% were private sector CBSE and 41.9% were private matriculation teachers. 82% of the teachers agreed that it should be mandated to report about child abuse. 64.7% of the teachers made report of child abuse cases and 35.3% of the teachers failed to report child abuse cases. 57.7% of the teachers have planned to report of child abuse cases when they suspect it, 18.2% of the teachers have not planned to report child abuse cases and 24.1% of the teachers have not decided yet to report child abuse cases when they suspect it. This study concluded that majority of the teachers have knowledge about child abuse, but they are not reporting child abuse cases.¹⁰

From the above information the researcher decided to do this study to

assess the primary school teachers' knowledge on child abuse and its prevention.

Objectives

- 1) To assess the teachers' knowledge on child abuse and its prevention.
- 2) To find the association between sociodemographic variables and the teacher's knowledge on child abuse and its prevention.

Hypothesis

H₁: There will be a significant association between sociodemographic variables and the teacher's knowledge on child abuse and its prevention.

Assumption

Primary school teachers may have knowledge on child abuse and its prevention.

Methodology

The conceptual framework of this study is done based on Rosenstoch's (1974) and Becker's (1975); Health Belief Model. The first component in the health belief model involves an Individual perception of susceptibility to disease condition. In this study, Individual perception consists of the individual's knowledge on child abuse and its prevention. This study was done to assess the primary school teacher's knowledge on child abuse and its prevention. In order to accomplish the objectives of the study, a descriptive study design was adopted.

In this study, the sample consists of 50 primary school teachers who fulfilled the inclusion criteria for the study. The non-probability purposive sampling technique was used for this study. A structured socio demographic data, and knowledge questionnaire on child abuse after checking its validity and reliability was used in this study. The knowledge questionnaire has 20 items under the 4 subheadings such as knowledge on anatomy of reproductive system, child sexual abuse, prevention of child abuse, and treatment for victims. Each question is multiple choice questions having one write answer with one mark. Wrong answer containing 0 marks. The scores 0-10 is shows inadequate knowledge, 11 to 15 is moderate and scores 16 to 20 indicates adequate knowledge on child abuse and its prevention.

Ethical consideration was done by taking prior permission from the authority of school and from the participants before conducting the pilot study. No ethical issues raised during the study and in the main study the data collected from 01-04-2022 to 28-04-2022 from the primary school teachers at selected schools at Trivandrum. The collected data was tabulated according to various parameters and the complete analysis was done with descriptive and inferential statistics.

Results

The analysis is organized under the following headings:

- 1) Frequency and percentage distributions based on the sociodemographic variables.
- 2) Assessment of primary school teachers' knowledge on child abuse.
- 3) Association between sociodemographic variables and the teacher's knowledge on child abuse and its prevention.

Table 1: Frequency and percentage distributions based on the sociodemographic variables. n=50

| Variables | Frequency | Percentage |
|---------------------------|-----------|------------|
| 1 Age in years | | |
| a) 20 to 25 | 17 | 34 |
| b) 26 to 30 | 15 | 30 |
| c) 30 to 35 | 10 | 20 |
| d) 35 to 40 | 8 | 16 |
| 2 Gender | | |
| a) Male | 25 | 50 |
| b) Female | 25 | 50 |
| 3 Area of residency | | |
| a) Rural | 16 | 32 |
| b) Urban | 10 | 20 |
| c) Semiurban | 24 | 48 |
| 4 Family income per month | | |
| a) <10000 | 27 | 54 |
| b) 10000 to 20000 | 10 | 20 |
| c) 20001 to 30000 | 8 | 16 |
| d) >30000 | 5 | 10 |

| | | |
|------------------------|----|----|
| 5 Experience in year | | |
| a) <1 | 19 | 38 |
| b) 1 to 5 | 14 | 28 |
| c) 6 to 10 | 10 | 20 |
| d) >10 | 7 | 14 |
| 6 Mode of information | | |
| a) Media | 11 | 22 |
| b) Inservice education | 9 | 18 |
| c) Colleagues | 14 | 28 |
| d) Friends | 16 | 32 |

Maximum (34%) samples were aged between 20 to 25 years, according to gender 50% of the samples are males as well as females, most (48%) of the samples belonged to semiurban, maximum (54%) samples had less than 1000 rupees family income per month, maximum (38%) of the samples were having less than 1 year of experience in teaching and 32% of the samples mode of information was friends.

Table 2: Assessment of primary school teachers' knowledge on child abuse.

| Knowledge level | Frequency | Percentage |
|-----------------|-----------|------------|
| Inadequate | 19 | 38.0 |
| Moderate | 20 | 40.0 |
| Adequate | 11 | 22.0 |

Maximum 20(40%) primary school teachers were having moderate knowledge, 19(38%) samples were having Inadequate Knowledge, 11(22%) samples were having Adequate Knowledge level regarding child abuse.

Table 3: Association between sociodemographic variables and the teacher's knowledge on child abuse and its prevention. n=50

| Socio-demographic Variables | <median | >=median | Total | df | Chi-Squar | Table Value | Inference |
|-----------------------------|---------|----------|-------|----|-----------|-------------|-----------|
| 1 Age in years | | | | | | | |
| a)20 to 25 | 7 | 10 | 17 | 3 | 2.546 | 7.185 | P>0.05 |
| b)26 to 30 | 9 | 6 | 15 | | | | |
| c)30 to 35 | 7 | 3 | 10 | | | | |
| d)35 to 40 | 5 | 3 | 8 | | | | |
| 2 Gender | | | | | | | |
| a)Male | 18 | 7 | 17 | 1 | 5.195 | 3.841 | P>0.05 |
| b)Female | 10 | 15 | 15 | | | | |
| | | | 10 | | | | |
| | | | 8 | | | | |
| 3 Area of residency | | | | | | | |
| a) Rural | 10 | 6 | 16 | 2 | 4.613 | 5.991 | P>0.05 |
| b) Urban | 8 | 2 | 10 | | | | |
| c)Semiurban | 10 | 14 | 24 | | | | |
| 4 Family income | | | | | | | |
| a) <10000 | 18 | 9 | 27 | 3 | 3.429 | 7.185 | P>0.05 |
| b)10000 to 20000 | 4 | 6 | 10 | | | | |
| c)20001 to 30000 | 3 | 5 | 8 | | | | |
| d)>30000 | 3 | 2 | 5 | | | | |
| 5 Experience in year | | | | | | | |
| a) <1 | 9 | 10 | 19 | 3 | 1.787 | 7.185 | P>0.05 |
| b) 1 to 5 | 9 | 5 | 14 | | | | |
| c) 6 to 10 | 5 | 5 | 10 | | | | |
| d) >10 | 5 | 2 | 7 | | | | |
| 6 Mode of information | | | | | | | |
| a) Media | 6 | 5 | 11 | 3 | 1.757 | 7.185 | P>0.05 |
| b) Inservice education | 4 | 5 | 9 | | | | |
| c)Colleagues | 7 | 7 | 14 | | | | |
| d)Friends | 11 | 5 | 16 | | | | |

There is a significant association between the gender and the knowledge level of primary school teachers regarding child abuse. Male teachers had comparatively more knowledge than females.

Discussion:

Maximum 20(40%) primary school teachers were having moderate knowledge, 19(38%) samples were having Inadequate Knowledge,

11(22%) samples were having Adequate Knowledge level regarding child abuse. There is a significant association between the sociodemographic variables such as gender and the knowledge level of primary school teachers regarding child abuse.

A related study with the topic "Knowledge on child abuse amongst schoolteachers in selected schools of Sehore district". Descriptive survey layout become used to conduct the take a look at. Study become conducted among two hundred schoolteachers from selected faculties, in Sehore district. The units used for information series had been a established knowledge questionnaire on child abuse. Majority of the schoolteachers (84.0%) had knowledge on child abuse. With regard to association among expertise and decided on demographic variables, there was no association observed besides for previous information on child abuse ($p < .05$).⁹

Another related study was found. It was conducted to evaluate the information of the primary school teachers on identifying and reporting of child abuse. A descriptive design was applied during the study, which include 100 primary school teachers from 6 selected schools in Al-Nasiriyah city. The tool used for data collection were a designed questionnaire on signs and symptoms of child abuse. The result implies that most of the schoolteachers (74%) had low knowledge on child abuse.¹⁰

Conclusion and Recommendations

The current study has found that only less than one fourth (22%) schoolteachers irrespective of age, area of residency, family income, years of experience, and mode of information, are having adequate knowledge regarding child abuse and its prevention. Hence, it is concluded that, there is need to organize workshops and orientation programmes to the schoolteachers regarding child abuse to enhance their knowledge.

Limitation

1. The study is limited to primary school teachers.
2. Generalization of findings will be limited to the sample study.

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