

## A STUDY TO ASSESS THE KNOWLEDGE ON CHILD ABUSE AMONG MOTHERS OF ADOLESCENT GIRLS

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### ABSTRACT

The objective of this study is to assess the knowledge on child abuse among mothers of adolescent girls. Descriptive study design has been used for this study. The population chosen for the study was mothers of adolescent girls at keezhakasakudi karaikal. The total of 50 mothers of adolescent girls were used convenience sampling technique selected for this study. Consent from all the mothers of adolescent girls obtained and interview was conducted using semi structured questionnaire. **Results:** The study revealed that most of the mothers had inadequate knowledge. Among 50 mothers 66% had inadequate knowledge, 24% had moderate knowledge and 10% had adequate knowledge. The total score knowledge of mother and Mean & SD was (10±3) which is held 66% that reveals the mothers of adolescent girls had inadequate knowledge regarding child abuse. There was highly significant association with selected demographic variables such as educational status, occupation, types of family, sources of information, number of children number of male children and number of female children except age, income of the family and religion.

### INTRODUCTION

Child maltreatment is prevalent in all over world and in India also. It is known that for many victims, the impact of this abuse can be devastating, and endure into adulthood. The adverse consequences of child maltreatment can include acute feelings of betrayal, powerlessness, stigmatization, guilt and traumatic sexualisation as well as difficulties in forming and maintaining relationship and also cause mental health related problems and physical health problem. It also imposes substantial costs to the society. More than 15 years child sexual abuse has increasingly

been present as a public health problem, but there is no reason that we cannot stop child sexual abuse before it occurs. Because it requires effort from all area of society: from central government to local communities: from journalists to parents, from teacher to children.

Everyone should understand what child maltreatment is and should know how they can be a part of preventing it. Society also has more obligation to eliminate this offense and ensure that all children can grow up safely. Rising awareness and increasing children's knowledge about child maltreatment and effects can help to prevent the victims of child maltreatment.

### **NEED FOR THE STUDY**

Millions of children worldwide are victims of maltreatment in every year. INDIA has the world's largest number of maltreated children.

The IndianBusinessTimes UK (14 Feb 2012) stated that SOUTH AFRICA stands first with the highest rate of Child Sexual Abuse (CSA). Because many people in South Africa believe that sex with a virgin can heal someone from HIV/AIDS.

Ministry of Women and Child development Government of India (2007) reported that for every **155 minute** a child, less than 16 years is raped; for every **13<sup>th</sup> hour child under 10**, and **one in every 10 child** is sexually abused at any point of time.

In India, Non-Government Organization (2007) reported majority (76%) of the participants being abused during childhood and adolescence period. A survey by UNICEF (United Nations International Children Education Fund) on demographic and health was conducted in India from 2005 to 2013, which reported that ten parents of Indian girls might have experienced sexual violence when they were 10-14 years of age and 30% during 15 -19 years of age. Overall nearly 42% of Indian girls have gone through the trauma of sexual violence before their

teenage. The WHO (2010) estimated that 73 million boys and 150 million girls under the age of 18 years had experienced various forms of sexual violence.

Based on this evidence the researcher felt that it is vital to make awareness among the mother of adolescent girls in order to prevent child maltreatment.

### **STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

A study to assess the knowledge on child abuse among mothers of adolescent girls in selected community at Karaikal.

### **OBJECTIVES**

1. To assess the knowledge on child abuse among mothers of adolescent girls
2. To associate the knowledge on child abuse among mothers of adolescent girls with selected demographic variables.
3. To preparing an educational booklet for preparing the mothers to prevent child abuse among mothers of adolescent girls.

### **METHODOLOGY**

#### **Research design**

A descriptive study design was chosen for this study

#### **Setting of the study**

Keezakasakudi, karaikal

#### **Target population**

Mothers of adolescent girls

**Sampling technique**

Convenience sampling technique was used to select the subjects for this study

**Sample size**

A total sample of 50 mothers of adolescent girls who met the inclusion criteria

**Method of Data collection**

Semi structured interview method was adopted by the investigator

**Inclusion criteria**

Mothers who are willing to participate

Mothers with early adolescent girls of aged between 11 to 14 years

**Exclusion criteria**

Mothers who are with only male child.

Mothers who are having psychological and physical problems

**Description of data collection tool**

The instrument consist of two parts:

**Part – A** Deals with demographic variables such as age, education, income etc. of study participants

**Part – B** Assessment of mothers knowledge on child abuse

**Scoring and its interpretation**

Inadequate Knowledge - < 50%

Moderate Knowledge - 51 – 75%

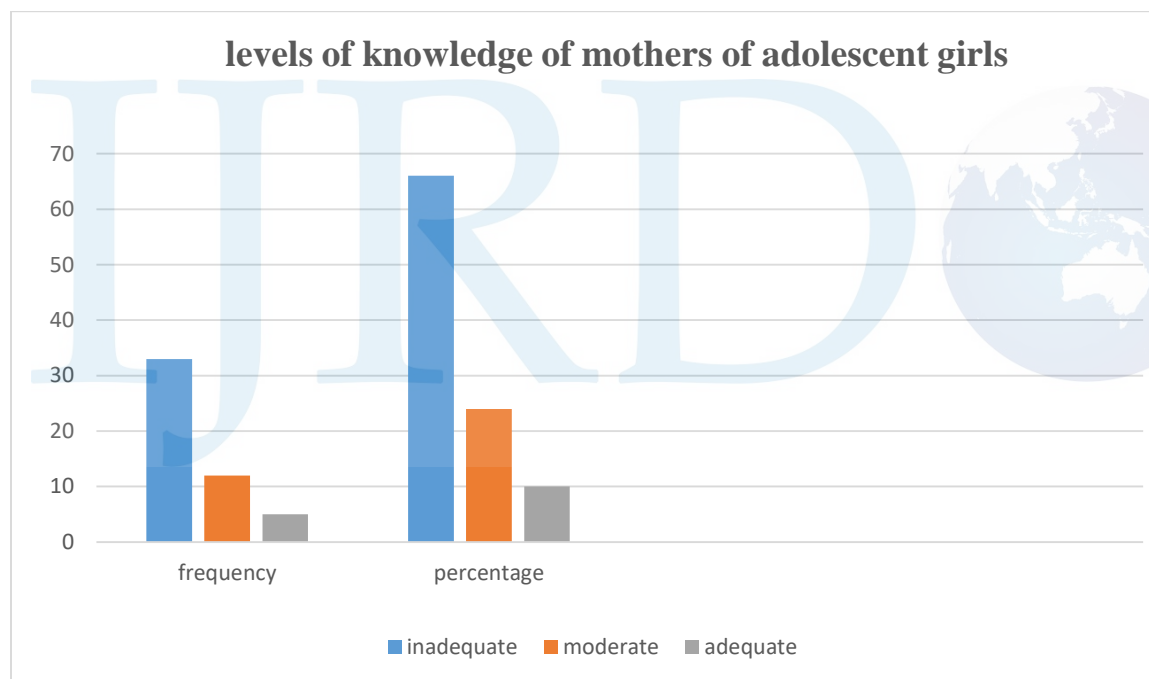
Adequate Knowledge - > 76%

### Data analysis

The data collected grouped and analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics.

**TABLE 1: LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE OF MOTHERS OF ADOLESCENT GIRLS**

**N=50**



**TABLE 2: ASSOCIATION OF MOTHERS KNOWLEDGE WITH SELECTED DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES**

**N=50**

Demographic Variables	Inadequate		Moderate		Adequate		Total	$\chi^2$ - Value	P-value
	f	%	f	%	f	%			
<b>1. Age</b>									
(i). Less than 30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.681	0.613 (NS)
(ii). 31-35	10	30.3	1	8.3	1	20	12		
(iii). 36-40	10	30.3	4	33.3	2	40	16		
(iv) 41 and above	13	39.4	7	58.3	2	40	22		
<b>2. Educational Status</b>									
(i). Illiterate	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50	0.000** (S)
(ii). Primary Level	25	75.8	-	-	-	-	25		
(iii). Secondary level	8	24.2	-	-	-	-	8		
(iv) Higher Secondary and above	0	-	12	100	5	100	17		
<b>3. Occupation</b>									
(i). House wife	25	75.8	-	-	-	-	25	68.52	0.000** (S)
(ii). Government employee	-	-	8	66.7	-	-	8		
(iii). Private employee	-	-	4	33.3	5	100	9		
(iv) Coolie/Self employed	8	24.2	-	-	-	-	8		
<b>4. Income of family</b>									
(i). < 5,000	1	3	1	8.3	-	-	2	8.18	0.225 (NS)
(ii). 5001- 10,000	10	30.3	1	8.3	1	20	12		
(iii). 1001 - 15,000	15	45.5	3	25	3	60	21		
(iv) >15000	7	21.2	7	58.3	1	20	15		

<b>5. Type of family</b>									
(i).Nuclear family	5	15.2	6	50	4	80	15	20.58	0.000** (S)
(ii) Joint family	23	69.7	1	8.3	-	-	24		
(iii) Separated/Divorce	5	15.2	5	4.7	1	20	11		
(iv) Extended family	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
<b>6. Religion</b>								5.27	0.260 (NS)
(i). Hindu	16	48.5	5	41.7	1	20	25		
(ii). Christian	12	36.4	7	41.7	4	80	20		
(iii). Muslim	5	15.1	-	58.3	1	20	5		
(iv)Others	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
<b>7. Source of Information</b>								20.29	0.000** (S)
(i). Newspapers & Magazine	10	30.3	8	66.7	-	-	18		
(ii). Mass Media	8	24.2	4	33.3	5	100	17		
(iii). Health Professional	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
(iv)Friends & relative	15	45.5	-	-	-	-	15		
<b>8. Number of children</b>								8.78	0.000** (S)
(i). 0-1	9	27.3	3	25	2	40	14		
(ii) 1	9	27.3	7	58.3	3	60	19		
(iii) 2	9	27.3	-	-	-	-	9		
(iv) 3& above	6	18.1	2	16.7	-	-	8		
<b>9. Number of Male child</b>								24.65	0.000** (S)
(i). 0	2	6.1	6	50	5	100	13		
(ii). 1	20	60.6	4	33.3	-	-	24		
(iii). 2	11	33.3	2	16.7	-	-	13		
(iv) 3& above	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
<b>10. Number of Female child</b>								6.32	0.000** (S)
(i). 0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
(ii). 1	2	45.5	8	66.7	-	-	23		
(iii). 2	3	54.5	4	33.3	5	100	27		
(iv) 3& above	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		

\*\*:- Significant ( $p < 0.05$ )

## RESULTS

The study revealed that most of the mothers had inadequate knowledge. Among 50 mothers 66% had inadequate knowledge, 24% had moderate knowledge and 10% had adequate knowledge.

The total score knowledge of mother and Mean & SD was (10±3) which is held 66% that reveals the mothers of adolescent girls had inadequate knowledge regarding child abuse.

There was highly significant association with selected demographic variables such as educational status, occupation, types of family, sources of information, number of children number of male children and number of female children except age, income of the family and religion.

## CONCLUSION

In this study most of the mothers of adolescent girls had inadequate knowledge on child abuse. Health team members should explain about child abuse and how to prevent the child abuse. So a booklet was developed on prevention of child abuse and handed over to all the participants. Past, Present, and Future Child maltreatment prevention efforts have grown and changed substantially over the last half century. They have moved beyond a public awareness approach to one that emphasizes the vital role of community, early intervention services, and caregiver education to help keep children safe from abuse and neglect. There is growing recognition that child maltreatment is a substantial public health concern as well as a serious social problem. This issue brief presents prevention as the most important means of keeping children safe from abuse and neglect and highlights current best practices and emerging trends in the child protection field.



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