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A study to assess the effectiveness of structured teaching program on awareness of child abuse among school going children in selected schools of Meerut

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Abstract

Child abuse encompasses physical, emotional, sexual ill- treatment and negligence behaviour towards children under 18, adversely affecting their health and development.

Objectives: To assess the knowledge regarding awareness of child abuse among school going children in selected government schools of Meerut. To assess the effectiveness of STP on knowledge regarding awareness of child abuse among school going children in selected government schools of Meerut. To find the association between knowledge on awareness of child abuse and demographic variables.

Methodology: A quantitative research approach with true experimental design was used. Probability sampling with simple random sampling was used. Sample size was 30 in experimental and 30 in control. "Health Promotion Model" used for conceptual framework. Data were collected using demographic and structured knowledge questionnaire, analysed using descriptive and inferential statistics.

Result: Result showed significant improvement in the experimental group's post-test mean 23.47 with SD 3.19 compared to control group mean 14.40 with SD 3.45. The unpaired t-test value ($t_{59}=59$, $p<0.0=01$) indicates STP's effectiveness. A significant association was found between pre-test knowledge and variables like type of family, economic status and current living is significant at $p<0.05$ level of knowledge. The finding confirmed effectiveness of STP and supported both study hypotheses.

Keywords: Effectiveness, structured teaching program, awareness, child abuse, children

Introduction

Children represent the wealth of the country. A nation is built on the bricks of the today's children. This is important to the bricks of today's children. This is important to the young one is to grow and the process of growth requires good health. In India about 35% of total populations are children below 15 years of age. It is often stated that children play a very important role and are the world's most valuable resources and assets but their rights throughout the world are largely ignored often resulting in tragic outcomes. This is because of the vulnerability of children from infancy through childhood they are dependent on an adult for safety and this puts them at risk for maltreatment in many forms ^[1].

Child abuse is a state of physical, emotional and sexual ill- treatment, neglect or negligent behaviour that a child below the age of 18 years is subjected to in the society causing harm to the survival, health and development of the child ^[2].

In the year 1999, the WHO consultation on child abuse prevention drafted the following definition, "Child abuse or maltreatment constitutes all forms of physical/ emotional ill treatment like sexual abuse, neglect, negligent treatment, commercial exploitation or other exploitation, resulting in actual or potential harm to child's health, survival development or dignity in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power ^[3].

In India in the year 2018 it was seen that 109 children were sexually abused in a single day. As per the data published by the National Crime Record Bureau it was seen that there was rise in each case up to 22% as compared to the previous year. Under the law of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POSCO) the NCRB published the data stating the rise in the number of cases from 32,608 in the year 2017 to 39,827 in the year 2018. The NCRB in the year 2018 released the report stating 21,605 of rape cases among the child. From which the girls were more victimized including 21,401 and 401 were seen in boys. Among all the states of India maximum child rape cases that is 2832 were recorded in Maharashtra,

2023 in Uttar Pradesh and 1457 were recorded in the state of Tamil Nadu ^[4].

India is home to more than 375 million children, comprising nearly 40% of the country's population the largest number of minors in any country in the world. Despite its ethos of non-violence, tolerance, spirituality and a new trillion-dollar economy, India hosts the world's largest number of sexually abused children, at a far higher rate than any other country. It is estimated that 53.22% of children reported having faced one of the more forms of sexual abuse and child below 16 years raped every 15th minute, a child below 10 every 13th hour and one in every 10 children sexually abused at any point of time. In 2006 a study was conducted in Chennai among 42%. Children of all socioeconomic groups were found to be equally vulnerable. 48% of boys have reported to be abused, the prevalence rate among girls was 39% and 15% of both boys and girls had been severely abused ^[5].

Need of the study

The global prevalence of child sexual abuse has been estimated at 19.7% for females and 7.9% for males. Most sexual abuse offenders are acquainted with their victims; approximately 30% are relatives of the child, most often brothers, fathers, uncles or cousins around 60% are other links, such as "friends" of the family or neighbours, strangers are the offenders in approximately 10% of the child sexual abuse cases. Mainly child sexual abuse is committed by men, studies on female child molesters confirms that women commit 14%-40% of offenses reported against boys and 6% of offenses report against girls ^[6].

Children are suffering from a hidden epidemic of child abuse and neglect. Over 3 million reports of child abuse are made every year in the United States. In 2009, approximately 3.3 million child abuse reports and allegations were made involving an estimated 6 million children. According to the WHO, one in every 4 girls and 1 in every 7 boys in the world are sexually abused ^[7].

Despite that the prevalence of all forms of child abuse which includes physical abuse (66%), sexual abuse (50%) and emotional abuse (50%) is extremely high in India as per a survey conducted by the Government of India, Ministry of Women and Child Development (2007) ^[8].

Aim of the study

Through this research researcher wanted to assess the effectiveness of structured teaching program on awareness of child abuse among school going children.

Objective

- To assess the knowledge regarding awareness of child abuse among school going children in selected government schools of Meerut.
- To assess the effectiveness of STP on knowledge regarding awareness of child abuse among school going children in selected government schools of Meerut.
- To find out the association between knowledge on awareness of child abuse and demographic variables.

Hypotheses

H₀₁: There will be no significant difference between experimental group and control group post-test knowledge score.

H₀₂: There will be no association between selected demographic variable and their knowledge on awareness of child abuse.

H₁: There will be significant difference between experimental group and control group post-test knowledge score.

H₂: There will be association between selected demographic variables and their knowledge on awareness of child abuse.

Methodology

Research Approach: Quantitative Research Approach.

Research Design: True experimental Research Design (Pre-test post-test control group design).

Variable:

Independent variable: Structured Teaching Program.

Dependent variable: Knowledge regarding awareness of child abuse.

Setting of the study: Selected government school of Meerut.

Sample: Student of 8th class

Inclusion criteria

- Student who are willing to participate in the study.
- Student who are available at the time of data collection.
- Student who are not exposed to any similar situation.
- Student who are regular to school.
- Student who are between 8-15 years of age.

Exclusion criteria

- Student who are not willing to participate in the study.
- Student who are on leave.
- Student who are already expose to any similar study.

Sample size: 60 (E-30, C-30)

Ethical clearance and informed consent:

The study was carried after obtaining approval from the institutional ethical committee of L.L.R.M Medical College, Meerut. The participants were briefed about the purpose of the study and informed consent was obtained from the children prior to the data collection.

Tool Description

Demographic variable (11 questions).

Structured Knowledge Questionnaire (30 questions).

Reliability

The testing of the structured questionnaire was done to check the clarity of the items and appropriateness. After obtaining administrative approval, the structured questionnaire was administered to 10 students of 8th class at Vidya Mandir Inter College, Meerut. The time takes for completion of questionnaire schedule was 20 mins. The reliability ($r=0.95$) was found significant using Karl Pearson's correlation coefficient.

Pilot Study

The purpose of the pilot study was to find out the practicability and feasibility of conducting the study and deciding the plan for data analysis. Written consent was obtained and confidentiality was assured. Probability, Simple random sampling technique was used to select the children of 8th class. On day one pre-test was administered on awareness of child abuse and structured teaching program was administered regarding awareness of child abuse. On fifth day post-test was administered.

Data analysis and interpretation

Descriptive statistics: Frequency, Percentage, Mean and Standard deviation.

Inferential statistics: Chi-square test, Paired t test and Unpaired t-test.

Result Section I

Table 1: Frequency and percentage distribution of sample based on their selected demographic variables. N=30

Demographic Variables	Experimental Group		Control Group	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Age of Children				
a) 8-9 Years	00	0%	00	0%
b) 10-11 Years	02	6.67%	03	10%
c) 12- 13 Years	12	40%	09	30%
d) 14- 15 Years	16	53.33%	18	60%
Gender				
a) Male	00	0%	00	0%
b) Female	30	100%	30	100%
Religion				
a) Hindu	22	73.33%	24	80%
b) Muslim	08	26.67%	05	16.67%
c) Christian	00	0%	00	0%
d) Other	00	0%	01	3.33%
Type of Family				
a) Joint family	19	63.34%	12	40%
b) Nuclear Family	11	36.66%	18	60%
Birth order				
a) One	07	23.34%	08	26.66%
b) Two	16	53.34%	09	30%
c) Three	05	16.66%	09	30%
d) Four	02	6.66%	04	13.34%
Place of Residence				
a) Rural	01	3.34%	05	16.67%
b) Urban	29	96.66%	25	83.33%
Economic status				
a) 5,000-10,000 per month	21	70%	17	56.67%
b) 10,000-15,000 per month	04	13.34%	06	20%
c) 15,000-20,000 per month	01	3.33%	05	16.66%
d) More than 20,000 per month	04	13.33%	02	6.67%
Heard about child abuse				
a) Yes	13	43.34%	15	50%
b) No	17	56.66%	15	50%
Source of information				
a) Parents	06	20%	08	26.66%
b) Mass media	07	23.33%	07	23.34%
Exposed to any similar situation				
a) Yes	01	3.34%	04	13.34%
b) No	29	96.66%	26	86.66%
Education of guardian				
a) Illiterate	11	36.66%	10	33.34%
b) High school/ Intermediate	15	50%	14	46.66%
c) Under graduation	04	13.34%	06	20%
d) Post-graduation	00	0%	04	0%
Currently living with				
a) Single parents	00	0%	05	16.67%
b) Relatives	02	6.67%	04	13.33%
c) Guardians	28	93.33%	18	60%
d) Family friends	00	0%	03	10%

Section-II

Table 2: Analysis of the pre-test and post-test level of knowledge score regarding awareness of child abuse among samples. N=30

Sl. No.	Knowledge Level	Experimental Group				Control Group			
		Pre-test		Post-test		Pre-test		Post-test	
		f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
1.	Poor	07	23.34%	00	0%	05	16.67%	00	0%
2.	Average	22	73.33%	00	0%	20	66.66%	14	46.66%
3.	Good	01	3.33%	16	53.34%	05	16.67%	16	53.34%
4.	Excellent	00	0%	14	46.66%	00	0%	00	0%
Total		30	100%	30	100%	30	100%	30	100%

Table 2: Shows that regarding the experimental group 23.34% (07) were have poor knowledge regarding child abuse in post-test which reduced to 0% (0), 73.33% (22) were have average knowledge regarding child abuse in post test which reduced to 0% (0), 3.33% (1) were have good knowledge regarding child abuse in post test which increased to 53.34% (16) were have no knowledge regarding child abuse but in pre-test 0% (0) have excellent knowledge and in post test which increased to 46.66% (14).

Regarding the control group 16.67% (05) were have poor knowledge regarding child abuse which reduced to 0% (0), 66.66% (20) were have average knowledge regarding child abuse which reduced to 46.66% (14), 16.67% (05) were have good knowledge regarding child abuse which increased to 53.34% (16) and 0% (0) were have no knowledge regarding child abuse also in post-test that is same 0% (0).

Table 3: Compare the post-test knowledge score among experimental group and control group. N=30

S. No.	Knowledge Level	Knowledge score		MD	df	P value	Unpaired "t" value
		Mean	SD				
1.	Experimental Group	23.47	3.19	9.07	58	3.46 < then 0.001 level	10.56***
2.	Control Group	14.40	3.45				

*** Significant at 0.001

Table 3: Shows that the post-test mean value of experimental group is 23.47 and SD was 3.19. The post-test mean of control group is 14.40 and SD was 3.45. The mean difference is 9.07. The calculated unpaired "t" value is

10.56, N=60 Significant at $p < 0.001$ level $t_{58} = 10.56^{***}$.

Section-III (A)

Table 4: Association between level of knowledge score of pre-test of experimental group with selected demographic variables. N=30.

Demographic Variable	Knowledge Level				Chi-square	Df	Table p-value	Inference
	(Poor)	Average	Good	Excellent				
1- Age of children								
a) 8-9 Years	0	0	0	0	2.090	4	9.48	NS
b) 10-11 Years	1	1	0	0				
c) 12-13 Years	2	10	0	0				
d) 14-15 Years	4	11	1	0				
2- Gender								
a) Male	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	NA
b) Female	7	22	1	0				
3- Religion								
a) Hindu	4	17	1	0	1.477	2	5.99	NS
b) Muslim	3	5	0	0				
c) Christian	0	0	0	0				
d) Other	0	0	0	0				
4- Type of family								
a) Joint family	6	12	1	0	2.820	2	5.99	NS
b) Nuclear family	1	10	0	0				
5- Birth order								
a) One	1	6	0	0	7.822	6	12.59	NS
b) Two	5	11	0	0				
c) Three	0	4	1	0				
d) Four	1	1	0	0				
6- Place of residence								
a) Rural	0	1	0	0	0.376	2	5.99	NS
b) Urban	7	21	1	0				
7- Economic status								
a) 5,000-10,000 per month	5	15	1	0	3.609	6	12.59	NS
b) 10,000-15,000 per month	0	4	0	0				
c) 15,000-20,000 per month	0	1	0	0				

d) More than 20,000 per month	2	2	0	0				
8. Heard about child abuse								
a) Yes	3	9	1	0	1.361	2	5.99	NS
b) No	4	13	0	0				
9. Source of information								
a) Parents	0	0	6	0				
b) Mass media	0	0	7	0				
10. Exposed to any similar situation								
a) Yes	0	1	0	0	0.376	2	5.99	NS
b) No	7	21	1	0				
11. Education of guardian								
a) Illiterate	4	6	1	0	4.070	4	9.48	NS
b) High school/Intermediate	2	13	1	0				
c) Under graduation	1	3	0	0				
d) Post-graduation	0	0	0	0				
12. Currently living with								
a) Single parent	0	0	0	0	0.884	2	5.09	NS
b) Relatives	1	1	0	0				
c) Guardians	6	21	1	0				
d) Family friends	0	0	0	0				

S- Significant at 0.005 level, NS- Non-significant and NA- Non applicable

Table 4: Shows that Chi square method was used in this table to find out the association between level of knowledge in experimental group with selected demographic variable. It was found that the difference between mean pre-test and

knowledge of experimental group was not having any association between knowledge and demographic variables.

Section- III (B)

Table 5: Association between level of knowledge score of pre-test of control group with selected demographic variables. N=30

Demographic variable	Knowledge Level				Chi-square	Df	Table p value	Inference
	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent				
Age of children								
a) 8-9 Years	0	0	0	0	2.00	4	9.48	NS
b) 10-11 Years	1	1	1	0				
c) 12-13 Years	1	7	1	0				
d) 14-15 Years	3	12	3	0				
Gender								
a) Male	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	NA
b) Female	5	20	5	0				
Religion								
a) Hindu	4	16	4	0	6.00	4	9.48	NS
b) Muslim	0	4	1	0				
c) Christian	0	0	0	0				
d) Other	1	0	0	0				
Type of family								
a) Joint family	0	11	1	0	6.04	2	5.99*	S*
b) Nuclear family	5	9	4	0				
Birth order								
a) One	0	7	1	0	7.60	6	12.59	NS
b) Two	2	6	1	0				
c) Three	1	5	3	0				
d) Four	2	2	0	0				
Place of residence								
a) Rural	1	3	1	0	.120	2	5.99	NS
b) Urban	4	17	4	0				
Economic status								
a) 5,000-10,000 per month	3	13	1	0	16.94	6	12.59*	S*
b) 10,000- 15,000 per month	2	2	2	0				
c) 15,000- 20,000 per month	0	5	0	0				
d) More than 20,000 per month	0	0	2	0				
Heard about child abuse								
a) Yes	1	10	4	0	3.60	2	5.99	NS
b) No	4	10	1	0				
Source of information								
a) Parents	0	0	8	0				
b) Mass media	0	0	7	0				
Exposed to any similar situation								
a) Yes	1	2	1	0	.577	2	5.99	NS

b) No	4	18	4	0				
Education of guardians								
a) Illiterate	3	7	0	0	5.00	4	9.48	NS
b) High school/ Intermediate	2	9	3	0				
c) Under graduation	0	4	2	0				
d) Post-graduation	0	0	0	0				
Currently living with								
a) Single parent	2	3	0	0	13.66	6	12.59	S*
b) Relatives	2	0	2	0				
c) Guardians	1	14	3	0				
d) Family friends	0	3	0	0				

S- Significant at 0.05 level, NS- Non significant and NA- Not applicable

Table 5: Shows that the Chi square method was used in this table to find out the association between level of knowledge in experimental group with selected demographic variable. Data shows that demographic variable in Type of family ($X^2=6.04$), Economic status ($X^2=16.94$) and Currently living with ($X^2=13.66$) is significant at 0.05 level of knowledge.

Discussion

The result of the study shows that in pre-test majority of sample had average knowledge in experimental group but after the implementation of structured teaching program there was marked improvement in the knowledge of children post-test of experimental group 53.34% (16) was had good knowledge and 46.66% (14) had excellent knowledge regarding child abuse. In post-test control group 66.67% (20) was had average knowledge and 53.34% (16) was had good knowledge regarding child abuse. Hence here hypotheses H1 is accepted. It was found that there was no difference between mean pre-test knowledge of experimental group was not having any association between knowledge of experimental group and demographic variables. It was found that the difference between mean pre-test and knowledge of control group was highly significant in Type of family ($X^2=6.04$), Economic status ($X^2=16.94$) and currently living with ($X^2=13.66$) is significant at 0.05 level of knowledge. So, here the hypothesis H2 is accepted.

Conclusion

A true experimental research design with pre-test post-test control group design was used in this study. The study was conducted on total 60 students and of which 30 are under the experimental group and the another 30 are under the control group at Shanta Smarak Girl's Inter College, Meerut. Which was selected through probability simple random sampling technique. 'Child abuse prevention' specific tool structured close ended questionnaire and demographic tool was used to collect the data. Descriptive statistics and inferential statistics were used to analyse the data. The result is interpreted in terms of objectives and testing the hypotheses of the study.

Conflict of Interest: The authors certify that they have no involvement in any organization or entity with any financial or non-financial interest in the subject matter or materials discussed in this paper.

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