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Descriptive study to assess knowledge on child safety measures of domestic accidents among mothers of under five children in a selected villages of Chamarajanagar district

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Abstract

Background: Safety and security don't just happen; they are the result of collective consensus and public investment. In many developing countries, injuries are one of the major causes of death in children in the age group of 1-5. The house is an existing place for infants and small children, who love to explore but aren't aware of the potential dangers. Being a mother is one of the most important roles a woman can ever play. Mothers play a huge role in their children's lives, caring for them, loving them, teaching them, and so much more.

Objectives: To assess the level of knowledge on child safety measures of domestic accidents among mothers of under five children and to associate the relationship between the level of knowledge and socio demographic variables of mothers of under five children.

Methodology: A descriptive study was conducted. Convenient sampling technique was used and 50 under five mothers were selected for the study. Data was obtained by Structured Questionnaires consist of multiple choice Questions on child safety measures of domestic accidents.

Results: Result of the study revealed that among 50 participants majority of the participants are in the age group of below 25 years that is 25(50.0%). The majority of the participants are completed the high school education that is 16(32.0%) and 15(30%) participants are completed High secondary education. The majority of the participants are House wife that is 43(86%). The majority of the participant's religion is Hindu that is 48(96.0%). The majority of the participants are belong to nuclear family that is 31(62.0%) and the majority of the participants family income is 5000-10000 thousand that is 26(52.0%). The majority of the participants are getting to know the information through the mass media that is 21(42.0%). Among them 10(20.0%) mothers having inadequate knowledge, 39(78.0%) mothers having moderate knowledge and only 1(2.0%) mother having adequate knowledge. Association of knowledge scores with demographic variables shows that Demographic variables such as Occupation and family income shows significance at the level of 0.005 knowledge score and age, education, religion, type of family and source of information are not significance at level of 0.005.

Conclusion: Study shows that majority of the mothers having Moderate knowledge and most of the mother having inadequate knowledge on home safety measures of domestic accidents.

Keywords: Domestic accidents, under-five children, home safety, under five mothers, demographic variables

Introduction

"Children are our most valuable resource."

(Nelson Mandela)

"Children are future of society and mothers are guardian of that future". Fragile, helpless and innocent, an infant enters the world completely dependent on its caretakers. From the moment you see it; you take steps to keep it safe. Although the surroundings should be a safe heaven for the child, it can at times be dangerous. In today's world, in the developed as well as the developing countries, danger prevails not only on the road, but it also exists in the home and playgrounds. Every year, thousands of children die or are permanently disabled as a result of accidental injuries. In many developing countries, injuries are one of the major causes of death in children in the age group of 1-5. The house is an existing place for infants and small children, who love to explore but aren't aware of the potential dangers^[1].

Accident injuries are most common cause of death in children over the age of one. Every year, millions of children are permanently disabled or disfigured because of accidents^[2].

Accidents are the main cause of injury and even death in children. People only relate accidents to outdoor activities.

However as a matter of fact, the people where people regard as the safest place-home hide many hazards. The main of home accident is general negligence of safety at home^[4].

An accident can be defined as unexpected, unplanned occurrence of an event which usually produces unintended injury, death or property Damage. Domestic accident meant an accident, which takes place in the home or in its immediate surroundings and generally happened in under five year children^[3]. Earlier in history, epidemiologist have compared domestic accidents to tuberculosis and called both of them together as "social diseases". The term is pretty relevant in today's time as well where both the entities, in entirely different ways and mechanisms, have managed to infiltrate the social fabric^[5].

Home Accidents have been identified as the largest single cause of death after the age of one year and among the most severe health problems facing the world today. Home safety involves taking time to inspect the home environment to discover hidden dangers that may increase the risk of injury or even death^[6].

Under-five children are more at risk for domestic accidents because of their normal curiosity, impulsiveness, and desire to master new skills and children imitate adult behaviour from an early age, and boys are more likely to have accidents than girls^[7].

Although home is the place which is safe and secure for the children, unfortunately, home is where many injuries and deaths occur. The main causes of accidents in the home are falls, burns, drowning, suffocation, choking, poisoning, and cuts. They learn to walk, run, jump, and explore the physical environment by falling which is the normal part when growing, and most falls are little consequence, but some goes beyond the resilience of a child's body, making them the fourth largest cause of unintentional injury death for children and also an Any form of injury can lead to significant physiological, psychological, social, environmental and financial burden, thereby affecting the day-to-day routine of children as well as their families^[8].

Need for the study

"Safety and security don't just happen; they are the result of collective consensus and public investment."

(Nelson Mandela)

Injuries among the children are an emerging public health problem. Accidental injuries are one of the leading causes of death, hospitalization, and disability across the world. Injury among the children can happen anywhere: the road, home, or playground. Studies on childhood injuries have observed that majority of the accidents occurs inside the home^[9].

Home Accidents have been identified as the largest single cause of death after the age of one year and are among the most severe health problem facing the world today. In both the industrialized world and developing countries, accidents remain one of the major five leading causes of deaths^[8]. According to World Health Organization, every year about, 830,000 children die from home accidents worldwide. This corresponds to 2,000 child deaths in a day. In addition, majority of children (millions) have been referred to hospital due to home accident-related to injuries, eventually resulting in permanent disabilities^[10]. Though the actual number of accidents and associated harms cannot be established, home accidents are greater than traffic and occupational accidents. This is because there are insufficient

records and data from hospitals and this doesn't present all relevant figures^[11].

In 2015, drowning contributed to 7.2% of all the accidental deaths, whereas accidental poisoning, fire and falls led to 6.3%, 4.3% and 4.1% of all accidental deaths respectively in India. Every year more than five lakh individual get injured due to domestic accidents^[12].

In Karnataka, at least 30,000 children are dying annually due to accidents, drowning, and poisoning, and nearly 2045 children (0-14 years) died due to unintentional injuries in 2017, accounting for 11.89% of all deaths^[13].

Today's children are tomorrow's citizens; child hood is very special and vulnerable period of life. A bright future for an individual for a family, for a society, for a country lies in providing a safe environment for children to grow and mature. Every parent think that they are good parents and take great care in protecting children from any harm or dangers yet there is one place where the child is more a risk than anywhere else, and that is own home^[14]. No matter how careful parents are, there will be time when child is unsupervised. It only takes a split second for a child to something and choke^[15].

Being a mother is one of the most important roles a woman can ever play. Mothers play a huge role in their children's lives, caring for them, loving them, teaching them, and so much more^[16]. It is the responsibility of mothers and fathers to make their home a safe place and to teach their children how to live safely in the environment. Strategies have to develop to combat these threats to children's health. Parents are often very knowledgeable however, they are unaware of the scope of the child injury problem and do not routinely think about injury risk in the course of their day-to-day interactions with their child^[17].

Objectives

1. To assess the level of knowledge on child safety measures of Domestic accidents among mothers of under five children.
2. To associate the relationship between the level of knowledge and socio demographic variables of mothers of under five children.

Methodology

Methodology source of data

Sources of information

The data was collected from mothers of under five children at selected villages.

Research approach and design

A Quantitative research approach with a descriptive research design was used in the study.

Research setting

The present study was conducted at selected villages in ChamaraJanagar district.

Sample

In this study the sample was mothers of under five children aged between 25-35 years.

Inclusive criteria

- The study included mothers of under five children age group between 25-35 years

Exclusive criteria

The study excluded

- Mothers those who have children aged above 6years
- Mothers those who are not having children

Sample size

The sample size consist of 50 mothers of under five children.

Sample technique

The sample was selected by using a convenient sample

technique.

Instruments used

Tool 1: Demographic data

Tool 2: Structured Questionnaires consist of multiple choice Questions to assess the knowledge on child safety measures of domestic accidents among mothers of under five children

Results

Section I: Description of selected personal variables of mothers of under five children.

Table 1: Frequency and percentage distribution of mothers of under five children with their personal variables.

n=50		
Variable	Frequency	Percent
1. Age in years		
a. <25 years	25	50.0
b. 25-30 years	17	34.0
c. 31-35 years	5	10.0
d. >35 years	3	6.0
2. Education		
a. Illiterate	2	4.0
b. Primary Education	8	16.0
c. Higher School	16	32.0
d. PUC	15	30.0
e. Degree and above	9	18.0
3. Occupation		
a. Housewife	43	86.0
b. Coolie	2	4.0
c. Self-employment	5	10.0
4. Religion		
a. Hindu	48	96.0
b. Muslim	2	4.0
5. Type of family		
a. Nuclear family	31	62.0
b. Joint family	17	34.0
c. Extended family	2	4.0
6. Family Income		
a. Below Rs. 5000	4	8.0
b. Rs. 5001-10000	26	52.0
c. Rs. 10001-15000	17	34.0
d. > Rs. 15000	3	6.0
7. Source of Information		
a. mass media	21	42.0
b. Friends	5	10.0
c. Relatives	22	44.0
d. Health Personnel	2	4.0

Table I: Shows that among 50 participants majority of the participants are in the age group of below 25 years that is 25(50.0%). The majority of the participants are completed the high school education that is 16(32.0%) and 15(30%) participants are completed High secondary education. The majority of the participants are House wife that is 43(86%). The majority of the participant’s religion is Hindu that is 48(96.0%)0. The majority of the participants are belongs to nuclear family that is 31(62.0%) and the majority of the participants family income is 5000-10000 thousand that is 26(52.0%). The majority of the participants are get to know the information through the mass media that is 21(42.0%).

Section II: Knowledge level of mothers of under five

children

Table 2: Frequency and percentage distribution of mothers of under five children according to their knowledge level

n=50		
Overall Knowledge level	Frequency	Percent
Inadequate Knowledge	10	20.0
Moderate Knowledge	39	78.0
Adequate knowledge	1	2.0
Total	50	100

Table II: Shows that among 50 participants majority of the participants that is 39(78.0%) are having moderate knowledge, 10(20.0%) are having inadequate knowledge and only 1(2.0%) having adequate knowledge.

Table 3: Mean, Median, standard deviation knowledge score of mothers of under five children

n =50						
Variable	No. of Items	Max Score	Mean	Mean %	Median	SD
Knowledge Scores	26	26	15.74	60.53	15	2.739

Table III: Shows that among 50 participants out of 26 items the mean score is 15.74(60.53%).

Section III: Association of knowledge scores with demographic variables.

Table 4: Association between knowledge score of mothers of under five children regarding home safety measures of domestic accident with their demographic variables

n=50						
Variables	Below Median	Median and above	Chi square	Df	P value (0.05)	Inference
1. Age in years						
a. <25 years	7	18	1.175	3	0.759	NS
b. 25-30 years	7	10				
c. 31-35 years	1	4				
d. >35 years	1	2				
2. Education						
a. Illiterate	1	1	4.095	4	0.393	NS
b. Primary Education	4	4				
c. Higher Education	4	12				
d. PUC	6	9				
e. Degree and above	1	8				
3. Occupation						
a. Housewife	11	32	6.866	2	0.032	S
b. Coolie	2	0				
c. Self-employment	3	2				
4. Religion						
a. Hindu	16	32	0.980	1	0.322	NS
b. Muslim	0	2				
5. Type of family						
a. Nuclear family	12	19	2.549	2	0.280	NS
b. Joint family	3	14				
c. Extended family	1	1				
6. Family Income						
a. Below Rs. 5000	2	2	5.067	3	0.167	S
b. Rs. 5001-10000	11	15				
c. Rs. 10001-15000	2	15				
d. > Rs. 15000	1	2				
7. Source of information						
a. Mass media	10	11	5.874	3	0.118	NS
b. Friends	0	5				
c. Relatives	6	16				
d. Health Personnel	0	2				

Table IV: shows that Demographic variables such as Occupation and family income show significance at the level of 0.005. Knowledge score and age, education, religion, type of family and source of information are not significance at level of 0.005.

Conclusion

Most unintentional injuries in children occur at home and many are preventable. Mothers and family’s role in injury prevention is very important. The present study assesses the knowledge of mothers of under five children residing in rural community, about their knowledge about home safety measures of domestic accidents. The study concludes that among 50 participants majority of the participants that is 39(78.0%) are having moderate knowledge, 10(20.0%) are having inadequate knowledge and only 1(2.0%) having adequate knowledge. The mean for over all knowledge on home safety measures of mothers of under five children was 15.74(SD=2.739). There was significant association between knowledge selected demographic variables such as

occupation and family income shows significance and knowledge score of age, education, religion, type of family and sources of information are not significance. This findings indicates that, needs to take active measures to improve the knowledge of mothers regarding home safety measures of under five children by conducting education programs via mass media, including information about prevention of home accidents mainly in rural communities, accidents prevention in school curricula and creating group education sessions in primary health care centres.

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