

A Study to Assess the Knowledge Regarding Child Abuse and Its Prevention among Mothers of Under five Children in Selected Rural Community of Dehradun, Uttarakhand with A View to Develop an Informational Booklet

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Abstract-A study was done to assess the knowledge level of mothers of under five children regarding “child abuse and its prevention” in Jhivrehdi village of Bhuddi Gram Panchayat, Dehradun, Uttarakhand. A descriptive survey design was used for the study. The study samples were 200 mothers of under five children residing in Bhuddi village. Participants were selected by using non-probability convenient sampling technique. Self structured knowledge questionnaire was administered for the assessment. The study results shows that the majority of mothers 45(22.5%) having inadequate knowledge, 112 (56%) having moderate knowledge and only 43 (21.5%) having adequate knowledge. Area wise knowledge score shows that majority of mothers having adequate knowledge regarding child sexual abuse, followed by prevention of child abuse and child physical abuse with Mean 15.42, Mean percentage 51.4 and standard deviation 5.44. The Chi-Square test done at 0.05 level of significance revealed association of knowledge score with all the demographic variables i.e. age of mothers, educational status, religion, occupation, number of children in the family, family income, type of family and source of previous knowledge.

Findings stress the need for teaching programs and awareness campaigns, which in turns may enhance the overall knowledge regarding the child abuse and its prevention.

Keywords: Knowledge, child abuse, mothers, under five children, information booklet.

INTRODUCTION

“Childhood should be carefree, playing in the sun; not living a nightmare in the darkness of the soul .¹

Dave Pelzer.

Children are vital to the nation’s present and its future. Children constitute foundation of a nation. Healthy children grow to become healthy adults with optimal physical strength and emotional poise to become useful member of society and contribute effectively in

nation building process. Childhood period should be carefree time of life filled with love, with new worlds to explore, and with joy of mastery of oneself and the environment. For many children this is a dream not the reality. Child abuse is the most significant social problem in the worldwide. The prevalence of child abuse is increasing in children in urban and rural India. It is very often found in small children.²

According to WHO: "Child abuse or maltreatment constitutes all forms of physical and/or emotional ill-treatment, sexual abuse, neglect or negligent treatment or commercial or other exploitation, resulting in actual or potential harm to the child's health, survival, development or dignity in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power. This can include parents, caretakers using extreme and bizarre form of punishment such as confinement in a closet or dark room or being tied to a chair for long periods of time or threatening or terrorizing a child. Despite the absence of reliable global estimates for the prevalence of it as data, especially from low- and middle-income countries, various international studies reveal that approximately 20% of women and 5–10% of men report being sexually abused as children, while 25–50% of all children report being physically abused³. UN report releases shocking child abuse statistics in Australia during 2006. It is estimated that from the approximate 4 million population under the age of 14years up to 600,000 Australian children have been abused⁴. According to report in 2013, Child Sexual Assault in Juvenile Justice Homes, the Asian Centre for Human Rights said that sexual offences against children in India have reached epidemic proportion. The report stated that more than 48,000 child rape cases were recorded from 2001 to 2011 and that India saw an increase of 336% of child rape cases from 2001 (2,113 cases) to 2011 (7,112 cases).⁵

Child sexual abuse can occur in a variety of places, including home, school or work places. Most child abuse occurs within the family. Risk factors include one parent child, broken families, family issues, work frustration, a parental history of childhood abuse, and domestic violence. Child neglect and mistreatment is also more common in families living in poverty and among young parents who are drug or alcohol abusers. Although it is certainly true that child abuse occurs outside the home, most often children are abused by a caregiver or someone they know, not a stranger. High prevalence levels of child abuse, neglect and labor is primarily attributable to the fact that primary education for children is not compulsory in India.⁶

Children generally have fewer rights than adults and are classed as unable to make decision and legally must always be under the care and responsibility of a parent or adult or child custody if the parent's divorce or not. There are many social issues that affect children, such as childhood education, bullying, poverty, dysfunctional, child labor, and in developing countries, hunger.⁷

Child abuse is the physical, sexual or emotional maltreatment of the child. Child abuse is any activity that is done forcefully against the child's will. The World Health Organization (WHO) distinguishes four types of child abuse i.e., physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, and neglect.⁸

The Center for Disease control and Prevention (CDC) define child maltreatment as any act or series of acts of commission or omission by a parent or other caregiver that results in harm, potential for harm, or threat of harm to a child. There are four major categories of child abuse: neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse and emotional abuse.

Physical abuse is defined as inflicting of physical injury upon a child. This may include, burning, hitting, punching, shaking, kicking, beating, or otherwise harming a child. The parent or care taker may not have intended to hurt the child, the injury is not an accident. It may, have been the result of over discipline or physical punishment that is inappropriate to the child's age.

Sexual abuse is the inappropriate sexual behavior with a child. It includes fondling a child's genitals, making the child fondle the adult's genitals, intercourse, incest, rape, sodomy, exhibitionism and sexual exploitation.

Emotional abuse (also known as: verbal abuse, mental abuse and psychological maltreatment) includes acts or the failures to act by parents or caretakers using extreme and bizarre forms of punishment, such as confinement in a closet or dark room or being tied to a chair for a long period of time or threatening or terrorizing a child.

Child neglect is a form of child abuse, it is define as deficit in meeting a child's basic needs, including the failure to provide adequate health care, supervision, clothing, nutrition, housing as well as their physical, emotional, social, educational and safety needs.⁹

Child abuse is a serious and common problem in and around the nation. Studies have suggested that up to one in four girls and one in eight boys will be sexually abused before they are eighteen years old.¹⁰

Dehradun, despite emerging as one of the safest state in the country in terms of crime rate, Uttarakhand has witnessed over 2000% rise in crimes against children since 2010, according to the latest data released by National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB). While the Himalayan state had reported only 31 cases of crime against children in 2010, the incidence against children soared to 676 cases in 2016, an almost 2080% rise in six years. A significant rise of 38% between 2015 and 2018 has also been witnessed. In 2015, state police registered 635 such cases, while in 2014, 489 cases were registered.¹¹

In comparison to other Himalayan states, Uttarakhand, with 676 registered cases, has a reason to worry as other states such as Himachal Pradesh (467), Jammu and Kashmir (222), Sikkim (110) and Arunachal Pradesh (133) registering much lower incidents. The rate of recognizable crime against children has also gone upto 17.6% from just 0.3% in the year 2010 in the state. Due to rise in number of cases, the state's ranking has also dropped to 18, according to the latest NCRB report, from 25 in the year 2018 in the category of crime against children. Kidnapping and abduction accounted for over 55% of total crime cases registered against children in Uttarakhand with 436 cases, followed by 21- cases under POCSO Act for 91 incidents of child rape and 35 cases of sexual assault of children.¹²

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

“ A study to assess the knowledge level regarding child abuse and its prevention among mothers of under

five children in selected rural community, Dehradun with a view to develop an informational booklet.”

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the study are

- To assess the knowledge of mothers regarding child abuse and its prevention.
- To find out the association between the knowledge of mothers regarding prevention of child abuse with the selected socio – demographic variables.
- To develop an informational booklet on preventive measures of child abuse.

ASSUMPTIONS

1. Under five age group children are at risk of child abuse.
2. Mothers of under five children may have some knowledge regarding child abuse and its prevention.
3. Booklet on preventive measures of child abuse can improve mothers knowledge.

HYPOTHESIS

A hypothesis is a statement of the researcher’s expectation about relationship between variables under investigation. In other word, it is a prediction of expected outcomes.²⁹

The hypothesis will be tested at ($p < 0.05$) level of significant.

H₁: There is significant association between the knowledge of mothers regarding child abuse and its prevention with the selected socio-demographic variables.

OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS

1. **KNOWLEDGE:** In this study, the knowledge refers to obtained the information from mothers of under five year children regarding child abuse and its prevention.
2. **MOTHER:** In this study, it refers to mothers having children in the under five age group.
3. **UNDER FIVE CHILDREN:** In this study, it refers to children in the age group of 0-5 years of age.
4. **CHILD ABUSE:** In this study, child abuse refers to maltreatment of children which include physical abuse, sexual abuse and emotional abuse.

5. **PREVENTION:** In this study, prevention refers to taking prior action to stop the happening of child abuse.
6. **INFORMATION BOOKLET:** In this study, information booklet refers to small book containing information regarding child abuse and its preventive measures.

DELIMITATIONS

1. Study is delimited to mothers of under five children residing in selected rural community.
2. Mothers present at the time of study.
3. Mothers who are willing to participate in the study.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

RESEARCH APPROACH

The investigator employed survey approach in this study to assess the knowledge level regarding child abuse and its prevention among mothers of under five children.

RESEARCH DESIGN

The research design is an overall plan for obtaining answer to the research questions for testing the research hypothesis. In this study the researcher has adopted nonexperimental descriptive research design.

RESEARCH VARIABLES

The variables included in the study were research variables and extraneous variables.

1. **Research variables:** In this study the research variables are the knowledge level of mothers regarding child abuse and its prevention.
2. **Extraneous variables:** In this study, the extraneous variables are age, education status, occupation, family income, type of family, number of children in the family, previous knowledge gain through.

SETTING OF THE STUDY

The study was conducted in selected rural community i.e. Jhivereddi village of Bhuddi Gram Panchayat, Dehradun, Uttarakhand. Formal permission was taken from the Gram Pradhan of the Bhuddi Gram Panchayat. This setting was selected on the basis of feasibility and availability of the sample.

POPULATION

In the present study, the target population is mothers of under five children residing in Jhivveredi village of Bhuddi Gram Panchayat, Dehradun, Uttarakhand.

SAMPLE AND SAMPLE SIZE

In the present study the sample comprised of mothers of under five children of Jhivveredi village and who were willing to participate and were present during the period of investigation.

Sample size taken for the present study was 200 mothers of under five-year children.

SAMPLING TECHNIQUE

The method used for sample selection of this study was Nonprobability Purposive sampling technique.

CRITERIA FOR SAMPLE SELECTION

All the subjects who fulfill the following set criteria were included in the study.

Inclusion criteria:

- Mothers who were willing to participate in the study.
- Mothers who were available in the house at the time of data collection.
- Mothers who were able to read and write Hindi and English.
- Mothers having children under five years of age.

Exclusion criteria:

- Mothers who are not willing to participate in the study.
- Mothers who are not available at the time of data collection.
- Mothers having any physical and mental illness.

RESEARCH INSTRUMENT

An instrument termed as “self-structured questionnaire on child abuse and its prevention” was used to assess the knowledge of mothers of under five-year children. And another is “socio-demographic tool”. In this way, the instrument was divided into two parts.

The tools consist of:-

- **TOOL 1: SOCIO DEMOGRAPHIC DATA**

It consists of self-structured questionnaire with 8 statements to record the demographic data of the subjects. It includes age, education, religion, occupation, family monthly income, number of

children in the family, type of the family and previous knowledge gain through.

- **TOOL 2: STRUCTURED KNOWLEDGE QUESTIONNAIRE**

It contains structured questionnaire with 30 statements on child abuse and its prevention in the area of General abuse, physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse and prevention of child abuse.

DESCRIPTION OF THE TOOL

Tool 1: It consist of self structured questionnaire with 8 statements to record the demographic data of the subjects. It includes age of mothers in years, education, religion, occupation, family monthly income, number of children in the family, type of the family and previous knowledge gain through.

Tool 2: It consist of self structured questionnaire to assess the the knowledge of mothers regarding child abuse and its prevention. It has five parts.

Part A: It deals with the questions related to general child abuse. This consist of 9 close ended questions (Q.No. 1-9). Each questions having one correct response. One mark was given for correct response and ‘zero’ marks was given for wrong response. Total score for this part is 9.

Part B: It deals with the questions related to child physical abuse. This consist of 6 close ended questions (Q.No. 10-15). Each questions having one correct response. One mark was given for correct response and ‘zero’ marks was given for wrong response. Total score for this part is 6.

Part C: It deals with the questions related to child sexual abuse. This consist of 5 close ended questions (Q.No. 16-20). Each questions having one correct response. One mark was given for correct response and ‘zero’ marks was given for wrong response. Total score for this part is 5.

Part D: It deals with the questions related to child emotional abuse. This consist of 4 close ended questions (Q.No. 21-24). Each questions having one correct response. One mark was given for correct response and ‘zero’ marks was given for wrong response. Total score for this part is 4.

Part E: It deals with the questions related to prevention of child abuse. This consist of 6 close ended questions (Q.No. 25-30). Each questions having one correct response. One mark was given for correct response

and 'zero' marks was given for wrong response. Total score for this part is 6.

Total score of knowledge questionnaire was 30.

SCORING INTERPRETATION

S.NO.	KNOWLEDGE LEVEL	PERCENTAGE	SCORE RANGE
1.	INADEQUATE	0-33%	0-10
2.	MODERATE	34-66%	11-20
3.	ADEQUATE	67-100%	21-30

VALIDITY OF THE TOOL

Validity was established by adopting two techniques: content validity and criterion validity.

Content validity

Content validity is the important concern for evaluating any instrument. To ensure the content validity, tool along with the objectives and criterion checklist were given to 6 experts in the field of nursing. The experts were selected on the basis for their experience and clinical expertise. The expert were given a criteria checklist and requites to give their suggestion regarding accuracy and appropriateness of the item. Out of 35 items 30 items were supported by all the experts. The formula used to determine the percentage of agreement was as follow:
 Percentage of agreement = $\frac{\text{Number of raters agreeing} \times 100}{\text{Total number of raters}}$

Criterion based validity

To establish the criterion-based validity, the instrument was administered to 20 mothers of under five-year children residing in the jhivereddi village of Bhuddi gram panchayat, Dehradun.

RELIABILITY OF THE TOOL

In order to establish the reliability of the test split half method was used. The tool was administered to 20 mothers of under five children from selected rural community. The reliability was established by dividing the item of self-structured questionnaire on child abuse and its prevention into two halves while pooling the odd and even number item on two different scores. The correlation between the two halves was obtained by using Sparmen’s brown prophecy formula. The reliability coefficient of questionnaire was $r = 0.8$ ($p < 0.05$) which is significant, so the tool was found to be highly reliable for data collection.

PILOT STUDY

This study is conducted to obtain information for improving the main project or for assessing its feasibility and to test the reliability of the tools. Pilot study was conducted in a selected rural community from 22nd may to 26th may, 2019 in order to check the feasibility and practicability of the study. The investigator obtained the written permission from the concerned authorities. And verbal consent was taken from the samples prior to the study. Topic of the study was explained to the subjects and confidentiality was assured. Tool was administered to 20 samples who fulfilled the criteria for selection. Questionnaire was administered to each mother. They were asked to place a tick mark against the specific alphabet whichever they felt correct. Time taken for obtaining information from each mother was around 15-20 minutes. For each correct response, a score of 1 was given. Based on the score, the mothers were grouped as inadequate, moderate and adequate in their level of knowledge. It was found that the level of knowledge among mothers of under five children regarding child abuse is significant $r = .08$ ($p < 0.05$).

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

The data collected was organized and presented under following sections:

Section 1: Description of the Socio demographic variables of the subjects.

Section 2:

Part: 1 Finding the Mean, Mean % and standard Deviation of the data.

Part: 2 Finding the knowledge level of the mother of under five-year children

Section 3: Deals with association between the knowledge of mothers regarding prevention of child abuse with the selected socio – demographic variables
 Section – 1

Description of Socio-demographic variables of the subjects

It deals with demographic data which consists of 08 items to collect the sample characteristics, which comprises, Age of the mother (in year), Education of the mother, Religion, Occupation of the mother, Family Monthly income, Number of child in the family, Type of family, previous knowledge gain through.

Table - 1: Distribution of mothers of under five children according to Age N=200

Age of mother (in years)	Frequency	Percentage (%)
20-25	40	20 %
26-30	80	40 %
31-35	73	36.5 %
36-40	7	3.5 %
Total	200	100 %

Table-1 shows the distribution of subjects according to age. The data revealed that 40 % (80) of mothers' were in the age group of 26-30 years followed by 36.5 % (73) of mothers' were in the age group of 31-35 years, 20 % (40) of mothers' were in the age group of 20-25 years and 3.5 % (7) of mothers belongs to 35-40 years.

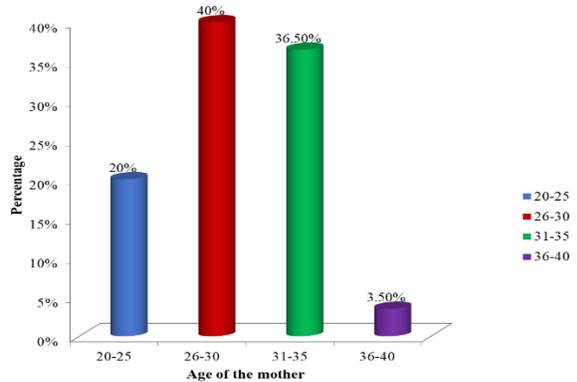


Figure – 3: Distribution of subjects by age

Table- 2: Distribution of mothers of under five children according to Education

N=200

Education of Mother	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Illiterate	0	0 %
Primary education	36	18 %
Secondary education	114	57 %
Graduation	50	25 %
Total	200	100 %

Table-2 depicts that among the mothers of under five-year children 57 % (114) of them had secondary education and 25 % (50) with graduation and 18 % (36) were have primary education.

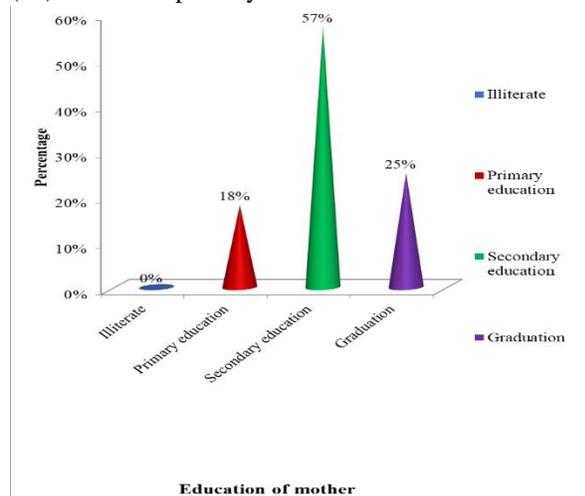


Figure - 4: Distribution of subjects by Education

Table - 3: Distribution of mother of under five children according to Religion

N=200

Religion	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Hindu	147	73.5 %
Muslim	53	26.5 %
Shikh	0	0 %
Christian	0	0 %
Total	200	100 %

Table - 3 shows that majority 73.5 % (147) of subjects belongs to Hindu religion and 26.5 % (53) of subjects were belongs to Muslim.

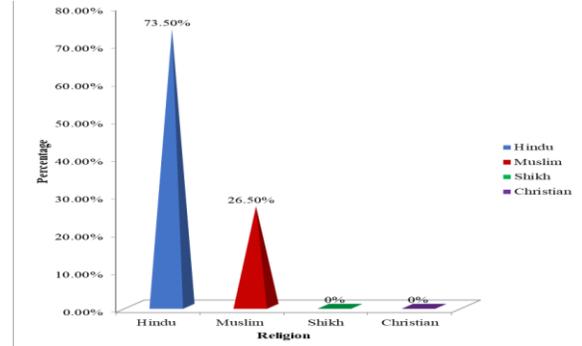


Figure- 5: Distribution of Subjects by Religion

Table- 4: Distribution of mothers of under five children according to Occupation

N=200

Occupation of Mother'	Frequency	Percentage (%)
House wife	159	79.5 %
Government Employee	6	3 %
Non-government Employee	23	11.5 %
Self employ	12	6 %
Total	200	100 %

Table 4 reveals that the majority 79.5 % (159) of subject's were Housewife, 11.5 % (23) of subjects were non-government employee, 6 % (12) were self employ and 3 % (6) of subjects were Government employee.

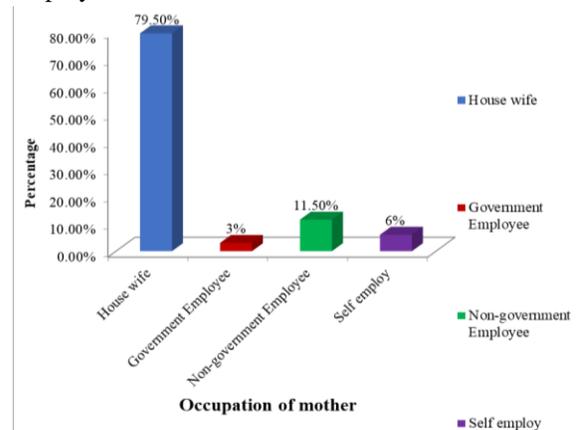


Figure - 6: Distribution of Subjects by Occupation

Table - 5: Distribution of mother of under five children according to Monthly Income of Family

N=200

Monthly Income of Family	Frequency	Percentage (%)
less than Rs.5,000/-	30	15 %
Rs.5,001 to Rs.10,000/-	84	42 %
more than Rs. 10,001/-	86	43 %
Total	200	100 %

Table-5 projected the data on the distribution of subject by Monthly Income of Family. It revealed that 43 % (86) having monthly income of family more than Rs.10001/- followed by 42 % (84) were having Rs.5001/- to Rs.10000/- and 15 % (30) have less than Rs.5000/- monthly income.

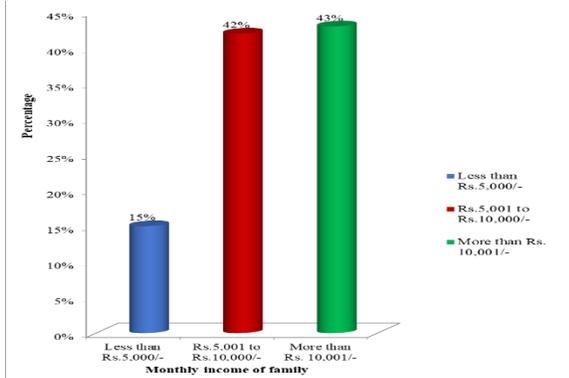


Figure - 7: Distribution of Subject by Monthly Income of Family

Table - 6: Distribution of mothers of under five children according to Number of child in the family

N=200

Number of child in the family	Frequency	Percentage (%)
One	37	18.5 %
Two	110	55 %
Three	49	24.5 %
More than three	4	2 %
Total	200	100 %

The table 6 depicts that majority 55 % (110) of mothers having two children in the family, 24.5 % (49) of them having three children in the family, 18.5 % (37) having one child in the family and remaining 2 % (4) of them having more than three children in the family.

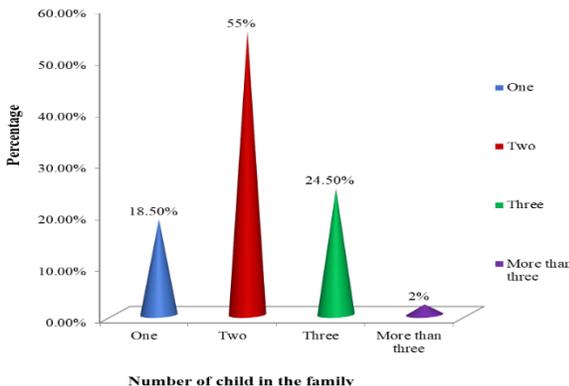


Figure - 8: Distribution of Subjects by Number of children in the family

Table - 7: Distribution of mothers of under five children according to Type of family

N=200

Type of family	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Nuclear family	53	26.5 %
Joint family	147	73.5 %
Extended family	0	0 %
Total	200	100 %

Table-7 shows that the majority 73.5 % (147) of the subjects was living in joint family and remaining 26.5 % (53) of them live in nuclear family.

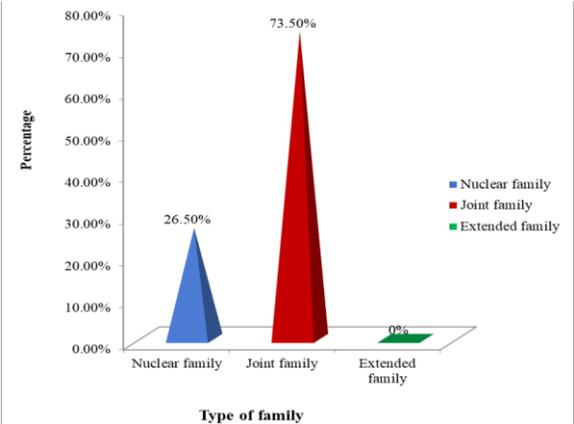


Figure - 9: Distribution of Subject by type of family

Table - 8: Distribution of mothers of under five children according to Source of Previous knowledge gain through

N=200

Previous knowledge gain through	Frequency	Percentage(%)
Internet	49	24.5 %
Television	149	74.5 %
Friends	2	1 %
Books and News paper	0	0 %
Total	200	100 %

The table 8 reveals that majority 74.5 % (149) of the mothers of under five-year children receive information from television, 24.5 % (49) were from Internet and 1 percent (2) receive information from friends.

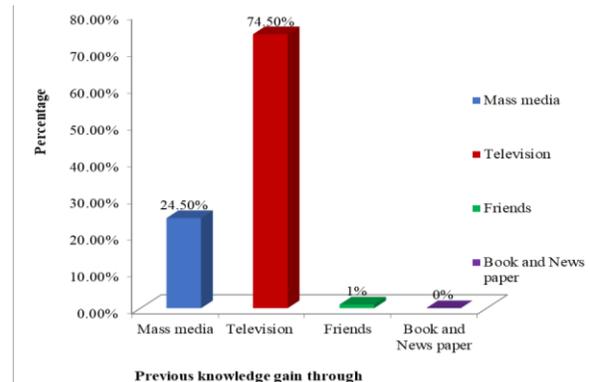


Figure - 9: Distribution of Subject by Previous knowledge gain through.

Section - 2:

Part 1:- Finding the Mean, Mean % and standard Deviation of the data.

Table 9:- Mean, Mean % and standard Deviation of the knowledge score

N=200				
Knowledge aspect	No. of questions	Mean	Mean percentage	SD
General child abuse	9	3.94	43.78	2.19
Child physical abuse	5	2.46	49.2	1.22
Child sexual abuse	6	4.31	71.83	1.50
Child emotional abuse	4	1.61	40.25	0.94
Prevention of child abuse	6	3.09	51.5	1.49
Total	30	15.42	51.4	5.44

Table 9 depicts that the maximum mean percentage obtained by the Mothers of under five year children is in the aspect of child sexual abuse (71.83%), followed by Prevention of child abuse (51.5%), Child physical abuse (49.2%), general child abuse (43.78%) and child emotional abuse (40.25%). Therefore overall knowledge mean scores of respondents were found to be 15.42, mean percentage 51.4% with standard deviation 5.44.

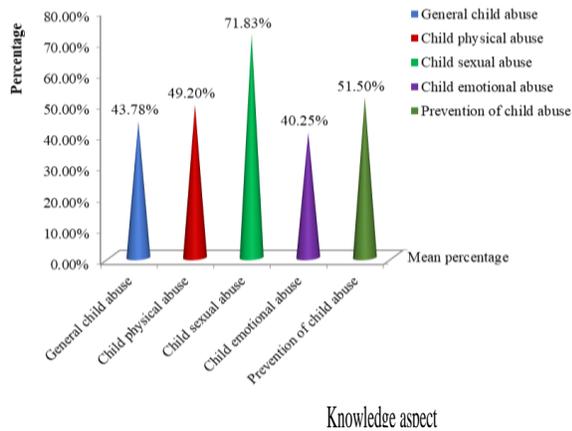


Figure - 10: Area wise knowledge and attitude scores of Mothers of under five children.

Part 2: - Finding the knowledge level of the mother of under five year children.

Table 10:- Knowledge level of the mother of under five year children.

N=200			
Knowledge level	Score range	Frequency	Percentage
Inadequate knowledge (0-33%)	0-10	45	22.5%
Moderate knowledge (34-66%)	11-20	112	56%
Adequate knowledge (67-100%)	20-30	43	21.5%

Table 10 depicts that majority 56 % (112) of the mothers of under five year children had Moderate knowledge, 22.5 % (45) had inadequate knowledge and remaining 21.5 % (43) of them had adequate knowledge towards child abuse and its prevention.

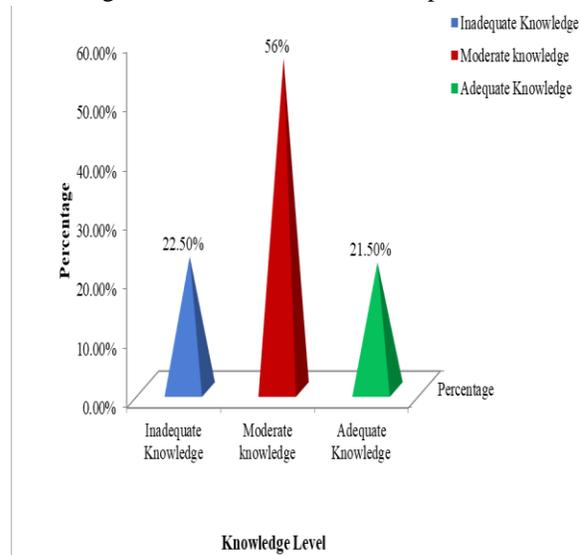


Figure - 11: Knowledge level of the mothers of under five year children.

Section 3: - Deals with association between the knowledge of mothers regarding prevention of child abuse and its prevention with socio demographic variables

Table 11:- Association between knowledge of mother with selected socio demographic variables.

N= 200							
Variable	Inadequate	Moderate	Adequate	Df	Chi-square value	P value	Inference
Age of the mother (in years)							
20 to 25	8	14	18	6	23.218	0.001	S
26 to 30	14	49	17				
31 to 35	21	46	6				
36 to 40	2	3	2				
Total	45	112	43				
Education of the mother							
Primary education	16	20	0				

Variable	Inadequate	Moderate	Adequate	Df	Chi-square value	P value	Inference
Secondary education	28	76	10	4	87.102	0.000	S
Graduate and above	1	16	33				
Total	45	112	43				
Religion							
Hindu	31	76	40	2	10.182	0.005	S
Muslim	14	36	3				
Total	45	112	43				
Occupation of the mother							
House maker	43	96	20	6	49.287	0.000	S
Government employee	1	1	4				
Non-government employee	0	7	16				
Self employee	1	8	3				
Total	45	112	43				
Family Monthly income							
Less than Rs. 5000/-	10	18	2	4	26.169	0.000	S
Rs. 5001 to 10000/-	25	50	9				
More than 10,001/-	10	44	32				
Total	45	112	43				
Number of the children in the family							
One	7	12	18	6	40.302	0.000	S
Two	18	71	21				
Three	16	29	4				
More than three	4	0	0				
Total	45	112	43				
Type of family							
Nuclear family	8	29	16	2	4.311	0.116	NS
Joint family	37	83	27				
Total	45	112	43				
Previous knowledge gain through							
Mass media	2	21	26	4	47.898	0.000	S
Television	41	91	17				
Friend	2	0	0				
Total	45	112	443				

*Significant at 0.05 level.

S = Significant, NS = Not – Significant

The obtained chi – square value for Age of the mother (in year) ($\chi^2 = 23.218$, $p < 0.05$), Education of the mother ($\chi^2 = 87.102$, $p < 0.05$), Religion ($\chi^2 = 10.182$, $p < 0.05$), Occupation of the mother ($\chi^2 = 49.287$, $p < 0.05$), Family Monthly income ($\chi^2 = 26.169$, $p < 0.05$), Number of child in the family ($\chi^2 = 40.302$, $p < 0.05$), previous knowledge gain through ($\chi^2 = 47.898$, $p < 0.05$). The obtained p value for these variables is less than 0.05, which indicates that there is a significant association between Knowledge of mother regarding child abuse and its prevention with selected socio-demographic variables. Hence, the research hypothesis H_1 is accepted, and null hypothesis is rejected.

IMPLICATION OF THE STUDY

The present study emphasis on knowledge of mothers of under five-year children regarding child abuse and its prevention. This study has a number of implications in the nursing practice, nursing education, nursing administration and nursing research.

Nursing practice

From the present study it is found that the knowledge level of mothers in rural area is less. The investigator as a nurse felt the need that nurse should act as a facilitator to educate children, general population, teachers and parents regarding the effect of child abuse and its preventive measures. School based programs should be included in the regular school curriculum. This should be designed to teach children how to recognize threatening situations and to provide them with skills to protect themselves against abuse. Children should be taught how to tell an adult if they are asked to do something which they find uncomfortable. School programs vary widely in terms of their content and presentation and may also involves parents or caregivers. Children should develop knowledge and skills to protect themselves against abuse.

Nursing administrator

Nurse administrator can plan for periodic population-based surveys of the public regarding the child abuse. In-service education can be conducted for nurses on the detection and reporting of early signs and symptoms and the physical and psychological effects of the child abuse. The administrators should encourage the staff and students to carry out small project work in different population, so as to find out the factors influencing child abuse.

Nursing education

Nursing students must be able to recognize the importance of knowledge of mothers on child abuse. Nursing students can conduct educational programs, role play, workshops and campaign regarding child abuse and its prevention in the community to educate community health welfare.

Nursing research

The importance of research in nursing is to build the body of knowledge, the findings of the present study serve as the basis for the professional and the students to conduct further studies. Research helps the health care providers to develop a systematic problem-solving approach to improve and develop strategies to improve the awareness of child abuse and reduce the incidences.

DISCUSSION

The purpose of the study was to assess the level of knowledge regarding child abuse and its prevention among the mothers of under five children residing in the Jhiveredi village of Bhuddi Gram Panchayat, Dehradun. By Nonprobability convenient technique, 200 mothers were selected for the study. The collected data was analyzed by the percentage analysis, standard deviation and inferential analysis using chi square test.

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of the present study, it is concluded that most of the mothers obtained maximum mean percentage in the aspects of child sexual abuse (71.83%), followed by Prevention of child abuse (51.50%), and in child physical abuse obtained (49.25%) mean percentage, than in general child abuse (43.78%) and in emotional child abuse obtained (40.25%) mean percentage.

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