



EFFECT OF STRUCTURED TEACHING PROGRAMME ON KNOWLEDGE OF CHILD ABUSE AMONG TEACHERS IN SELECTED PRIMARY SCHOOL OF MUMBAI CITY

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ABSTRACT

Child Abuse was and continues to be, one of the most heinous crimes designed and perpetuated by human beings against some of the most vulnerable and defenseless sections of the community. A quantitative pre-experimental one group pre-test post-test study was conducted among 50 subjects. Subjects were primary school teachers selected by convenient sampling and study was carried out at selected primary school. A structured questionnaire tool was developed for the study, along with a structured teaching program. A self – report method for the data collection was used. Investigator conducted a pre–test, followed by structured teaching was performed. After 7 days post-test was conducted. The data was compiled, edited, coded, analyzed and interpreted on the basis of descriptive and inferential statistics. Study result showed that the structured teaching program was significantly effective in improving knowledge of teachers regarding child abuse.

KEY WORDS: Child abuse, Physical abuse, Sexual abuse, Emotional abuse, Child neglect, Primary school teachers,

INTRODUCTION:

According to the World Health Organization,1“Child maltreatment, sometimes referred to as child abuse and neglect, includes all forms of physical and emotional ill-treatment, sexual abuse, neglect, and exploitation that results in actual or potential harm to the child's health, development or dignity. Within this broad definition, five subtypes can be distinguished – physical abuse; sexual abuse; neglect and negligent treatment; emotional abuse and exploitation”.

Child abuse/neglect is found in families of all socioeconomic levels and ethnic groups and often goes unreported. A variety of risk factors exist for child abuse/neglect. Primary among them is parental substance abuse. State child welfare records indicate that substance abuse is one of the top two problems exhibited by families in 81% of reported cases.

In India, as in many other countries, there has been no understanding of the extent, magnitude and trends of the problem of child abuse. The growing complexities of life and the dramatic changes brought about by socio-economic transitions in India have played a major role in increasing the vulnerability of children to various and newer forms of abuse. Child abuse has serious physical and psycho-social consequences which adversely affect the health and overall well-being of a child.2

Child abuse across the India

Ministry of Women and Child Development3 published the "Study on Child Abuse: India 2007 it sampled 12,447 children, 2,324 young adults and 2,449 stakeholders across 13 states. It looked at different forms of child abuse: physical abuse, sexual abuse and emotional abuse and girl child neglect in the evidence group, children in a family environment. The study's main findings included:

- 53.22% of children reported having faced sexual abuse. Among them 52.94% were boys and 47.06% girls. Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar and Maharashtra reported the highest percentage of sexual abuse among both boys and girls, as well as the highest incidence of sexual assaults.
- 21.90% of child respondents faced severe forms of sexual abuse, 5.69% had been sexually assaulted and 50.76% reported other forms of sexual abuse.
- The study also reported that 50% of abusers are known to the child or in a position of trust and responsibility, 60 % of them are their siblings and most children had not reported the matter to anyone.
- Every two out of three school children reported facing corporal (physical) punishment. In juvenile justice institutions, 70.21 % of children in conflict with law and 52.86% of children in need of care and protection reported having been physically abused.

According to UNICEF4 across the world, more than 150 million girls and 70 million boys have witnessed forced sexual intercourse or other forms of violence involving physical contact. About 19% of the world's children live in India constituting 42% of India's population. Child sexual abuse is so often hidden, the statistics vary widely. The research that has been done shows that it is widespread and has a devastating impact on families and communities: As many as one in three girls and one in seven boys will be sexually abused at some point in their

childhood.

A government commissioned survey has found that more than 53% of children in India are subjected to sexual abuse, but most don't report the assaults to anyone. The survey, which covered different forms of child abuse: physical, sexual and emotional as well as female child neglect, found that two out of every three children have been physically abused. Parents and relatives, persons known to the child or in a position of trust and responsibility were mostly found to be the perpetrators of child sexual abuse in the country.5

MATERIAL AND METHODS

A quantitative pre-experimental approach with one group pre-test post-test design used. 50 primary school teachers selected as subjects by convenient sampling and study was carried out at selected primary school. A structured questionnaire of 24 items was developed for the study, along with a structured teaching program and validated by experts.

The tool was found to be reliable on the basis of the r value, calculated by the Pearson Correlation Coefficient method. A self – report method for the data collection was used. Investigator conducted a pre–test, followed by structured teaching was given. After 7 days post test was conducted. The data was compiled, edited, coded, analyzed and interpreted on the basis of descriptive and inferential statistics.

RESULTS

Table1. Demographic Characteristics of Subjects

(n= 50)

Demographic characteristics	Group	f	%
Age in years	21 to 30 yrs	12	24
	31 to 40	28	56
	41 to 50	10	20
Gender	Male	6	12
	Female	44	88
Education	Secondary	6	12
	Higher- Secondary	24	48
	Any other	20	40
Job Profile	Government	8	16
	Private	42	84
Marital Status	Married	45	90
	Unmarried	5	10
Type of Family	Nuclear	24	48
	Joint	26	52
Family income	Below 10,000	7	14
	10,001 to 15000	3	6
	15,001 to 20,000	14	28
	Above 20,000	26	52
Religion	Hindu	47	94
	Christian	2	4
	Any other(Buddhist)	1	2

Table 1 shows frequency distribution of socio-demographic characteristics of subjects.

Table No 2 Pre-test & Post- test knowledge level score of primary school teachers regarding child abuse.

(n=50)

Knowledge grade	Pre-test		Post-test	
	F	%	F	%
Inadequate	24	47	5	10
Adequate	26	53	45	90
Total	50	100	50	100

Table 4 shows that none of the demographic variable was found to have significant association with knowledge of teachers.

DISCUSSION

The study findings reveal that only 53% teachers had adequate knowledge regarding child abuse in pre-test. In post-test 90% teachers showed adequate knowledge level. Pretest mean score was 12.9 which increased to 18 in post-test. The calculated t-value was found to be 10.5; inferring that the structured teaching program was significantly effective in improving knowledge of teachers regarding child abuse there was no significant association found with any of the demographic variable with knowledge of teachers.

CONCLUSION

The study concluded that the structured teaching program was very much effective in improving the knowledge of teachers regarding child abuse.

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Table No3 Effect of Structured Teaching on knowledge scores of primary school teachers regarding child abuse

(n=50)

Knowledge score	Mean	SD	SE	df	Calculated t value	Tabulated t value
Pre-test	12.9	3.5	0.4	49	10.5	2.00*
Post-test	18	4.2				

*=Significant, @ df(49) as cal. t (10.5)>tab. t(2.00), at 0.005level

Table 4: Association of Pre-test knowledge level with selected demographic variables.

Demographic variable		Knowledge		p-value
		Inadequate	Adequate	
Age	21-30 years	5	7	0.424
	31-40 years	12	16	
	41-50 years	6	3	
	51-60 years	1	0	
Gender	Female	21	23	0.627
	Male	3	3	
Education	Higher Secondary	15	9	0.167
	Secondary	2	4	
	Any Other	7	13	
Job Profile	Government	2	6	0.188
	Private	22	19	
	Semi-Govt	0	1	
Marital Status	Married	22	23	0.539
	Unmarried	2	3	
Family Type	Joint	10	14	0.282
	Nuclear	14	12	
Family Income	Below Rs. 10000	4	3	0.571
	Rs. 10001-15000	2	1	
	Rs. 15001-20000	8	6	
	Above Rs. 20000	10	16	
Religion	Christian	1	1	0.735
	Hindu	22	25	
	Sikh	1	0	

Association of knowledge with demographic variables was assessed using Fisher's exact test shows that all the p-values are greater than 0.05, there is no evidence against null hypothesis. None of the demographic variable was found to have significant association with knowledge.

RESULTS

Demographics characteristics of teachers show that the majority (56%) teachers belonged to 31–40 years age group. Maximum (88%) were females, most of the participants (94%) were Hindus, (52%) teachers were from joint families, about (52%) teachers had family income > Rs.20000, Majority 48% were educated up to higher secondary, Maximum (84%) teachers were working in private schools, (90%) of them married.

Table 2 Shows that 53% teachers in pre-test had adequate knowledge and 47% had inadequate knowledge level. In post-test 90% showed adequate level of knowledge regarding child abuse.

Table 3 shows the effect of structured teaching on teacher's knowledge. The pre-test mean score of knowledge was 12.9, the post test mean increased to 18 with the calculated t-value was found to be 10.5; inferring that the structured teaching program was significantly effective in improving knowledge of teachers regarding child abuse.