

**A STUDY TO ASSESS THE LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE  
REGARDING THE PREVENTION OF CHILD ABUSE  
AMONG MOTHERS IN SELECTED RURAL AREAS OF  
HARYANA**

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**ABSTRACT**

*Child sexual abuse in India, though widespread, is difficult to document because it is shrouded in secrecy. Fear of social stigma, an unwillingness to implicate family members, and other factors discourage families from exposing abuse. This study to assess the level of knowledge regarding the prevention of child abuse among mothers in selected rural areas of Haryana. One hundred mothers were selected and the result shows that the mothers need more knowledge about the types of child abuse, signs and symptoms of child abuse, prevention of child abuse. The knowledge of mothers regarding child abuse were only 36% and we need to protect them from all hazards. Children have been declared as national assets by the Apex Court in Sheela Barse & Another v. Union of India, AIR 1986 SC 1773 therefore it is the duty of the state to look after the child with a view to ensure full development of its personality. If we regard children as an economic entity they are vital to the development of human resources and to safeguard the country's future. The child cannot develop into a full blown human being, unless constructive and congenial environment is assured for their development. They have to be provided with planned care and adequate socialization opportunities in order to attain human status.*

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## INTRODUCTION

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 parents' 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. 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, psychological abuse, and neglect . 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. Child abuse has negative outcome in children and adolescents that can extend into adulthood. Abused children often suffer physical injuries and stress that may disrupt early brain development. Children who are abused or neglected are at higher risk for health problems such as depression, alcoholism, drug abuse, smoking, sexual promiscuity, suicide and certain chronic diseases . Child sexual abuse or child molestation is a form of child abuse in which an adult or older adolescent use a child for sexual stimulation . Sexual abuse includes acts or behaviors where an adult, older or more powerful person uses a child for sexual purpose. It includes any, touching for sexual purpose, fondling of breasts, buttocks, genitals, oral sex, sexual intercourse, an adult exposing themselves to the child, or seeking to have a child touch them for a sexual purpose . Child sexual abuse can occur in a variety of places, including home, school or work places.

Childhood period should be a carefree time of life filled with love, with new worlds to explore, and with joy of mastery of one self and the environment. For many children this is a dream not the reality. Child abuse is one of the most significant social problems in World wide. Children have their own rights to live in the healthy society like to be physically and mentally healthy, to have medical facilities, education without and gender discrimination. Even beyond this legislation children are often maltreated in many forms at homes.

Management of child abuse for children to be largely is effective. Prevention of child abuse should begin from the parents. Early recognition and reporting are crucial to preventing child

abuse. Parents are playing role modeling to the children, ask the day to day problems and give the proper solutions, watch their playing situations, avoid the child play or go with unknown person, avoid scolding and beating also.

## **OBJECTIVES**

1.To assess the level of knowledge regarding the prevention of Child abuse among mothers in Selected rural areas of Haryana

## **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

Thangavelu S.N (2016) conducted a study to assess the level of knowledge regarding child abuse among mothers in selected areas of latur. The study report shows that the knowledge level of mothers regarding the level of knowledge among mothers regarding child abuse and it is found that 30 mothers (15%) had inadequate knowledge and 17 mothers (85%) having moderately knowledge regarding child abuse.

BinshaPappachan (2017) conducted a study on knowledge of mothers regarding prevention of child abuse, the study was conducted in all the inpatient wards and OPD settings at FMMCH, Mangalore. The hospital is 1250 bedded multi-specialty hospital, the study findings revealed that most of the mothers (60%) had excellent knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse, about 34% of them had good knowledge and 6% had average knowledge an done of the mothers had poor knowledge.

JyotsnaJacob.,et.,al (2018) Conducted a study to assess the knowledge regarding child abuse among mothers in selected areas of Delhi, The data revealed thathighest (42%) ofthe mothers are in the age group of 20-25 years and about 28% of them were in the age group of 25-30 years. Majorities (44%) of the mothers were with 2 children, 41% of the mothers with 1 child, and only 2% mothers with more than 3 children. On viewing the educational status, maximum (46%) of them had senior secondary and only (4%) of them were illiterate. However,41% of them were graduate & post graduate. According to their occupational status, the maximum (357%) of them were having private job and only 16% of them were housewives. The source of information, majority (69%) of the mothers had gained knowledge through newspapers, 59% of the mothers

gained knowledge through television, 40% of the mothers had gained knowledge through internet, only 27% of the mothers gained knowledge through school programs.

## METHODOLOGY

### Research design:

In this study nonexperimental descriptive research design is used.

### Subjects and setting:

In this study the sample was the mothers of children with 1-14 years of agesiding in selected areas of Haryana

**Sample size and technique** :The mothers were selected for the study by convenient sampling technique. The sample in the study consisted of hundred mothers who met the inclusion criteria.

**Description of Tool**:The tools used in the study are divided into two sections.

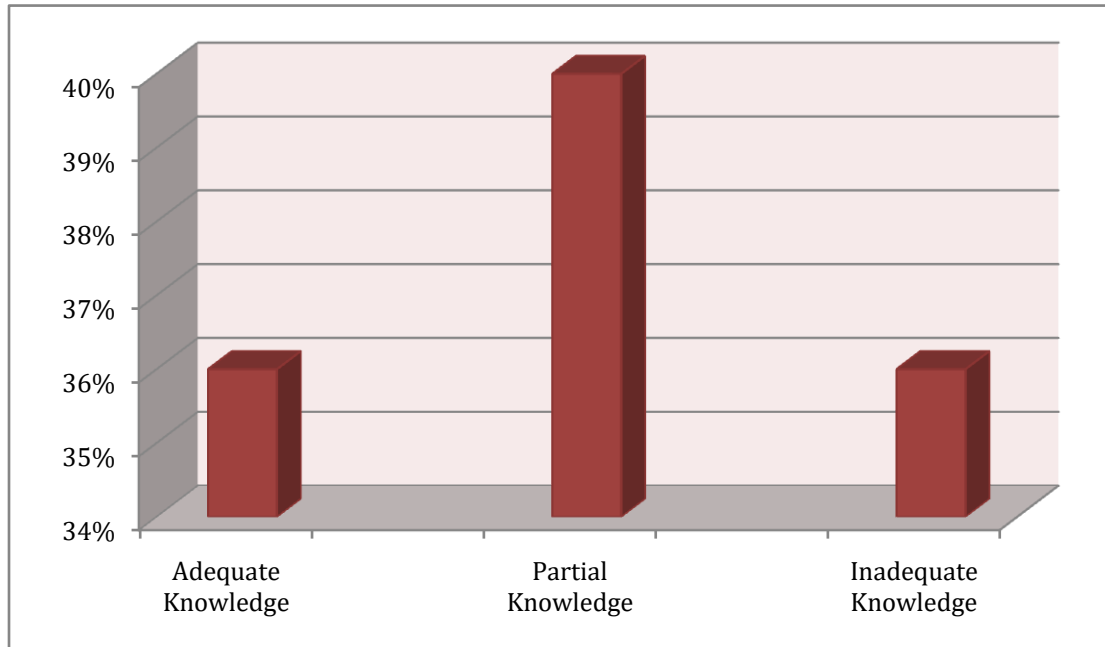
**Section A**: Socio demographic characteristics of the mothers in relation to theirage, education, occupation, socio-economic status, number of children, and previous source knowledge.

**Section B**:Structured knowledge questionnaire on prevention on child abuse with 21 items, which depicted the distribution of items in to three major areas: Concepts of child abuse, types of Child abuse, signs and symptoms of child abuse and prevention of child abuse .

## RESULTS

**Table. No: 1 Assessment of knowledge regarding Child Abuse**

Knowledge Level	Percentage (%)
Adequate Knowledge	36
Partial Knowledge	40
Inadequate Knowledge	37

**Figure. No: 1** Assessment of knowledge regarding Child Abuse

## DISCUSSIONS

The data presented in figure 1 showed that majority of the mothers (36%) had adequate level of knowledge; about 40% of the mothers had partial level of knowledge whereas only 34% had inadequate knowledge level. 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 laboris primarily attributable to the fact that primary education for children is not compulsory in India. Children away from school invariably perform work of some sort, either at home or outside and at wages that are often exploitative. Prevention of child abuse is an inevitable part of the society. The impact of child maltreatment can be profound. Child abuse has negative outcome in children and adolescents that can extend into adulthood. Abused children

often suffer physical injuries and stress that may disrupt early brain development. Children who are abused or neglected are at higher risk for health problems such as depression, alcoholism, drug abuse, smoking, sexual promiscuity, suicide and certain chronic diseases.

## CONCLUSION

This study aimed at assessing the level of knowledge regarding the prevention of Child abuse among mothers in Selected rural areas of Haryana. An awareness with regard to the reporting of the child abuse can increase the frequency and identify the lack of knowledge public has and over shadow the stigma it is attached with. To combat this issue it is essential that multi approach programs in the form of improved parenting skills and safe home environment is being created. Child abuse is one of the most significant social problems affecting children and parent. Child abuse may be the only type of violence in the family. The youngest children are the most vulnerable with about 27% of reported victims being under the age of three worldwide. We want to create an awareness and culture so that all crimes against children are reported. Children need the assistance of trusted adults to protect them from sexual abuse, but the response of adults to these cases is often completely inadequate.

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