

A study to assess the knowledge and attitude regarding child sexual abuse and its reporting among parents of primary school children at selected primary school, Lucknow (U.P.)

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Abstract—

Introduction: Child sexual abuse is a serious issue affecting children's safety and well-being. Parents play a vital role in prevention and reporting. This study assesses the knowledge and attitude of parents of primary school children in Lucknow and explores associations with socio-demographic factors to enhance awareness and protective practices.

Objectives

The objectives of the study is

- i. To assess the knowledge and attitude regarding child sexual abuse and its reporting among the parents of primary school children at selected primary school, Lucknow.
- ii. To find out the association between the knowledge and attitude scores regarding child sexual abuse and its reporting among parents of primary school children at selected primary school with their selected socio demographic variables.
- iii. To Find out the correlation between knowledge and attitude regarding child sexual abuse and its reporting among the parents of primary school children

Methodology: A descriptive, non-experimental research design was adopted. The study was conducted at a selected primary school in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. A total of 80 parents of children aged 6–12 years were selected using non-probability purposive sampling. Data were collected using a self-structured knowledge questionnaire and a 5-point Likert scale to assess attitude. Descriptive and inferential statistics were used for data analysis.

Results: The study assessed parental knowledge and attitudes regarding child sexual abuse and its reporting. Findings revealed that 73.75% of parents had average knowledge, 12.5% had good knowledge, and 13.75% had poor knowledge regarding CSA and its reporting. In terms of attitude, 65% had a favorable attitude, and

35% had a moderately favorable attitude. A moderate positive correlation ($r = 0.388$, $p = 0.001$) was observed between knowledge and attitude scores. Significant associations were found between CSA and its reporting with parental education, age, and source of information.

Conclusion: The researcher concluded that most parents of primary school children (aged between 6–12 years) in Gaderian Purwa had a favorable attitude towards child sexual abuse (CSA) and its reporting, with many demonstrating supportive and proactive views. However, their overall knowledge on the CSA remained moderate. This contrast suggests that while there is a genuine willingness among parents to act against CSA, a lack of comprehensive understanding may hinder effective prevention and timely reporting. These findings underscore the need for targeted educational interventions aimed at parents. Strengthening both their awareness and existing positive attitudes through community-based programs is essential. Such initiatives can empower parents with the necessary knowledge and confidence to recognize, respond to, and report incidents of child sexual abuse more effectively.

Keywords— Assess; CSA; Knowledge; Attitude; Child sexual abuse; Reporting; Parents; Primary school; Awareness.

I. INTRODUCTION

A child is defined as any human being below the age of puberty or under 18 years of age, recognizing the distinct psychological and developmental differences from adults. According to the UN Population Prospects dataset (2021), there are approximately 2 billion children worldwide aged between 0 and 15 years.^[1]

In October 2024, UNICEF reported alarming statistics indicating that over 370 million girls and women globally—about 1 in 8—had experienced

rape or sexual assault before the age of 18. When including non-contact forms of sexual violence, such as online exploitation, this number escalated to 650 million, equating to 1 in 5 individuals.^[2]

In India, the prevalence of child sexual abuse is particularly concerning. A 2007 study by the Ministry of Women and Child Development revealed that more than 53% of children reported experiencing one or more forms of sexual abuse.^[3] This data highlights the alarming prevalence of abuse, affecting both boys and girls almost equally. Shockingly, most perpetrators are known to the victims—family members, friends, and neighbours.^[4]

A study conducted by the Indian Ministry of Women and Child Development in 2007 revealed that a shocking 53% of children reported experiencing some form of sexual abuse. This data highlights the alarming prevalence of child sexual abuse in the country. However, as noted earlier, societal reluctance to discuss the issue means the actual number of cases may be significantly higher than reported, leaving us with an incomplete understanding of the true extent of the problem.^[3]

Every year an estimate of 226 million children are born. About 27 million children are born each year in India, out of which 12 million are female. (UNICEF,2011) About 1 in 10 girls under the age

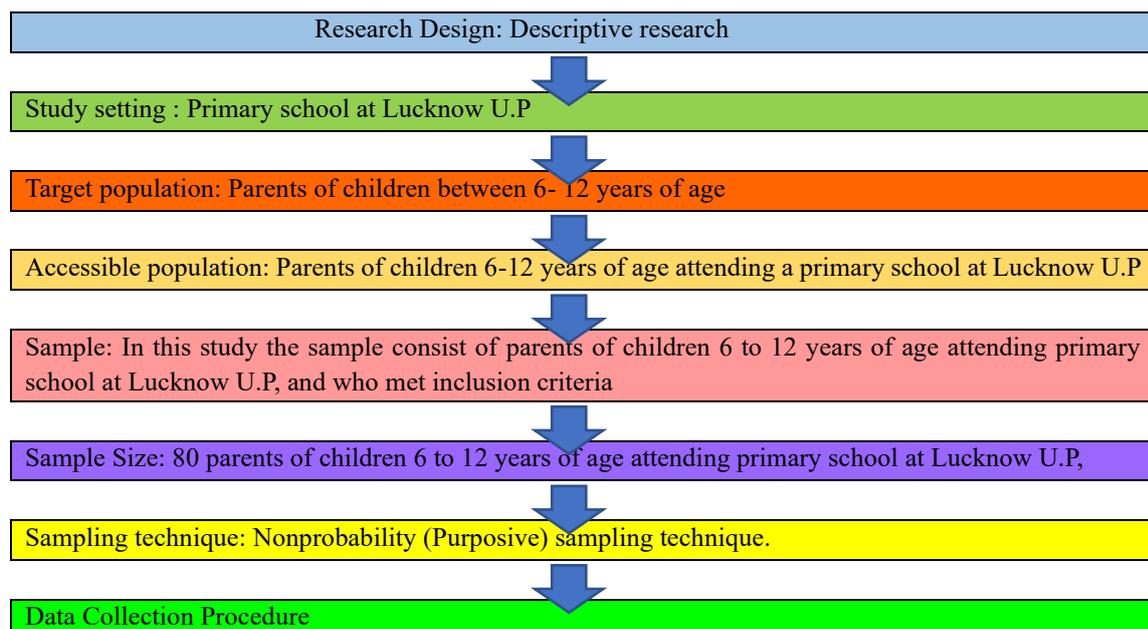
of 20 have been forced to engage in sex or perform other sexual acts”. In 90% of cases, the accused is known to the victim (UNICEF statistics 2022)^[13]

II. AIM OF THE STUDY

The aim of the study is to assess and describe the level of knowledge and awareness among parents about child sexual abuse and its reporting, in order to identify gaps and suggest the need for future educational interventions.

Objectives

- i. To assess the knowledge and attitude regarding child sexual abuse and its reporting among the parents of primary school children at selected primary school.
- ii. To find out the association between knowledge and attitude scores regarding child sexual abuse and its reporting among parents of primary school children at selected primary school with their selected socio demographic variables.
- iii. To Find out the correlation between knowledge and attitude regarding child sexual abuse and its reporting among the parents of primary school children



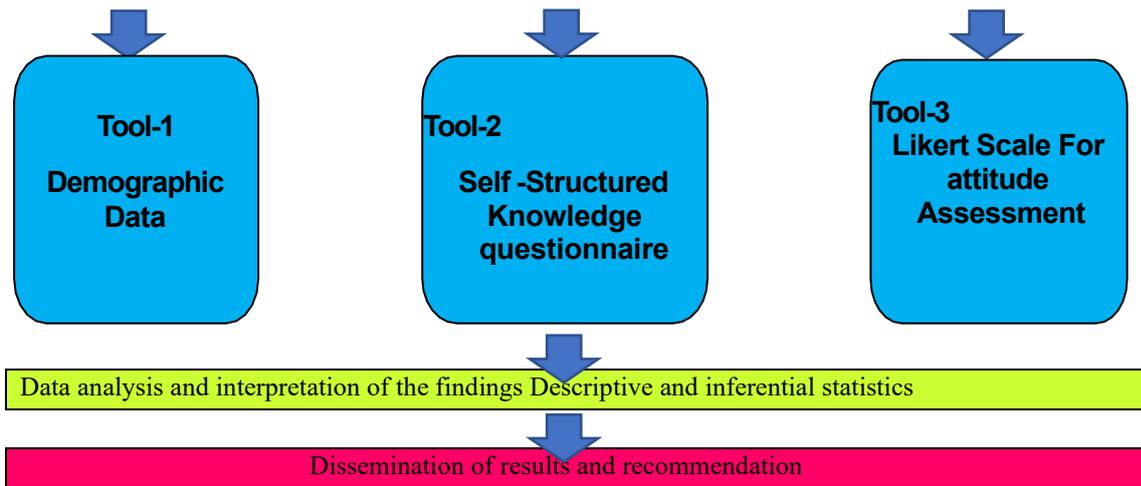


Fig:1 SCHEMATIC REPRESENTATION OF METHODOLOGY

Table 1; Frequency and percentage distribution of parents of primary school children according to socio-demographic variables

(N=80)

Sl. No.	Socio-demographic Variables		Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
1	Age of Parents	Less than 25 Years	5	6.25
		26 – 35 Years	33	41.25
		36 – 45 Years	33	41.25
		46 Years and above	9	11.25
2	Gender of Parents	Male	25	31.25
		Female	55	68.75
		Transgender	0	0.00
3	Educational status of Father	No formal education	8	10.00
		Primary	25	31.25
		Secondary and higher secondary	23	28.75
		Graduation and above	24	30.00
4	Educational status of Mother	No formal education	14	17.50
		Primary	31	38.75
		Secondary and higher secondary	22	27.50
		Graduation and above	13	16.25
5	Residential Area	Urban	79	98.75
		Rural	1	1.25
6	Occupation of Father	House maker	0	0.00
		Self – employed or business	25	31.25
		Private employed	55	68.75
		Govt employed	0	0.00
7	Occupation of Mother	House maker	46	57.50
		Self – employed or business	7	8.75
		Private employed	27	33.75
		Govt employed	0	0.00
8	Monthly income of family (In Rupee)	Less than 10,000	6	7.50
		10,000 – 20,000	47	58.75

		20,001 – 30,000	13	16.25
		More than 30,000	14	17.50
9	Previous knowledge regarding child sexual abuse	Yes	65	81.25
		No	15	18.75
10	Source of information Regarding Child sexual abuse.	TV	21	26.25
		Newspaper	13	16.25
		Social Media	19	23.75
		No previous knowledge	15	18.75
		Family and Friends	12	15.00
11	Experienced or know someone who have ever experienced child sexual abuse?	Yes	28	35.00
		No	52	65.00

Table2.: level of knowledge regarding child sexual abuse and its reporting among parents of primary school Children

S. No.	Level of awareness	No.	%
1.	Poor (0-10)	11	13.75
2.	Average (11-20)	59	73.75
3.	Good (21-30)	10	12.50
	Total	80	100.0

Table 3: Descriptive statistics of knowledge scores regarding child sexual abuse and its reporting among parents of primary school Children. (N= 80)

Knowledge scores	
Mean	15.53
Median	16.00
SD	4.056
Minimum	7
Maximum	26

Table 4: Descriptive statistics for categories of level of knowledge regarding child sexual abuse and its reporting among parents of primary school Children. (N=80)

Level of knowledge	F	Mean	Median	SD	Min	Max
Poor	11	9.00	9.00	1.183	7	10
Average	59	15.64	16.00	2.531	11	20
Good	10	22.00	21.00	1.700	21	26
Total	80	15.53	16.00	4.056	7	26

Table 5- Descriptive statistics of level of attitude regarding child sexual abuse and its reporting among parents of primary school Children.

Attitude scores	
Mean	36.60
Median	37.00
SD	6.296
Minimum	24
Maximum	50

Table 6: Descriptive statistics for categories of attitude scores regarding child sexual abuse and its reporting among parents of primary school Children. (N=80)

Level of attitude	F	Mean	Median	SD	Min	Max
Unfavourable	0	-	-	-	-	-
Moderate	28	29.61	30.00	2.183	24	33
Favourable	52	40.37	39.00	4.192	34	50
Total	80	36.60	37.00	6.296	24	50

Table 7: Association of level of knowledge with demographic variables.

Socio-demographical variable			Level of Knowledge			Chi Square Value χ^2	DF	"P" Value	Result
			Poor	Average	Good				
Age of Parents	a.	Less than 25 Years	2	2	1	5.898	6	0.435	NS
	b.	26 – 35 Years	4	25	4				
	c.	36 – 45 Years	5	25	3				
	d.	46 Years and above	0	7	2				
Gender of Parents	a.	Male	3	18	4	0.452	2	0.798	NS
	b.	Female	8	41	6				
	c.	Transgender	0	0	0				
Educational status of Father	a.	No formal education	2	6	0	12.584	6	0.050	S
	b.	Primary	7	17	1				
	c.	Secondary and higher secondary	2	17	4				
	d.	Graduation and above	0	19	5				
Educational status of Mother	a.	No formal education	2	12	0	16.957	6	0.009	S
	b.	Primary	9	19	3				
	c.	Secondary and higher secondary	0	19	3				
	d.	Graduation and above	0	9	4				

Socio-demographical variable			Level of Knowledge			Chi Square χ^2 Value	DF	"p" Value	Result
			Poor	Average	Good				
Residential Area	a.	Urban	11	58	10	0.360	2	0.835	NS
	b.	Rural	0	1	0				
Occupation of Father	a.	House maker				1.074	2	0.584	NS
	b.	Self – employed or business	2	20	3				
	c.	Private employed	9	39	7				
	d.	Govt employed							
Occupation of Mother	a.	House maker	5	34	7	4.676	4	0.322	NS
	b.	Self – employed or business	0	7	0				
	c.	Private employed	6	18	3				
	d.	Govt employed	0	0	0				
Monthly income of family (In rupee)	a.	Less than 10,000	2	3	1	8.919	6	0.178	NS
	b.	10,000 – 20,000	9	33	5				
	c.	20,001 – 30,000	0	12	1				
	d.	More than 30,000	0	11	3				
Previous knowledge regarding child sexual abuse	a.	Yes	8	48	9	1.027	2	0.598	NS
	b.	No	3	11	1				

NS = p value non-significant at 0.05 level of significance S = p value significant at 0.05 level significance

Table 8: Association of level of attitude with demographic variables.

Socio-demographical variable			Level of Attitude			Chi Square Value χ^2	DF	"P" Value	Result
			Unfavourable	Moderate	Favourable				
Age of Parents	a.	Less than 25 Years	0	2	3	9.013	3	0.029	S
	b.	26 – 35 Years	0	8	25				

	c.	36 – 45 Years	0	11	22				
	d.	46 Years and above	0	7	2				
Gender of Parents	a.	Male	0	8	17	0.144	1	0.704	NS
	b.	Female	0	20	35				
	c.	Transgender	0	0	0				
Educational status of Father	a.	No formal education	0	7	1	19.549	3	0.001	S
	b.	Primary	0	13	12				
	c.	Secondary and higher secondary	0	4	19				
	d.	Graduation and above	0	4	20				

Socio demographic variable			Unfavorable	Moderate	Favourable	Chi square χ^2	DF	P value	Result
Educational status of Mother	a.	No formal education	0	10	4	10.538	3	0.015	S
	b.	Primary	0	10	21				
	c.	Secondary and higher secondary	0	5	17				
	d.	Graduation and above	0	3	10				
Residential Area	a.	Urban	0	28	51	0.545	1	0.460	NS
	b.	Rural	0	0	1				
Occupation of Father	a.	House maker	0	0	0	0.783	1	0.376	NS
	b.	Self – employed or business	0	7	18				
	c.	Private employed	0	21	34				
	d.	Govt employed	0	0	0				
Occupation of Mother	a.	House maker	0	16	30	1.712	2	0.425	NS
	b.	Self – employed or business	0	1	6				
	c.	Private employed	0	11	16				
	d.	Govt employed	0	0	0				

Socio demographic variables			Unfavorable	Moderate	Favourable	Chi square χ^2	DF	P value	Result
Monthly income of family (In rupee)	a.	Less than 10,000	0	2	4	5.396	3	0.145	NS
	b.	10,000 – 20,000	0	21	26				
	c.	20,001 – 30,000	0	3	10				
	d.	More than 30,000	0	2	12				
Previous knowledge regarding child sexual abuse	a.	Yes	0	20	45	2.728	1	0.099	NS
	b.	No	0	8	7				
Sources of information regarding child sexual abuse.	a.	TV	0	9	12	10.256	4	0.036	S
	b.	Newspaper	0	2	11				
	c.	Social Media	0	11	8				
	d.	No knowledge	0	2	13				
	e.	Family and Friends	0	4	8				
Experienced child sexual abuse	a.	Yes	0	7	21	1.893	1	0.169	NS
	b.	No	0	21	31				

NS = p value non-significant at 0.05 level of significance S = p value significant at 0.05 level of significance

Table 9:-Pearson’s coefficient of correlation between knowledge and attitude regarding child sexual abuse and its reporting among the parents of primary school children at selected primary school

	Mean	Std. Deviation	N	R	P value	Result
Knowledge	15.53	4.056	80	0.388	0.001	Significant
Attitude	36.60	6.296	80			

III. CONCLUSION

The researcher concluded that most parents of primary school children (aged between 6–12 years) in Gaderian Purwa had a favorable attitude towards child sexual abuse (CSA) and its reporting, with many demonstrating supportive and proactive views. However, their overall knowledge on the CSA remained moderate. This contrast suggests that while there is a genuine willingness among parents to act against CSA, a lack of comprehensive understanding may hinder effective prevention and timely reporting.

These findings underscore the need for targeted educational interventions aimed at parents. Strengthening both their awareness and existing positive attitudes through community-based programs is essential. Such initiatives can empower parents with the necessary knowledge and confidence to recognize, respond to, and report incidents of child sexual abuse more effectively.

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