



A PRE-EXPERIMENTAL STUDY TO ASSESS THE EFFECT OF SELF-INSTRUCTIONAL MODULE ON KNOWLEDGE REGARDING PREVENTIVE MEASURES OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AMONG PARENTS AT SELECTED SCHOOLS IN BHOPAL, M.P.

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ABSTRACT

The global population of children is projected to remain stable at approximately 1.9 billion by 2050, accounting for 20% of the world's population. However, amidst this demographic trend, the alarming prevalence of child sexual abuse persists, with statistics indicating that 1 in 5 girls and 1 in 20 boys fall victim to such abuse. Moreover, research reveals that a staggering 16% of young individuals aged 14 to 17 experience sexual victimization annually, while 28% encounter such abuse in their lifetime. In light of these concerning statistics, this study aims to assess the effectiveness of a self-instructional module in enhancing parents' knowledge of preventive measures against child sexual abuse. The research objectives include evaluating pre- and post-interventional knowledge scores among parents, examining significant differences between pre- and post-interventional measures, and exploring associations between pre-interventional knowledge and demographic variables. The study adopts the Public Health Model as its theoretical framework and employs a pre-experimental research approach among 60 parents in Bhopal, M.P., utilizing a structured questionnaire for data collection. Major findings indicate a significant improvement in parents' knowledge following the intervention, with implications for nursing practice, education, administration, and research. Recommendations include disseminating findings to relevant stakeholders and conducting similar studies across diverse populations to address the pressing issue of child sexual abuse effectively. Despite limitations, the study underscores the importance of educational interventions in mitigating this pervasive issue and emphasizes the role of parents in safeguarding children's well-being and safety.

KEYWORDS: Child sexual abuse, preventive measures, parents, self-instructional module, knowledge enhancement, public health model, pre-experimental study.

INTRODUCTION

Now there are 1.9 billion children in the world that constitute 27% of the world population. In 2050 there will still be an estimated 1.9 billion kids, but they will constitute only 20% of the world population. The threatening rays of child sexual abuse reveals those 1 in 5 girls and 1 in 20 boys are a victim of child sexual abuse. 16% of young people aged between 14 to 17 had been sexually victimized every year. A staggering 28% of all the youngsters aged between 14 to 17 had been sexually victimized in their Lifetime.

Child sexual abuse is a pervasive and distressing issue that poses significant risks to the well-being and safety of children worldwide. In response to this urgent concern, educational interventions aimed at equipping parents with knowledge and skills to prevent child sexual abuse have garnered increasing attention. This pre-experimental study endeavors to assess the impact of a self-instructional module on enhancing parents' knowledge regarding preventive measures of child sexual abuse within selected schools in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. Recognizing parents as primary caregivers and advocates for their children's safety, this study aims to empower them with crucial information and resources necessary for recognizing, preventing, and responding to instances of child sexual abuse effectively.

Child sexual abuse is a complex and multifaceted issue that demands a proactive and comprehensive approach to safeguarding children's rights and well-being. By evaluating the effectiveness of a self-instructional module tailored to the specific context of Bhopal, this study seeks to contribute to the growing body of literature on preventive strategies for addressing child sexual abuse. Through empowering parents with knowledge and awareness, it is anticipated that this intervention will not only enhance parental protective behaviors but also foster a culture of vigilance, openness, and support within the school community, ultimately creating safer environments for children to thrive and flourish.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. Assess the pre-interventional knowledge score regarding preventive measures of child sexual abuse among parents.
2. Assess the post-interventional knowledge score regarding preventive measures of child sexual abuse among parents.
3. Find out the significant difference of pre-and post-interventional measures of prevention of child sexual abuse among parents.
4. Associate the pre-interventional level of knowledge score regarding prevention of child sexual abuse among parents with their selected demographic variables.



RESEARCH HYPOTHESES

- **H1:** There will be a significant difference between pre and post interventional knowledge scores regarding preventive measures of child sexual abuse among parents at $p \leq 0.05$ level of significant.
- **H2:** There will be a significant association of pre interventional knowledge score regarding preventive measures of child sexual abuse among parents with their selected demographic variables at $p \leq 0.05$ level of significant.

ASSUMPTION

- ❖ Parents may have some knowledge regarding preventive measures of child sexual abuse.
- ❖ Knowledge can be imparted through Self-instructional module.
- ❖ Self-instructional module will be beneficial for the parents for enhancing knowledge regarding preventive measures of child sexual abuse.

Theoretical frame work used is Public Health Model (*The public health approach to violence prevention*). The research approach adopted for the study was pre-experimental - non-equivalents intended to measure the gain of knowledge score of parents who were given self-instructional module to enhance their knowledge regarding preventive measures of child sexual abuse. The study was conducted among 60 parents, Mother Theresa Senior Secondary Co -Ed School. Non-probability convenient sampling technique was employed to select the sample subjects and structured questionnaire was developed by the investigator for data collection.

After conducting pilot study main study was carried out among 60 parents of school going children.

MAJOR FINDING OF THE STUDY

1. Description of sample characterizes

- The following are the findings with reference to the demographic variables. Majority of samples (parents) 31 (51.8%) of samples were away from children for job. Regarding the parents those who were away from children for job, in majority of the cases father 7 (64.5%). Majority of samples had two children, 43 (71.6%). Regarding the education of father, majority 21 (35%) were Graduates. The number was less with 9 (15%) samples who were Post Graduates and above. Regarding the education of the mother, majority of mothers 21 (35%) were secondary education. Regarding the age of mother, majority of mothers 32 (53.3%) were 31-40 year of age Regarding the age of father, majority of father 30 (50%) were belong to 21-30 year of age Types of the family: Majority, 31 (51.6%), were from joint-families whereas in 27 (45%) were from nuclear-families. Majority of the samples, 39 (65%) had a monthly family income of Rs. 10,000-20,000. Regarding the area of residence, majority of them lived in urban areas; 42 (70%). Regarding previous knowledge about prevention of sexual abuse, 37 (61.6%) numbers. With previous knowledge respectively. Regarding the source of information majority of them got information through multimedia - 18 (48.6%).

Table 1: Frequency and percentage distribution of selected demographic variables

S.N.	Demographic Variables	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
1.	Are you away from children for job		
	A. Yes	31	51.8
	B. No	29	48.2
2.	If yes, who		
	A. Father	20	64.5
	B. Mother	9	29
	C. Both	2	6.4
3.	Number of children in the family		
	A. One	13	21.6
	B. Two	43	71.6
	C. Three	4	6.8
	D. Four and above	0	0
4.	Education of father		
	A. Primary	13	20
	B. Secondary	18	30
	C. Graduation	21	35
	D. P.G and above	8	15
5.	Age of mother		
	A. Below 21 year	3	5
	B. 21- 30 year	20	33.3
	C. 31-40 year	32	53.3
	D. 41 year or above	5	8.3
6.	Age of father		
	A. Below 21 year	5	8.3
	B. 21- 30 year	30	50
	C. 31-40 year	5	8.3
	D. 41 year or above	20	33.3
7.	Education of the mother		
	A. Primary	17	28.3
	B. Secondary	21	35
	C. Graduation	15	25
	D. P.G and above	7	11.6
8.	Types of the family		
	A. Single-Parents family	0	0
	B. Nuclear -family	27	45
	C. Joint family	31	51.6
	D. Broken family	2	3.3

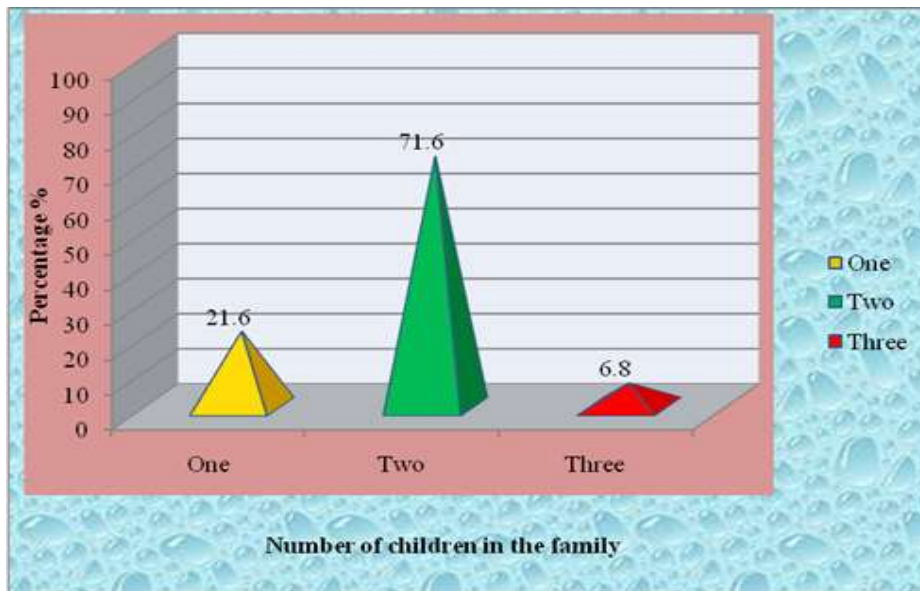


Figure 1: The pyramid diagram showing percentage distribution of number of children in the family.

2. Knowledge score prior to administration of self -instructional module.

- Data reveals that majority 36 (60%) had average knowledge, 4 (6.7%) had poor knowledge and only 20 (33.3%) had good knowledge.

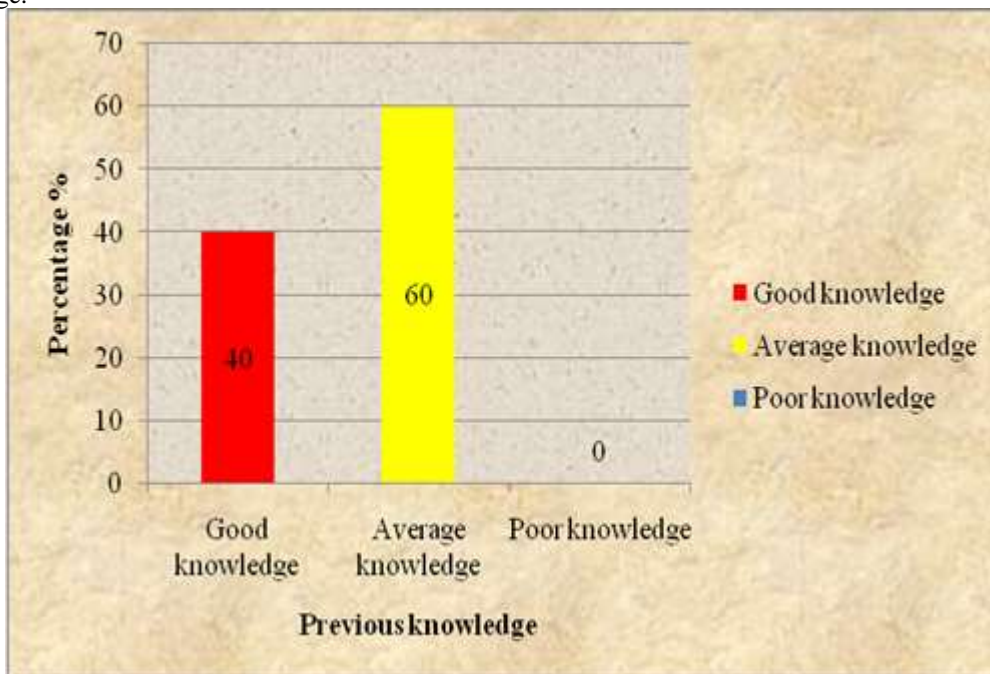


Figure 2: The Bar Diagram showing percentage wise distribution of pre-interventional knowledge score.

3. Knowledge score after the administration of self -instructional module.

Majority, 42 (70%) developed good knowledge, 18 (30%) developed average knowledge and nobody was with poor knowledge.

S.No	Knowledge score	Frequency	Percentage
		(F)	(%)
1.	Good knowledge	42	70
2.	Average knowledge	18	30
3.	Poor knowledge	0	0

Table 2: Frequency and percentage distribution of post -intervention knowledge among parents.

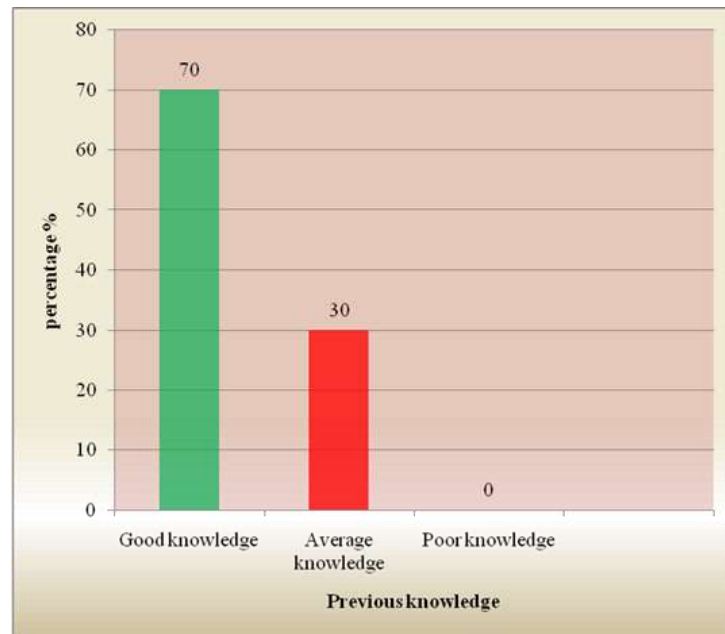


Figure 3: The percentage wise distribution showing post-interventional knowledge score.

4. Comparison between pre-and post-interventional knowledge score among the parents of school children.

Table 3:

Experimental Group	Mean	Mean difference	Mean percentage	SD	Paired “t” value
Pre-test	17.73	3.47	45.54	3.81	6.743
Post –test	21.2		54.45	3.42	

Comparison between pre-and post-interventional knowledge score among the parents of school children

Data in table 3 depicts that the pre-interventional level shows a mean value of 17.73 with standard deviation of +/-3.81, post-interventional level shows mean value as 21.2 with standard deviation of +/-3.42, the mean difference is 3.47, mean percentage of pre-interventional level is 45.54 and post-test is 54.45, computed paired “t” value is 6.743. Therefore, the obtained mean difference is a true difference and not by chance. This indicates the self-instructional module on prevention of child sexual abuse was effective in developing knowledge among parents. Hence research H2 is accepted.

5. Association between pre-interventional knowledge score among the parents of children with their demographic variables.

- The association between pre-interventional knowledge score with their demographic variables such as ‘if yes’, area of residence, and source of information about prevention of sexual abuse show a significant association with Chi-square value of 10.685, 10.25, 5.291. So the hypotheses, ‘there will be a significant association of pre-interventional knowledge score with selected demographic variables at $p < 0.05$ level is accepted.
- The association between pre-interventional knowledge score with the demographic variables such as, are away from children for their job, ‘if yes’ - who, education of father with Chi-Square value obtained 16.79, 6.12, 12.34, respectively with pre-interventional knowledge score.

The finding reveals that parents away from children for their job, ‘if yes’ then who, area of residence, and source of information about prevention of sexual abuse, education of father, etc. had a positive effect towards better awareness and prevention of child sexual abuse among parents.

Structured questionnaire and self-instructional module were validated by the experts. Reliability of the tool was done using KR 20 (Kuder and Richerdson) formula and it was found to be significant i.e. structured knowledge questionnaire ($r = 0.7$).

Findings of the study have implication for nursing practice, nursing education, nursing administration, and nursing research.

Nursing Practice

As a nurse, one should promote the mental health of children in order to prevent sexual abuse and thereby reduce the risk of associated complications and mental trauma in children.

Nursing Administration

They can promote their nurses for in-service education programs, certification courses on prevention of child sexual abuse and may even start educational programs for nurse educators and child victims based on the lifestyle modification.

Nursing Education

As nurse educators, in Mental Health, Community Health, and Medical and Surgical Nursing it is our prime responsibility to update our knowledge to equip ourselves with the latest information on the prevention and management of sexual abuse



of children so that we are well qualified to train the parents. There is an urgent need for such training in order to save thousands of innocent children from being victims of sexual harassment.

Nursing Research

The finding of the study can be used by researchers or be disseminated to improve knowledge and awareness among parents to prevent sexual abuse of children.

RECOMMENDATIONS

On the basis of the findings and experience of investigator during conduction of this study the following recommendations are being made: -

- Data can be submitted to schools, hospitals, parents' associations and governmental and non-governmental organizations for planning of health education strategies to control sexual abuse of children.
- A similar study can be conducted on children so that preventive sex education would be more effective.
- The setting can be replaced in other communities with less educational status.
- A similar study can be done to identify the secondary health problems among children who are exposed to sexual abuse.
- A similar study can be done in different ages groups of children according to their understanding.
- A similar study with different module can be done for teachers, wardens, and others who are directly involved with the care of children.
- A descriptive study can be done in larger population.

LIMITATIONS

- The small number of subjects restricted the generalization of results.
- The study was limited to parents only.
- Self-instructional module was likely to be influenced by samples' environmental factors, busy schedule or investigators personal bias

CONCLUSION

The finding of the study concludes that self- instructional module, on knowledge regarding preventive measures of child sexual abuse among parents of school children was effective in enhancing knowledge level of parents. The baseline data of this study can be submitted to school, hospitals, parent's associations and governmental and non-governmental organizations for planning of health education strategies to control sexual abuse of children.

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