



ASSESS THE KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICE REGARDING FIRST AID MANAGEMENT OF SELECTED PEDIATRIC EMERGENCIES AMONG MOTHERS OF UNDER FIVE CHILDREN WITH A VIEW TO DEVELOP SELF INSTRUCTIONAL BOOKLET AT SELECTED PHC, THRISSUR, KERALA, INDIA.

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ABSTRACT

The incidence of pediatric emergencies are increasing in India among children under five years of age. Hence it is essential to improve the knowledge and practice of parents especially mothers regarding first aid management of pediatric emergencies. Considering this fact a descriptive study was undertaken by the investigator to assess the knowledge and practice regarding first-aid management of selected pediatric emergencies among mothers of under five children. The objectives of the study was to assess the knowledge and practice of mothers, to correlate knowledge with practice, to associate knowledge and practice with selected demographic variables of mothers and to develop a self instructional booklet regarding first aid management of selected pediatric emergencies. Purposive sampling was done to select 60 samples. Along with demographic proforma of the mother, a structured knowledge questionnaire was administered to assess their knowledge regarding first aid management of selected pediatric emergencies and practice was assessed using checklist. Following the collection of data the investigator distributed self instructional booklet regarding first aid management of selected pediatric emergencies. Regarding the results, about 35% of mothers possessed inadequate knowledge, 55% of mothers possessed moderate knowledge and only 10% of them possessed adequate knowledge regarding first aid management of selected pediatric emergencies. Considering the practice about 81.7% of mothers were classified under fair practice, 18.3% were classified under good practice and there were no mothers under the category of poor practice. With regard to correlation there was a positive correlation between knowledge and practice regarding first aid management of selected pediatric emergencies. Considering the association there was only association between knowledge and occupation of mother and also between practice and occupation of mother.

Key words: Mothers, Under five children, Knowledge, First aid.

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INTRODUCTION

Pediatric emergencies are the leading causes of death in children under 15 years of age. The toddlers and the preschoolers have the highest curiosity to explore and investigate their surroundings. With the ability to run and walk they are more prone to a variety of injuries like falls, burns, cuts and wounds, choking, bites and stings,

poisoning, drowning, eye injury and health problems like high temperature and seizures. Most of the pediatric emergencies occur in three main areas-at home, road and place of work. Parents are the primary care givers of children. They are considered to be the best teachers and have potential influence particularly on their children. They also have high degree of tolerance and capacity to



work. Thus it is desirable that parents possess knowledge and skills of first aid to react to situations requiring the use of first aid in their family [1]. First aid is the assessment and interventions that can be performed by a person with minimal or no medical equipment. Administration of first aid must not delay the activation of emergency medical care or other medical services [2]. Mother's knowledge and practice are relevant variables and are considered to be important factors while planning an educational programme for first aid in pediatric emergencies. The mother should know about the home safety needs of under five children because mothers are usually the caregivers and who will be at home with the child. A study conducted at Elwan and El-Misra villages in Assuit governorate to assess mother's knowledge and practice towards home accidents among children under 6 years of age revealed that the incidence of home accidents was 50.3% and there was a high statistical difference between mother's knowledge with age and education. About 74.5% of mothers had incomplete knowledge regarding home accidents among their children [3]. According to a new report from Centers for Disease control and prevention, drowning is a leading cause of accidental death for children under the age of 5 years with rates even suppressing those of traffic accident fatalities. In the year 2010, the drowning death rates are nearly 3 per 100,000. For girls between ages 1 and 4, drowning remains the second leading cause of death. But for boys of these ages drowning replaced traffic accidents and has been the leading cause of death from unintentional injury since 2005[4]. All above aspects aided the investigator to identify that pediatric emergencies are very serious and most common life threatening problem. The studies done regarding first aid management of pediatric emergencies among children below five years of age are very few in India. Thus the investigator felt it is relevant to carry out this study.

Statement of the problem

A study to assess the knowledge and practice regarding first-aid management of selected pediatric emergencies among mothers of under five children with a view to develop self-instructional booklet at selected PHC, Thrissur.

OBJECTIVES

- To assess the level of knowledge and practice of mothers of under five children regarding first-aid management of selected pediatric emergencies.
- To correlate knowledge with practice of mothers of under five children regarding first aid management of selected pediatric emergencies.
- To associate between knowledge and practice of mothers of under five children regarding first-aid management of selected pediatric emergencies with selected demographic variables.

- To develop a self instructional booklet regarding first-aid management of selected pediatric emergencies.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research methodology may be understood as a science of studying how research is done scientifically. In view of the nature of problem under study and to accomplish the stated objectives a descriptive approach was found to be appropriate. A non experimental descriptive research design was adopted. The study was conducted in Nadathara PHC, Thrissur. In this study population was the mothers of under five children who attended the well baby clinic of Nadathara PHC. The sample size was 60 mothers of under five children and they were selected by using non probability purposive sampling.

Description of the tool

The tool used for this study has 3 parts.

- Section A – Demographic proforma of mother which includes age of mother, educational status of mother, occupation of mother, number of children under the age of five, previous source of information regarding first aid management and previous experience in providing first aid management of selected pediatric emergencies.
- Section B – Structured questionnaire to assess the knowledge of mothers of under five children regarding first aid management of selected pediatric emergencies.
- Section C – Checklist to assess the practice of mothers of under five children regarding first aid management of selected pediatric emergencies.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

The results are presented in 7 sections:

Section A : Description on socio demographic proforma of mother

Section B : Description on the assessment of knowledge of mothers of under five children regarding first aid management of selected pediatric emergencies

Section C : Description on the assessment of components of knowledge of mothers of under five children regarding first aid management of selected pediatric emergencies

Section D : Description on the assessment of practice of mothers of under five children regarding first aid management of selected pediatric emergencies

Section E : Description on the correlation between knowledge and practice of mothers of under five children regarding first aid management of selected pediatric emergencies

Section F : Description on the association between knowledge regarding first aid management of selected pediatric emergencies with selected demographic variables

Section G : Description on the association between practice regarding first aid management of selected pediatric emergencies with selected demographic variables



Section A : Description on socio demographic proforma of mother

Considering the age, 23 (38.4%) of mothers were of 21-25 years, 27 (45%) of them were of 26-30 years, 8 (13.3%) of them were of 31-35 years and 2 (3.3%) of them were above 35 years of age. Regarding the educational status of mother, about 18 (30%) of them had received school education, 27 (45%) of them had received higher secondary education and only 15(25%) of them were graduates. With regard to the occupation, 38 (63.3%) of the mothers were housewives, 5 (8.4%) of the mothers were professionals, 9 (15%) of the mothers were Government employees and 8 (13.3%) of the mothers belong to other categories.

With regard to the number of children under the age of five, 44 (73.3%) had only one child, 15 (25%) had 2 children under the age of five and only 1 (1.7%) had 3 children under the age of five. Considering the previous source of information regarding first aid management of selected pediatric emergencies it reveals that 30 (50%) of them had received information from family members, 7 (11.7%) of them had received information from mass media, 22 (36.6%) of them had received information from health professionals and 1 (1.7%) of them had received information from other sources. With regard to previous experience in providing first aid management of selected pediatric emergencies, 20 (33.3%) of mothers of under five children had previous experience in providing first aid management of selected pediatric emergencies whereas 40 (66.7%) of mothers of under five children did not have previous experience in providing first aid management of selected pediatric emergencies.

Section B : Description on the assessment of knowledge of mothers of under five children regarding first aid management of selected pediatric emergencies

Out of 60 samples, 21(35%) of mothers possessed inadequate knowledge regarding first aid management of selected pediatric emergencies, 33(55%) of mothers possessed moderate knowledge regarding first aid management of selected pediatric emergencies and only 6(10%) of them possessed adequate knowledge regarding first aid management of selected pediatric emergencies. It depicts that majority of the mothers (55%) belong to the category of moderate knowledge.

Section C : Description on the assessment of components of knowledge of mothers of under five children regarding first aid management of selected pediatric emergencies

With regard to the first aid management for drowning 20 (16.7%) of the mothers possessed inadequate knowledge, whereas 20 (33.3%) of the mothers possessed moderate knowledge and 30 (50%) of the mothers possessed adequate knowledge.

Regarding the first aid management for snake bite 28 (46.7%) of the mothers possessed inadequate

knowledge, 18 (30%) of the mothers possessed moderate knowledge and 14 (23.3%) of the mothers possessed adequate knowledge.

Considering the first aid management for seizures, 46 (76.7%) of the mothers possessed inadequate knowledge, 8 (13.3%) of the mothers possessed moderate knowledge and 6 (10%) of the mothers possessed adequate knowledge.

On account of the first aid management for foreign body aspiration, 8 (13.3%) of the mothers possessed inadequate knowledge, 23 (38.4%) of the mothers possessed moderate knowledge and 29 (48.3%) of the mothers possessed adequate knowledge.

Thus the above analysis summarizes that out of 60 samples, 76.7% of the mothers possessed inadequate knowledge regarding first aid management for seizures.

Section D - Description on the assessment of practice of mothers of under five children regarding first aid management of selected pediatric emergencies

It reveals that 49(81.7%) of the mothers of under five children were classified under the category of fair practice, 11(18.3%) of the mothers of under five children were classified under the category of good practice and there were no mothers under the category of poor practice.

Section E - Description on correlation between knowledge and practice of mothers of under five children regarding first aid management of selected pediatric emergencies

There is a positive correlation between knowledge and practice of mothers of under five children regarding first aid management of selected pediatric emergencies which means that with an increase in knowledge there is an increase in the practice among mothers of under five children regarding first aid management of pediatric emergencies.

Section F : Description on the association between knowledge regarding first aid management of selected pediatric emergencies with selected demographic variables

This section depicts that there is association between knowledge of mothers of under five children regarding first aid management of selected pediatric emergencies with occupation of mother ($\chi^2 = 10.25$, $p < 0.01$) whereas there is no association with other demographic variables like age of mother ($\chi^2 = 0.32$, $p > 0.05$), educational status of mother ($\chi^2 = 1.99$, $p > 0.05$), previous source of information regarding first aid management of selected pediatric emergencies ($\chi^2 = 0.73$, $p > 0.05$) and previous experience in providing first aid management of selected pediatric emergencies ($\chi^2 = 2.97$, $p > 0.05$)

Section G : Description on the association between practice regarding first aid management of selected



pediatric emergencies with selected demographic variables

It is found that there is only association between practice of mothers of under five children regarding first aid management of selected pediatric emergencies with occupation of mother ($\chi^2 = 4.22, p < 0.05$) whereas there is no association with other demographic variables like age of mother ($\chi^2 = 5.32, p > 0.05$), educational status of mother ($\chi^2 = 1.92, p > 0.05$), previous source of information regarding first aid management of selected pediatric emergencies ($\chi^2 = 2.3, p > 0.05$) and previous experience in providing first aid management of selected pediatric emergencies ($\chi^2 = 0.22, p > 0.05$)

NURSING IMPLICATIONS

The findings of this study has several implications in the field of nursing practice, nursing education, administration and research

Nursing practice

Nurses play a major role in promoting health of the under five children by their various extended and expanded roles. The findings of this study can help the nursing personnel to plan and provide health education to parents of children regarding first aid management of pediatric emergencies. The nurses working in the emergency department should be given inservice education regarding first aid management of pediatric emergencies.

Nursing education

Nursing curriculum consists of the theoretical and practical training provided to nurses in order to prepare them for their duties as nursing care professionals. As a nurse educator, there are abundant opportunities for nursing professionals to educate mothers on the importance of knowing regarding first aid management of pediatric emergencies. In the nursing curriculum the

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present study topic should be given special emphasis so as to impart knowledge and specific skills regarding first aid management of pediatric emergencies.

Nursing administration

Nurse administrators can take initiatives to impart an inservice education programme especially for the pediatric nurses so as to improve their knowledge and skill in providing first aid management during any pediatric emergency. They can also make sure that self instructional booklet is being implemented in the hospitals.

Nursing research

Research is very important for the growth of nursing profession. An extended and intensive research on the knowledge of mothers will help to reduce the mortality that may occur due to the pediatric emergencies. Studies can be insured for further references and further research studies

CONCLUSION

Children are the windows of vulnerability to emergencies. In today's high tech world there are dangers for children everywhere. Inorder to develop a healthy society it is essential to have healthier children The under five children are the vulnerable or special risk group in any population deserving special health care because of their immaturity. Since most of the pediatric emergencies occur at home and its surroundings it is necessary that the primary caregivers usually the mothers must possess a good knowledge and practice regarding first aid.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No Interest

