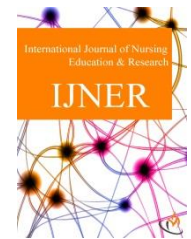




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EFFECTIVENESS OF SELF-INSTRUCTIONAL MODULE ON FIRST AID AND SAFETY KNOWLEDGE AMONG SCHOOL CHILDREN: A STUDY ON KNOWLEDGE ACQUISITION AND UNDERSTANDING

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ABSTRACT

This study aimed to evaluate the effectiveness of a Self-Instructional Module (SIM) on knowledge regarding first aid and safety measures among school children. As children grow into adults, they continue to acquire skills and values that will keep them successful in the future. Family factors, such as parental expectations, guidance, and stimulation, have a major impact on the development of these children. It was important for parents to assist their children in learning skills and developing a moral perspective. Furthermore, children are constantly receiving new information and ideas from a variety of sources outside their immediate families, such as teachers, friends' parents, the media, and educational materials. Ideally, children were recognized as unique individuals with unique abilities and needs. The purpose of the study was to assess how the SIM intervention influenced the knowledge acquisition and understanding of first aid and safety measures among school students.

INTRODUCTION

Over the past century, focus of health has shifted to disease prevention, health promotion and wellness. Today, society is complex and ever changing. As children grow, they must learn not only to cope with the current demands but also to prepare for many unexpected events that they will face in their tomorrows. School age Children become more independent with age. This independence leads to an increased self-confidence and decreased fears, which may contribute to accidents and injuries. Children are the gift to this world; and hence it is the responsibility of the society to nurture and take care of them. Children are the young people who represent the country in future. Their health needs are vital and they share the entitlement to good health and quality health services to the rest of the community.

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Children and adolescents have the right to knowledge and skill about health in the Universal Declaration of children's rights. School children continue to learn the values and competencies which they will bring in to the adult world. Their continued achievement depends on a variety of family factors, including parental expectation, stimulation and guidance. Therefore parents assist the children to develop their skills and conscience towards their understanding. School age children are very active at home, in the community and at the school. This increased activity and time away from parents increases the risk for unintentional injuries. The death rate in children between 5 to 10 years of age is less than younger children. Each year, 20% to 25% of all children sustain an injury to seek medical attention or to miss the school. The aim of this study is to assess the level of knowledge on first aid and safety measures among school children, evaluate the effectiveness of a self-instructional module by comparing the pretest and posttest knowledge of school children, and investigate the association between the level of knowledge and selected demographic variables such



as age, family income, type of family, family size, religion, place of residence, food habits, parent education, and occupation status among school children regarding first aid and safety measures.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research Design: This study adopts a pre-experimental design with one group pretest and posttest assessment.

Population: The population under study comprises school children attending the 5th and 6th standard.

Sample: The sample for this study consists of school children enrolled in the 5th and 6th standard students who meet the inclusion criteria.

Sampling Technique: Convenient sampling technique will be utilized for the selection of participants.

Data Collection: Structured Knowledge Questionnaires will be employed for data collection.

Intervention: The intervention involves assessing the pretest level of knowledge regarding first aid and safety measures among the participants.

Posttest Assessment: Following the intervention, a posttest assessment will be conducted to evaluate any changes in the participants' levels of knowledge.

Criteria for selection of Children

- **Inclusion criteria**
 - ✓ School children who were in (5th and 6th) std.
 - ✓ School children who were willing to participate in the study
 - ✓ School children could speak, understand, read and write Tamil.
- **Exclusion criteria:**
 - ✓ School children who were absent during the study.
 - ✓ School children who were sick during the study period.
 - ✓ School children who were participate in pilot study.

Tool development:

Section A of the study comprises demographic data, including age, family income, type of family, family size, religion, place of residence, food habits, parent education, and parents' occupation status, aimed at assessing their influence on first aid and safety measures

among school children. Section B involves a structured knowledge questionnaire consisting of 20 items pertaining to first aid and safety measures. Additionally, a Self-Instructional Module regarding first aid and safety measures is provided to the participants.

The data presented in the table indicates the distribution of knowledge levels among school children regarding first aid and safety measures. Among the participants, 18% were classified as having poor knowledge in this domain. The majority of the school children, comprising 80% of the sample, were categorized as having average knowledge. Only one school child, which represents 1% of the total, demonstrated good to excellent knowledge levels in first aid and safety measures.

According to the data presented in the table, the majority of school children, constituting 46% of the sample, demonstrated good knowledge regarding first aid and safety measures in the post-test assessment. Additionally, 53% of the children exhibited excellent knowledge levels in this domain. Only one participant, accounting for 1% of the total, was classified as having average knowledge in the post-test evaluation.

The results indicate a significant improvement in the level of knowledge regarding first aid and safety measures among school children following the intervention. Prior to the intervention, the mean knowledge score was 4.76 with a standard deviation of 1.43, suggesting a relatively low level of understanding among the participants. However, after the intervention, the mean knowledge score substantially increased to 16.74, with a reduced standard deviation of 1.17. This considerable increase in mean knowledge score reflects the effectiveness of the intervention in enhancing the participants' understanding of first aid and safety measures. The narrower standard deviation in the post-test scores also suggests a more homogeneous distribution of knowledge levels among the participants following the intervention. This improvement in knowledge levels is crucial for equipping school children with the necessary skills and information to respond effectively to emergencies and ensure their safety. The findings underscore the importance of implementing educational interventions, such as self-instructional modules, to promote knowledge acquisition and enhance awareness of first aid and safety measures among school children.

Table 1: Pre-test Knowledge level among children (Frequency and Percentage Distribution) (n=100)

| Level of Knowledge | PRE TEST | |
|--------------------|----------|---------|
| | F | Percent |
| Very poor | 0 | 0 |
| poor | 18 | 18 |
| Average | 80 | 80 |
| Good | 1 | 1 |
| Excellent | 1 | 1 |



Table 2: Post-test Knowledge level among children (Frequency and Percentage Distribution)

| Level of Knowledge | POST TEST | |
|--------------------|-----------|---------|
| | F | Percent |
| Very poor | 0 | 0 |
| poor | 0 | 0 |
| Average | 1 | 1 |
| Good | 46 | 46 |
| Excellent | 53 | 53 |

TABLE 3: Pre and Post Knowledge level among selected children (Mean±SD)

| LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE | PRE TEST | | POST TEST | |
|--------------------|----------|------|-----------|------|
| | MEAN | SD | MEAN | SD |
| | 4.76 | 1.43 | 16.74 | 1.17 |

CONCLUSIONS

The study focused on evaluating the knowledge of school children concerning first aid and safety measures, revealing initially inadequate levels of understanding among the participants. However, following the implementation of the Self-Instructional Module, a significant improvement in knowledge was observed. This outcome underscores the effectiveness of the educational intervention in enhancing

school children's awareness and comprehension of first aid and safety measures. Consequently, the study concludes that the Self-Instructional Module proved to be an effective tool for improving knowledge levels in this domain among school children. Such interventions play a crucial role in equipping children with essential skills and information to respond appropriately to emergencies and ensure their safety in various situations.

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