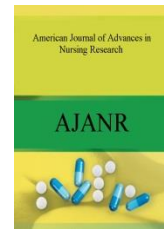




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ASSESS THE EFFECTIVENESS OF STRUCTURED TEACHING PROGRAMME ON KNOWLEDGE REGARDING DENTAL CARIES AMONG SCHOOL CHILDREN IN A SELECTED HOSPITAL AT KOLLAM DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT

The aim of the study was to assess the effect of structured teaching programme on knowledge regarding dental caries among school children in a selected hospital at Kollam district. The objectives of the study were to assess the knowledge regarding prevention of dental caries among school children in a selected hospital, Kollam. To evaluate the effectiveness of structured teaching programme on prevention of dental caries among school children, and to find the association between pretest knowledge regarding prevention of dental caries and selected socio demographic variables. In the present study one group pretest posttest design was used. The sampling technique used was convenience sampling. The tool was developed and the content validity and reliability of the tool were assessed. Pilot study conducted. Immediately after the pretest structured teaching programme was administered. After 7 days post test was conducted using the same questionnaire. The findings showed that there was a significant improvement in the post test knowledge level of school children.

INTRODUCTION

School age children represent about 25% of total population. The size of population suggests that health care of school children can contribute to the overall health status of the country. The health and wellbeing of school age children has become a high profile issue lying at the heart of numerous government initiatives and policies receiving considerable public attention. Since all the permanent teeth [except wisdom teeth] erupt during preschooler period, dental health is of particular importance during this stage of development. Ideally children should receive regular preventive dental care and supervision in daily hygienic care from the time the teeth

being erupt. Dental caries is one of the most common chronic diseases that afflict mankind at all ages; it is principle oral problem in children among schooler.

Dental caries is a common disease during childhood in India. Significant groups within the population remain in need of oral health care. Over 40% of the children in India are found to be afflicted with dental caries and a large percentage of children reside in rural areas and most of them are in the need of dental care.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To assess the knowledge regarding dental caries among school children.
2. To evaluate the effectiveness of structured teaching programme regarding dental caries among School children.

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Research Article



3. To find the association between pretest Knowledge scores regarding dental caries among School children with selected socio demographic variables.

HYPOTHESIS

- There is statistically significant difference in the pretest and posttest knowledge scores regarding dental caries.
- There is statistically significant association between selected socio demographic variables with pretest knowledge scores regarding dental caries among school children.

METHODOLOGY

Research Approach: Quantitative approach

Research Design: One group pretest posttest design

Research Setting: The present study was conducted in a selected hospital at Kollam.

Population: School children between the age group of 6 to 12 years.

Sample: School children at Kollam District

Sample size: 20

Sampling technique: Convenience sampling

Tools: Baseline proforma and self-administering questionnaire

Part 1: Baseline proforma of the child consists of age, sex, education of the parents, occupation of the parents, previous knowledge regarding dental caries.

Part 2: It is named “structured knowledge questionnaire on dental caries” it consist 25 multiple choice questions.

Method of data collection

1. Selected the children as per the sampling criteria. Investigator self-introduction given. The tool was given to the school children and thus pretest was conducted.
2. Immediately after the pretest structured teaching programme was administered.
3. After 7 days post test was conducted.
4. The data thus collected was set to statistical analysis.

Data analysis

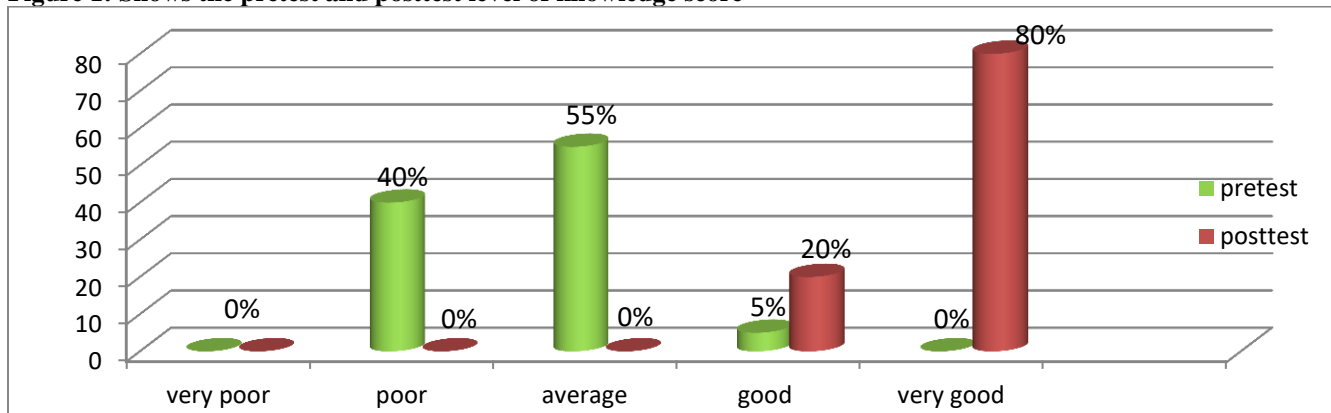
1. Descriptive: frequency, percentage, mean and standard deviation
2. Inferential: Paired t test and chi square.

Table 1. Shows the effectiveness of structured teaching programme.

| Aspects | Mean | SD | t value | P value |
|----------|-------|-------|---------|--------------|
| Pretest | 10.75 | 2.593 | | |
| posttest | 22.05 | 1.877 | 15.193 | 0.00* |

t19= *Significant at 0.01 level

Figure 1: Shows the pretest and posttest level of knowledge score



RESULTS

Data collected were tabulated, analyzed and interpreted. Paired t test was used to test the effect of structured teaching programme, and the t value 15.193 was found to be significant at 0.01 levels (19 degree of freedom). The mean percentage of posttest knowledge scores (22.05%) was significantly higher than the mean percentage of pretest knowledge scores (10.75%). In the pretest children had average level knowledge, which was

changed to very good level in the post test. Hence the structured teaching programme was effective. There was significant increase in the knowledge among School Children

DISCUSSION

In the present study the first hypothesis (H1) was accepted, because the t value was 15.193, and that was significant at $p < 0.01$. Also the mean percentage of



posttest knowledge scores (22.05%) was significantly higher than the mean percentage of pretest knowledge scores (10.75%) of the School children. Thus it was interpreted that the intervention was effective in improving the knowledge level of the School children.

NURSING IMPLICATIONS

Nursing service

Nurse can take classes to School children, the school health nurse can support the children to learn about dental caries. Public health nurse can conduct the awareness programme regarding dental caries to the children in the community settings.

Nursing Education

Nurse educators can prepare the nursing students to educate the children regarding dental caries. Nurse educators should educate the nursing personnel and peripheral health workers regarding the importance of dental caries in children. Nursing students can be motivated to conduct the awareness programme on improving knowledge and attitude towards dental caries in the various settings.

Nursing administration

Nurse administrators have added opportunities in providing continuing education programme for pediatric nurses regarding dental caries in children. Workshops should be planned for pediatric nurses, parents, and school teachers.

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Nursing Research

Further research on assessing the knowledge and practice of school children. Further research on comparison of children between the urban and rural areas.

LIMITATIONS

1. The study was limited to one hospital.
2. Generalization of the findings was difficult because of small sample size.
3. The study did not have a control group.
4. The tool used was not a standardized one. The investigator prepared the tool.

RECOMMENDATIONS

A similar study can be conducted using different sampling technique with a larger sample size and different age groups. Study can be conducted in the community settings with the parents of children. Study can be conducted to assess the practice of dental hygiene.

CONCLUSION

The present study aimed to assess knowledge regarding dental caries in children, Provide structured teaching programme regarding dental caries. So that the students can follow proper dental hygiene practices. In order to test the effect of structured teaching programme, paired t test was used and the value was statistically significant at 0.01 levels. The mean post test score was much higher than the mean pretest score, and so the structured teaching programme regarding dental caries in children was effective.

