

A Descriptive Study to Assess the Knowledge on Child Sexual Abuse Among Mothers of Mentally Challenged Children in a Selected Special School in Eritrea.”

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Abstract

A descriptive study to assess the knowledge on child sexual abuse among mothers of mentally challenged children in a selected special school in Eritrea, Africa with the objective (1) to assess the knowledge on child sexual abuse among mothers of mentally challenged children. 2) To find out the association between knowledge of mentally challenged children’s mothers regarding child sexual abuse with selected demographic variables. 3) To develop and administer an information booklet regarding child sexual abuse among mothers of mentally challenged child. Convenience sampling technique was used to select 30 samples. The questionnaire has administered on mothers regarding child sexual abuse. The findings of the study were: Majority of the samples 16.6% of respondents were in the age group of 18-25 years, 26.6% were in the age group of 25-35, 13.3% were in the age group of 35-45 years and 43.3% were in the age group of above 45 years. Then 20% of mothers had 3 child, 60% mothers had 5 children, 20% mothers had more than 5 children. 43.3% mothers were illiterate, 46.6% mothers were secondary, 6.6% mothers were higher secondary, and 3.3% mothers were graduate. Then 83.3% mothers were housewife, 16.6% mothers were employee. In the knowledge area 36.7% samples have a poor knowledge regarding child sexual abuse and 53.3% samples have average knowledge regarding child sexual abuse and 10% samples have a good knowledge regarding child sexual abuse.

Keywords: child abuse, mentally challenged, knowledge, mothers.

Introduction

“No more, together we can end domestic violence and sexual assault.” - Joyful heart foundation.

The sexual abuse has defined as forcing or enticing a child young person to have part in sexual activities knowingly or unknowingly by them. These sexual activities are vaginal or oral or anal sex penetration or molest the child without penetration. The non-penetrative act includes undress the child, show sexual part, a person is touch and make the child to

touch, showing pornography. Most of the studies shows the difference among countries however the studies objective, type of sexual abuse, quality of data collection will influence the result of research and perspective of child abuse among the continent the African continent studies related to sexual abuse meet higher in rate. This is may due to developing country with enormous social changes in it. Overall highest prevalence rates for child sexual abuse reported in Africa from morocco, Tanzania, and South Africa. Due to this result we cannot conclude that these areas are culprit’s area. May report from them state marked and from other state may not reported. From all over research 47% female child laborers in Nigeria had been sexually assaulted. The children are used for money, shelter, food and clothes in upper west, upper east, Ashanti, western and Brong-Ahafo region. This result was shot from National Child Protection study by Government of Ghana & UNICEF in 2014. The number of studies shows that their first sexual experience

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were unwanted and forced. This statement clearly shows that the children had sexual abuse during their childhood. UNICEF report shows there is a high statistics with regard to rape and defilement common among children from West side of Africa.

Data gathered by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) show that Ghana's statistics with regard to rape and defilement are so high that they rank in certain instances alongside countries that have a recent history of violent conflict like Sierra Leone or the Democratic Republic of Congo. Mentally healthy children are affecting with child abuse more in this scenario and what about mentally challenged children. When mentally healthy children undergone such humiliation, they can communicate with their parents verbally or non-verbally. In case of mentally challenged children their way of communication regarding child abuse are always questionable. In Eritrea there is no evidence of such studies so researcher has chosen this topic and inculcate the awareness of child abuse among mentally challenged children's mother.

Statement of problem

"A descriptive study to assess the knowledge on child sexual abuse among mothers of mentally challenged children in a selected special school in Eritrea."

Objectives of the study

1. To assess the knowledge on child sexual abuse among mothers of mentally challenged children.
2. To find out the association between knowledge of mentally challenged children's mothers regarding child sexual abuse with selected demographic variables.
3. To develop and administer an information booklet regarding child sexual abuse among mothers of mentally challenged child.

Research Approach and Design

A Quantitative approach and descriptive cross sectional design was used.

Research Setting Of The Study

The current study has conducted in Denden School Eritrea. Denden special school is situated in the campus of Denden secondary school. Eritrea. Denden school for mentally challenged was run by government and aided by International developmental Disability for Children Organization. Today about 35 children are studying there. There are 5 teachers and 3 office staff are working.

Sample

The sample comprised of mothers of children of Denden School Eritrea who had Mentally challenged children below the age of 18 yrs. and who were willing to participate

Sample Size

Sample size was 30 mothers taken under convenient sampling technique

Description Of The Tool

Demographic data, which includes age of mother in years, no. of children, educational status, occupational status of the mother, previous knowledge about child sexual abuse. A developed validated Questionnaire on mother's knowledge regarding child sexual abuse was used. The reliability was checked by split half method by Spearman's brown formula. The reliability coefficient was 0.73

Data Collection Procedure

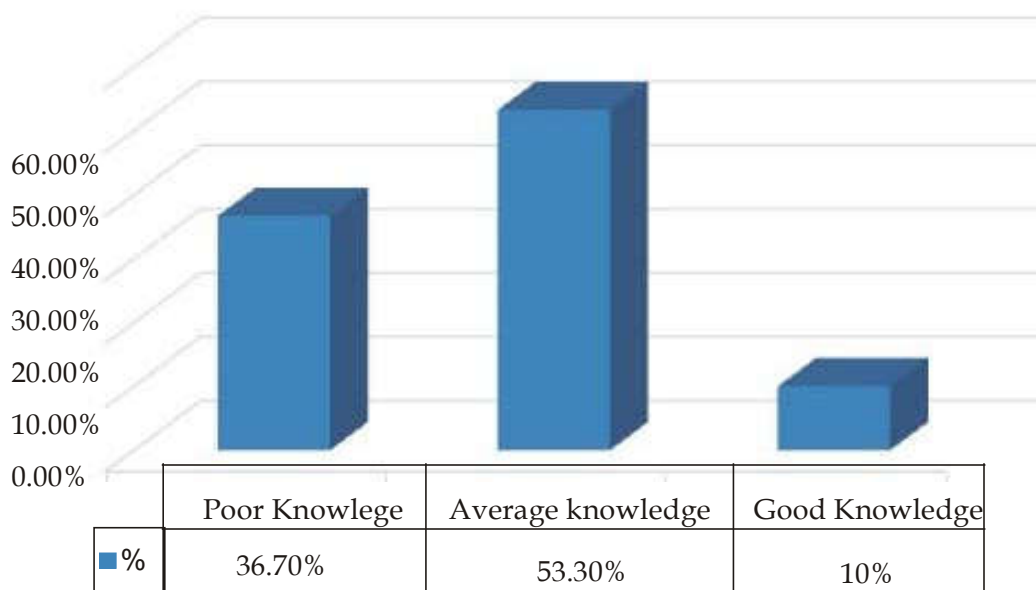
Developed tool after translated in to Tigrinya by language experts administered on mothers. After the informed consent from the mother the instructions were explained to the each sample about how to respond to the items given in tool. After completion of the tool they had written questionnaire to investigator. Data was collected within one week of time period. To maintain the protection of human rights, we have taken permission letter prior to go for the data collection procedure. We meet the principal and ask for the permission. We received the permission from the principal and after that we have started our data collection procedure. Before collection of data we had taken consent from sample.

Table-2 reveals that 16.6% of respondents were in the age group of 18-25 years, 26.6% were in the age group of 25-35, 13.3% were in the age group of 35-45 years and 43.3% were in the age group of above 45 years. Then 20% of mothers had 3 child, 60% mothers had 5 children, 20% mothers had more than 5 children. 6.6% mothers were illiterate, 46.6% mothers were secondary, 43.3% mothers were higher secondary, and 3.3% mothers were graduate. Then 83.3% mothers were housewife, 16.6% mothers were employee. 43.3% mothers had enough knowledge, 33.3% mothers had medium knowledge, and 23.3% mothers had basic knowledge.

Distribution of the mothers of children below the age of 25 years according to their occupation shows that 83.3% of the mothers were housewives, 16.6% of the mothers were employees.

Demographic data of the sample	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Age		
a) 18-25 years	5	16.6%
b) 25-35 years	8	26.6%
c) 35-45 years	4	13.3%
d) above 45 years	13	43.3%
No of children		
a) 3	6	20%
b) 5	18	60%
c) More than 5	6	20%
d) More then 10	0	0%
Educational status		
a) Illiterate	2	6.6%
b) secondary	13	43.3%
c) Higher Secondary	14	46.6%
d) graduate	1	3.3%
Occupational status		
a) House wife	25	83.3%
b) Employee	5	16.6%
c) Business	0	0
d) Coolie	0	0
Previous knowledge about child sexual abuse		
a) Enough	13	43.3%
b) Medium	10	33.3%
c) Basic	7	23.3%
d) No knowledge	0	0

Level of Knowledge of Mothers



Discussion and Summary

The objective of the study was to assess the knowledge regarding the child sexual abuse among the mothers of mentally challenged children in selected special school of Eritrea.

Research approach selected for the study was Quantitative approach and descriptive in nature. The tool for the study was a multiple choice questionnaire. It was conducted from 4-4 2018 to 6-4-18. It was conducted taking 30 samples and study took 4 days to complete.

The major finding of the study were under section 1) assess knowledge regarding the child sexual abuse among mothers and mentally challenged children in selected special school of Eritrea. 2) Distribution of sample according to demographic characteristics of age, no. of children, educational status, occupational status, previous knowledge regarding child sexual abuse.

Objective-1 is to assess the knowledge on child sexual abuse among mothers of mentally challenged children. The data reveals that 10% have good knowledge, 53.3% sample have average knowledge and 36.7% samples have poor knowledge regarding child sexual abuse. So, according to our findings the mothers are having average knowledge regarding child sexual abuse. A similar study conducted in Jordan in June 2007 by Alzaubi FA, Ali RA, Flah IH and Alnatour A. according to their study majority of mothers were knowledgeable about child sexual abuse. By this research study, we have find out that mothers of mentally challenged children are having average knowledge about child sexual abuse.

Objective-2 is to find out the association between knowledge of mentally challenged children's mother regarding child sexual abuse with selected demographic variable. According to our findings

- 16.6% of respondents were in the age group of 18-25 years, so because of lower age group mothers are having poor knowledge about child sexual abuse.
- 6.6% mothers were illiterate, 46.6% mothers were secondary, 43.3% mothers were higher secondary, and 3.3% mothers were graduate. So, according to educational level, mothers are having poor to average knowledge.
- 83.3% mothers were housewife, 16.6% mothers were employee. so, according their occupation, and housewives are having poor knowledge and employee mothers having basic or average knowledge about child sexual abuse.

- 43.3% mothers had enough previous knowledge, 33.3% mothers had medium knowledge, and 23.3% mothers had basic knowledge.

A similar study was conducted in Jordan in June 2017 by Fatema A., Reem Ali, Flah H., Ahlam A. According to their study, half of the mothers of 488 sample size had post-secondary education and only 36% mothers were employed. Almost all mothers in the study were Muslim and married. Half of the mothers had post-secondary education and only 36% were employed. The study revealed that the majority of mothers were knowledgeable about child sexual abuse and its prevention. 74% mothers indicated that educating their children about child sexual abuse can prevent it. Only 37.7% knew about laws regarding child sexual abuse and half of the mothers knew about social organizations. Mothers who had a high income or a high level of education or were employed had a higher awareness of child sexual abuse and recognized sign and symptoms of child sexual abuse more than other mothers.

Major Findings

In findings of the personal data of the respondent's investigator find out that:

- out of 30 respondents 16.6% samples had 18-25 years, 26.6% samples had 25-35 years, 13.3% samples had 35-45 years, 43.3% samples had above 45 years
- 20% of mothers had 3 child, 60% mothers had 5 children, and 20% mothers had more than 5 children.
- 6.6% mothers were illiterate, 46.6% mothers were secondary, 43.3% mothers were higher secondary, and 3.3% mothers were graduate.
- 83.3% mothers were housewife, 16.6% mothers were employee.
- 53.3% mothers had poor knowledge, 36.7% mothers had average knowledge, and 10% mothers had good knowledge.

Conclusion

Investigator had found knowledge level among the mothers in a selected special school in Eritrea city regarding child sexual abuse. From collected samples 36.7% samples have poor knowledge regarding child sexual abuse, 53.3% samples have average knowledge regarding child sexual abuse, and 10% samples have good knowledge regarding child sexual abuse. Thus, the investigator conducted

that the mothers of Denden school of Eritrea city had average knowledge regarding child sexual abuse.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are made on the basis of the present study.

- A similar study may be conducted in a large scale in order to broader generalization.
- A study can be carried out to assess the knowledge, attitude and practice of the health professionals regarding the child abuse among children under the age group of 18 year

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