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Assessment of knowledge and attitude regarding prevention of child abuse among the mothers residing at the selected rural community, West Bengal

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Abstract
A descriptive study was conducted to assess knowledge and attitude regarding prevention of child abuse among the mothers residing at the selected rural community, West Bengal. The data was collected from 120 mothers, selected by simple random sampling technique by administering Semi-structured socio-demographic proforma, structured knowledge questionnaire and structured attitude measuring scale on prevention of child abuse. Study findings revealed that 20.83%, 71.67%, 7.5% rural mothers had very good, good, fair knowledge score respectively; 20%, 65%, 15% rural mothers had satisfactory, fair, poor attitude level respectively. There are significant associations present between level of knowledge with the mothers' age (p0.0319), education ($\chi^2$27.35), spouses' education/occupation (p0.0052/p0.0079), monthly per capita income (p0.0272) and source of knowledge ($\chi^2$11.1); and between levels of attitude with source of knowledge (($\chi^2$6.33). This study recommends to assess the impact of knowledge on practice and experimental study on prevention of child abuse on both illiterate/ literate parents.

Keywords: Knowledge, attitude, prevention, child abuse

Introduction
Children are a blessing from the Lord. They embody innocence, sincerity, joy, love, and hope. Children go through a gradual process of maturation, gaining new experiences and forming the foundation of a nation. Healthy children grow up to become healthy adults, possessing optimal physical strength and emotional stability to contribute effectively to society and the nation-building process. Parents are responsible for providing safe and secure environment to their children to grow physically, intellectually, emotionally and spiritually. In Indian society, mothers play a vital role as primary caregivers in the upbringing of their children [1].

According to the World Health Organization (WHO) [2], child abuse or maltreatment encompasses physical abuse, emotional maltreatment, sexual abuse, neglect, commercial exploitation, and other forms of exploitation that cause actual or potential harm to a child's health, survival, development, and dignity in relation to responsibility, trust or power.

In India, approximately 35% of the total population consists of children below 15 years of age. Child abuse is one of the most significant social problems worldwide, affecting girls and boys of all ages, religions, and socioeconomic levels. It can occur in various places such as homes, schools, orphanages, and day care centres; perpetrated by caregivers and other adults [3].

Violence against children is a pervasive issue that affects children from all socio-economic backgrounds. It can occur in various settings, such as homes, schools, communities, and online platforms. Many children suffer from violence and abuse, while many more are at risk. Perpetrators of child abuse can be family members, intimate partners, teachers, neighbours, strangers, or even other children. Such abuses not only inflict harm, pain, and humiliation on children but can also be fatal. All children have the right to be protected from abuse, regardless of the nature or severity of the act, as all forms of abuse can cause harm to children, diminish their sense of self-worth, violate their dignity, and hinder their development [4].

Several factors contribute to child abuse, including poverty, overcrowding, parental mental illness, substance abuse, family crises, and a history of violence within the family.

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Family disturbances, such as unwanted pregnancies, single parenting, immature parenting, angry and frustrated parents, and parents who were abused in their own childhood, are major causes of child abuse [3].

According to the NCRB (National Crime Records Bureau) [5] report for 2021, a total of 1, 49,404 cases of crime against children were registered in India, showing a 16.2% increase compared to 2020. Madhya Pradesh had the highest number of cases (19,173), followed by Maharashtra (17,261), Uttar Pradesh (16,838), West Bengal (9,523), and Odisha (7,899). The crime rate registered per lakh children population increased from 28.9 in 2020 to 33.6 in 2021.

Under the Protection of Children Against Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, a total of 53,874 cases were registered, with Uttar Pradesh leading in the number of cases (7,129), followed by Maharashtra (6,200), Madhya Pradesh (6,070), Tamil Nadu (4,465), and Karnataka (2,813). Under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children Act), a total of 1,871 cases were registered, with Rajasthan having the highest number of cases (516), followed by Telangana (391), Kerala (297), Tamil Nadu (101), and Assam (88) [5].

In 2021, a total of 9,523 cases of crime against children were registered in West Bengal, with 2,607 cases falling under the POCSO act and 32 cases under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act. The crime rate registered per lakh children population in West Bengal was 31.7 [5].

NCRB [5] reports indicate that abusers in India, including West Bengal, are often close family members such as grandfathers, fathers, and brothers. In India, the percentage of known abusers were 4.4%, while in West Bengal it was recorded at 2.52%.

The impact of child abuse on children is profound and can have long-lasting consequences on a child's beliefs, self-esteem, development and ability to function. Abuse often occurs repeatedly and involves many types, resulting in lifelong complications to a child's mental and physical health [6].

Parental awareness, most importantly mother's knowledge and attitude are important factors in the prediction and prevention of child abuse [1]. Given the importance of parental knowledge and awareness in preventing child abuse, the researcher wanted to conduct a study on assessment of knowledge and attitude regarding prevention of child abuse among the rural mothers having children aged up to 15 years because the mothers are the primary care providers of their children.

Statement of the problem
Assessment of knowledge and attitude regarding prevention of child abuse among the mothers residing at the selected rural community, West Bengal.

Purpose of the study
The purpose of the study was to assess knowledge and attitude regarding prevention of child abuse among the rural mothers that they can safeguard their children and make aware the society.

Objectives of the study
1. To assess the knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse among the rural mothers
2. To measure the attitude regarding prevention of child abuse among the rural mothers

3. To examine the association between the knowledge and attitude regarding prevention of child abuse among the rural mothers
4. To find out the association between the level of knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse among the mothers with the selected socio-demographic variables
5. To ascertain the association between the level of attitude regarding prevention of child abuse among the mothers with the selected socio-demographic variables

Hypothesis
H_{01}: There is no significant association between the knowledge and attitude regarding prevention of child abuse among the mothers at 0.05 level.

H_1: There is significant association between the knowledge and attitude regarding prevention of child abuse among the mothers at 0.05 level.

H_{02}: There is no significant association between the levels of knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse among the mothers with the selected socio-demographic variables at 0.05 level.

H_2: There is significant association between the levels of knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse among the mothers with the selected socio-demographic variables at 0.05 level.

H_{03}: There is no significant association between the levels of attitude regarding prevention of child abuse among mothers with the selected socio-demographic variables at 0.05 level.

H_3: There is significant association between the levels of attitude regarding prevention of child abuse among mothers with the selected socio-demographic variables at 0.05 level.

Materials and Methods
Research approach: Quantitative non experimental research approach was adopted for this study.

Research design: Descriptive research design was used to assess the knowledge and attitude regarding prevention of child abuse among 120 rural mothers.

Variables: Socio-demographic variables including age of the mother in years, education of the mother, occupation, religion, spouse's education, spouse's occupation, type of family, monthly per capita income (by B. G Prasad, 2022), number of children aged up to 15 years, source of knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse, having abused (sexual) child, personal experiences of abuse (sexual) at childhood.

Research variables were Knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse and Attitude regarding prevention of child abuse.

Setting: Setting for final study was Uttar Tajpur village, Purba Medinipur, West Bengal.

Population: The population of the study were rural mothers who had children up to the age of 15 years.

Sample: In this study, sample was rural literate mothers. Who had at least primary level of education and who met the inclusion and exclusion criteria?

Sample size: In this study sample size was 120.

Sampling technique: Sample were selected by simple random sampling technique.

Data collection tools: A semi-structured socio-demographic proforma (tool I), structured knowledge questionnaire (tool II) and structured attitude measuring scale (tool III) on prevention of child abuse were prepared.

A socio-demographic proforma consisting of 12 items was constructed to record the selected socio-demographic variables of the sample. A structured knowledge questionnaire consisting of 24 items on knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse. Every question has three options. A score value of one (1) is allotted to each correct respond and zero (0) for incorrect respond. The highest possible score is 24 and lowest possible score is 0. Score obtained by the mothers ≤ 9.6 ($\leq 40\%$) was graded as poor, score 9.7-14.4 (41%-60%) was graded as fair, score 14.5-19.2 (61%-80%) was graded as good and score 19.3-24 (81%-100%) was graded as very good. A structured attitude measuring scale on prevention of child abuse consisting of 30 items; among these 20 positive items and 10 negative items and having option- strongly agree (SA), agree, undecided, disagree, strongly disagree (SD) and scored as 4,3,2,1,0 respectively. Gradation of scoring was done on the basis of computation of mean $\pm$ 1SD and minimum possible obtainable score 0 / maximum possible obtainable score 120. Level of attitude was calculated by mean $\pm$ 1SD; where mean = 100.46 and SD = 6.91. Score obtained by the mothers >108.37 [> (Mean + 1SD)] was graded as satisfactory, score 94.55 to 108.37 [(Mean - 1SD) to (Mean + 1SD)] was graded as fair, score <94.55 [< (Mean - 1SD)] was graded as poor.

Table 1: Data collection tools and techniques

Tool No.	Tools	Variables to be measured	Types	Technique
Tool I	Semi-structured socio-demographic proforma	Socio-demographic variables	Self-generated	Paper-pencil test
Tool II	Structured knowledge questionnaire on prevention of child abuse	Knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse	Self-generated	Paper-pencil test
Tool III	Structured attitude measuring scale on prevention of child abuse	Attitude regarding prevention of child abuse	Self-generated	Paper-pencil test

Validity of the tool: Validity of the tools were established by opinion of the 10 (ten) experts of related field such as Psychiatric nursing, Psychiatric medicine, Clinical psychology, Psychiatric social work to ensure content validity. Suggestions of experts were incorporated for appropriation of the data collection tools.

Reliability of the tool: The reliability of structured knowledge questionnaire was computed by split-half method by using Spearman Brown Prophesy formula and the reliability calculated was 0.83 indicating that the tool was highly reliable. The reliability of structured attitude measuring scale was computed by Cronbach alpha formula and was found highly reliable with r =0.81.

Ethical consideration: Ethical permission was taken from Institutional Ethics Committee, IPGME&R Research Oversight Committee, SSKM Hospital, Kolkata, West Bengal. Administrative permission was taken from The Officer on Special Duty (OSD) Nursing, Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of West Bengal, The Principal (Officiating), College of Nursing, Institute of Psychiatry - COE, Kolkata, West Bengal, The CMOH of Purba Medinipur district, and respective authorities of the selected rural communities. Informed consent was taken from each participant.

Final data collection procedure: Data was collected from 120 rural mothers who had child/children aged up to 15 years at the selected rural community of Purba Medinipur district from 17/01/2023- 16/02/2023. Sampling frame was prepared and random selection of sample was done by using lottery method according to the selection criteria. During home visit, self-introduction was given to the subjects and purpose of the study was explained to each participant as per their understanding level. Informed consent was taken from all subjects. Separate code number was used for each subject. Confidentiality and anonymity were maintained. At first, tool I was administered followed by tool II and tool III. The data collection process was terminated after giving thanks to each subject for their co-operation and participation in this study.

Results
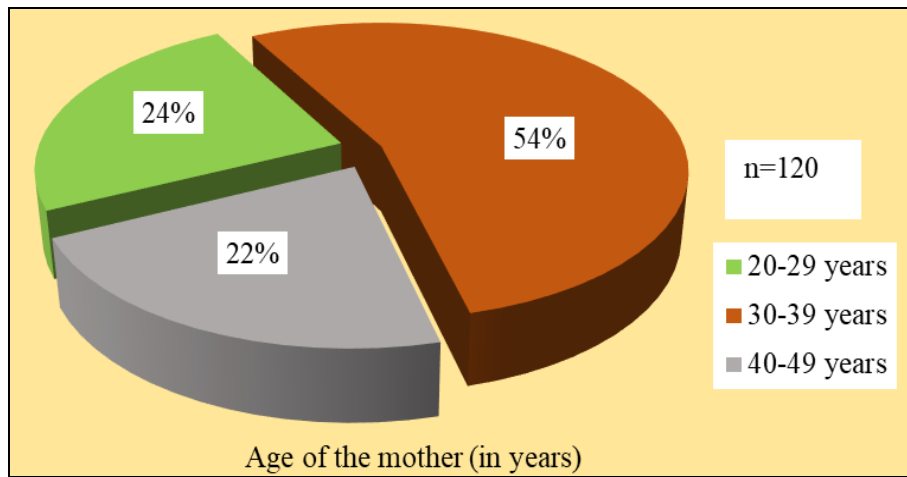**Findings related to socio-demographic variables of the sample**

Fig 1: Split pie diagram showing percentage distribution of the mothers in terms of age in years

Data presented in figure 1 shows that 54% of the rural mothers were belonged to age group of 30-39 years and 22% were from the age group of 40-49 years.
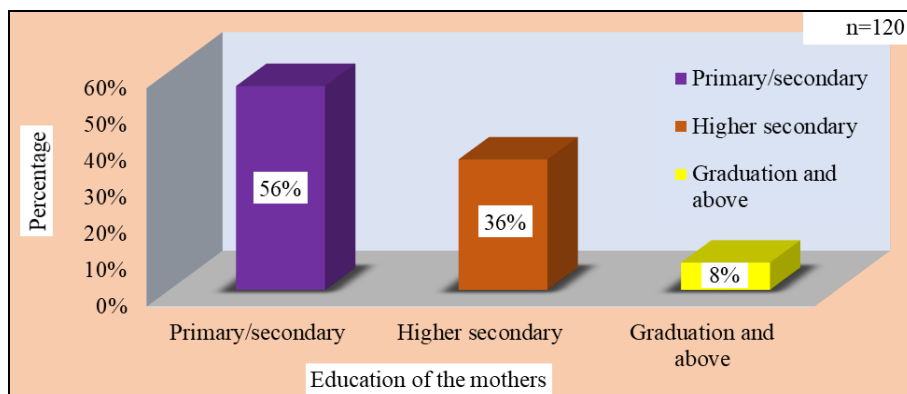

Fig 2: Bar diagram showing percentage distribution of the mothers in accordance with their education

Data presented in figure 2 shows that, educational status of 56% rural mothers was primary/ secondary level and only 8% mothers was graduation and above level.
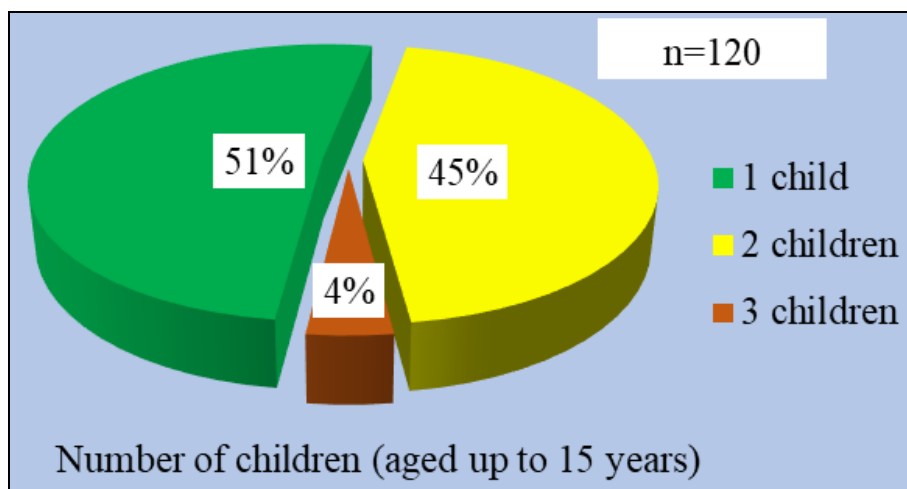

Fig 3: Split pie diagram showing percentage distribution of the mothers in connection with their number of children aged up to 15 years

Data presented in figure 3 shows that majority i.e., 51% of the rural mothers were having 1 child, 45% were having 2 children aged up to 15 years.

Table 2: Frequency and percentage distribution of the mothers as per their occupation, spouses' education/ occupation, monthly per capita income and Source of knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse n= 120

Socio-demographic variables		Frequency	Percentage
1. Occupation			
a)	Homemaker	90	75%
b)	Daily wages worker	16	13.34%
c)	Self-employed	10	8.33%
d)	Service holder	4	3.33%
2. Spouse's education			
a)	No formal education	Nil	-
b)	Primary and secondary	58	48.33%
c)	Higher secondary	47	39.17%
d)	Graduation and above	15	12.5%
3. Spouse's occupation			
a)	Unemployed	Nil	-
b)	Daily wages worker	58	48.33%
c)	Businessman	50	41.67%
d)	Service holder	12	10%
4. Monthly per capita income (in Rs.)			
i)	Upper class (≥ 8220)	4	3.33%
ii)	Upper middle class (4110-8219)	10	8.34%
iii)	Middle class (2465-4109)	45	37.5%
iv)	Lower middle class (1230-2464)	57	47.5%
v)	Lower class (≤ 1230)	4	3.33%
5. Source of knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse			
a)	Family members/friends/neighbors	86	72%
b)	Educational institute	10	8%
c)	Mass media	24	20%

Data presented in table 2 shows that 75% of the rural mothers were homemakers and others were working mothers, educational status of 48.33% spouses of the rural mothers was primary and secondary and all of their spouses had formal education, 48.33% spouses of rural mothers were daily wages worker and no one was unemployed, only 3.33% rural mothers were belonged to upper class as well as in lower class also and 47.5% were from lower middle class and most (72%) rural mothers' source of knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse were family member/ friend/ neighbour, 20% rural mothers gained knowledge from mass media and only 8% were gained knowledge from educational institutes.

Findings related to the knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse among the rural mothers

Table 3: Frequency and percentage distribution of the mothers as per their level of knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse n=120

Sl. No.	Level of knowledge	Frequency	Percentage
1	Very good (81%-100% / 19.3-24)	25	20.83%
2	Good (61%-80% / 14.5-19.2)	86	71.67%
3	Fair (41%-60% / 9.7-14.4)	9	7.5%
4	Poor (≤40% / ≤9.6)	Nil	-

- Minimum possible score = 0
- Maximum possible score = 24

Data presented in table 3 shows that 20.83% of rural mothers had very good level of knowledge, 71.67% had good knowledge and only 7.5% had fair knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse. But, no one had poor knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse.

Findings related to the attitude regarding prevention of child abuse among the rural mothers

Table 4: Frequency and percentage distribution of the mothers according to their level of attitude regarding prevention of child abuse n=120

Sl. No.	Level of attitude	Frequency	Percentage
1	Poor (<94.55)	18	15%
2	Fair (94.55-108.37)	78	65%
3	Satisfactory (>108.37)	24	20%

- Minimum possible score = 0
- Maximum possible score=120

Data presented in table 4 shows that 15% of rural mothers had poor level of attitude, 65% had fair and 20% had satisfactory level of attitude regarding prevention of child abuse.

Findings related to association between the knowledge and attitude regarding prevention of child abuse
H_{01} There is no significant association between the knowledge and attitude regarding prevention of child abuse among the mothers at 0.05 level. H_1 There is significant association between the knowledge and attitude regarding prevention of child abuse among the mothers at 0.05 level.

Table 5: Mean, standard deviation (SD), correlation co-efficient and related 't' value of obtained scores of knowledge and attitude regarding prevention of child abuse among the mothers n=120

Research variables	Obtained score range	Mean	SD	Correlation Coefficient (r)	Related 't' value
Knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse	13-22	18.05	1.97	0.305	3.48*
Attitude regarding prevention of child abuse	90-116	101.46	6.91		

*Significant at $p< 0.05$; 't' at df (119) = 1.98

Data presented in table 5 shows that the obtained knowledge and attitude scores regarding prevention of child abuse, the mean and standard deviation (SD) are 18.05±1.97; and 101.46 ±6.91 respectively. Calculated 'r' value between knowledge and attitude score is 0.305; that indicates lower moderately positive correlation between knowledge and attitude i.e., when knowledge is increased, the attitude regarding prevention of child abuse is also increased. The calculated 't' value is 3.48; that is statistically significant. So, there is significant association between knowledge and attitude regarding prevention of child abuse of the rural mothers at 0.05 level of significance. Therefore, knowledge and attitude regarding prevention of child abuse among the mothers are interdependent on each other.

Hence, it was evident that there was significant association between the knowledge and attitude regarding prevention of child abuse among the mothers at 0.05 level.

So, null hypothesis (H_{01}) is rejected and research hypothesis (H_1) is accepted.

Findings related to the association between the level of knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse among the mothers with the selected socio-demographic variables

Table 6: Fisher- Freeman- Halton exact test on association between the level of knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse among the mothers with their age, their spouses'education/ occupation, monthly per capita income (B.G Prasad, 2022) n= 120

Socio-demographic variable	Level of knowledge				Total	Calculated p value
	Very good (19.3-24)	Good (14.5-19.2)	Fair (9.7-14.4)	Poor (≤9.6)		
1. Age of the mother (in years)						
▪ 20-34 years	18	45	2	0	65	0.0319*
▪ 35-49 years	7	41	7	0	55	
Total	25	86	9	0	120	
2. Spouses' education						
▪ Below secondary	5	48	5	0	58	0.0052*
▪ Above secondary	20	38	4	0	62	
Total	25	86	9	0	120	
3. Spouses' occupation						
▪ Daily wages worker	6	45	7	0	58	0.0079*
▪ Business and service	19	41	2	0	62	
Total	25	86	9	0	120	
4. Monthly per capita income (by B.G Prasad, 2022)						
▪ ≤ Middle class	18	79	9	0	106	0.0272*
▪ ≥ Upper middle class	7	7	0	0	14	
Total	25	86	9	0	120	

*Significant at $p<0.05$

Table 6 shows there were significant associations between the level of knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse among the mothers with their age, their spouses' education/ occupation and monthly per capita income at 0.05 level of significance as the obtained p values (0.0319, 0.0052, 0.0079, 0.0272) are less than 0.05.

Table 7: Chi-square value showing the association between the level of knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse among the mothers with their education and occupation and their source of knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse n=120

Socio-demographic variable	Level of knowledge				Total	Calculated p value	Calculated χ^2 value
	Very good (19.3-24)	Good (14.5-19.2)	Fair (9.7-14.4)	Poor (≤9.6)			
1. Education of the mother							
▪ Below secondary	3	57	8	0	65	<0.0001	27.35*
▪ Above secondary	22	29	1	0	55		
Total	25	86	9	0	120		
2. Occupation							
▪ Homemaker	14	69	7	0	90	0.1	6.11
▪ Working	11	17	2	0	30		
Total	25	86	9	0	120		
3. Source of knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse							
▪ Family members/ friends/ neighbours	12	65	9	0	86	0.0112	11.1*
▪ Educational institute and mass media	13	21	0	0	34		
Total	25	86	9	0	120		

* Significant at $p<0.05$; not significant at p>0.05; tabulated χ^2, df (3) = 7.82 at 0.05 level

Table 7 shows that there were significant associations between the level of knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse among the mothers with their education (χ^2 27.35) and their source of knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse (χ^2 11.1) at 0.05 level as the obtained χ^2 value was more than table χ^2 value (7.82) at df 3 and p < 0.05.

So, null hypothesis (H_{02}) is rejected and research hypothesis (H_2) is accepted.

Findings related to the association between the level of attitude regarding prevention of child abuse among the mothers with the selected socio-demographic variables

Table 8: Chi-square value showing the association between the level of attitude regarding prevention of child abuse among the mothers with their source of knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse n=120

Socio-demographic variables	Level of attitude			Total	Calculated p value	Calculated χ^2 value
	Poor (<94.55)	Fair (94.55-108.37)	Satisfactory (>108.37)			
1. Source of knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse						
▪ Family members/friends/neighbours	16	57	13	86		
▪ Educational institute and mass media	2	21	11	34	0.04	6.33*
Total	18	78	24	120		

*Significant at $p<0.05$; df 2, tabulated $\chi^2 = 5.99$

Table 8 shows that there is significant association between the level of attitude regarding prevention of child abuse among the mothers with their source of knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse at 0.05 level of significance as the obtained χ^2 value (6.33) is more than the table value of χ^2 (5.99) at df 2.

So, null hypothesis (H_{03}) is rejected and research hypothesis (H_3) is accepted.

Discussion
Discussion in relation to knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse
In this present study, it has been shown that 20.83% had very good knowledge, 71.67% mothers had good knowledge, 7.5% had fair knowledge and none of them had poor knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse. Mean knowledge score of rural mothers regarding prevention of child abuse was 18.08±1.97.

This study findings are supported by Mandal K [7] (2020). Among 100 mothers; 70% mothers had average level of knowledge, 19% had poor level of knowledge and 11% mothers had excellent level of knowledge about child abuse. Mean and standard deviation of knowledge scores of mothers regarding child abuse was 19.69±3.42.

And this present study findings are also supported by Sultana T et al. [8] who conducted a descriptive study in 2019 on assessment of knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse among 100 mothers of children at selected government school, Hyderabad; findings revealed that 60% had excellent knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse, 34% of them had good knowledge, 6% had average knowledge and none of the mothers had poor knowledge. The mean knowledge score of mothers on prevention of child abuse was 16.72 ± 2.947.

Discussion in relation to attitude regarding prevention of child abuse
In this present study, it has been shown that 15% mothers had poor attitude, 65% had fair attitude and 20% mothers had satisfactory attitude regarding prevention of child abuse. Mean attitude score of rural mothers regarding prevention of child abuse was 101.46±6.91.

And this study findings are also in accordance with Kaleeswari S [1] (2016). The study results revealed that 27% had unfavorable attitude, majority of mothers (57%) had moderately favorable attitude and 16% had favorable attitude regarding prevention of child abuse. The mean of attitude score was 28.60±7.63.

Discussion in relation to the association between knowledge and attitude regarding prevention of child abuse: In this present study, it has been shown that

calculated 'r' value between knowledge and attitude score is 0.3054; that indicates moderately positive correlation between knowledge and attitude of the mothers i.e., when knowledge is increased, the attitude regarding prevention of child abuse also increases. The calculated 't' value is 3.48; that is significant. So, there is significant association between knowledge and attitude regarding prevention of child abuse of the rural mothers at 0.05 level of significance. This study findings are supported by Pahantasingh S et al. [9] (2020), in which findings revealed that there was a significant positive relationship between the knowledge and attitude of mothers towards prevention of child sexual abuse as the 'r' value was 0.284 at p-value 0.004.

And this study findings are also supported by Goswami S (2019) [10]; where researcher found that there was significant correlation between knowledge and attitude of mothers as Pearson 'r' value was 0.75 at $p\leq0.01$ level of significance

Discussion in relation to the association between the level of knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse among the mothers with the selected socio-demographic variables
In this present study, it is evident that there are significant associations between level of knowledge with education of the mothers (χ^2=27.35) and source of knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse (χ^2=11.1) for df 3 at 0.05 level of significance; and their age in years (p value=0.0319), spouses' education (p value=0.00522), spouses' occupation (p value=0.0079), monthly per capita income (p value=0.0272) which were significant as the obtained p value are less than 0.05.

This study findings are supported by Lal MM et al. (2021) [11]. Study findings presented that there were significant associations between knowledge of child abuse and age of mothers (χ^2 10.280), educational status (χ^2 44.295) and occupation (χ^2 24.669).

And this study findings are also supported by Goswami S [10] (2019); where researcher found that there were significant associations found between level of knowledge and age of mother (χ^2= 7.530), education (χ^2= 8.927) and occupation of mother (χ^2= 11.343) at $p\leq0.05$ level of significance.

And this study findings are supported by Sujatha T et al. [12] who conducted a descriptive study in 2018 to assess the 100 mother's knowledge on child abuse in Maraimalai Nagar, Kancheepuram district, Tamil Nadu. In this study, there were significant associations of mother's knowledge with mother's education (χ^2=16.485 at df 15), father's education (χ^2=19.823 at df 5), father's occupation (χ^2=24.6 at df 4) and family income (χ^2=21.237 at df 6) at 1% level of significance.

Discussion in relation to the association between the level of attitude regarding prevention of child abuse among the mothers with the selected socio-demographic variables

In this present study, it is evident that there was significant association between level of attitude with source of knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse (χ^2 =6.33) at df 2 at 0.05 level of significance.

This study findings are supported by the Barsagade M [13] (2018). Data revealed that there were significant association between attitude and age of the mother (χ^2 =10.53), education (χ^2 =44.29), occupation of mother (χ^2 =44.23), types of motherhood (χ^2 =9.59), knowledge regarding child sexual abuse (χ^2 = 107.3) and source of information regarding child sexual abuse (χ^2 =8.35).

Conclusion

This study concluded that the most of rural mothers had good level of knowledge and fair level of attitude regarding prevention of child abuse. There was lower moderately positive relationship between knowledge and attitude regarding prevention of child abuse among rural mothers of the selected community. Here it is evident that increased knowledge level enhanced the participant's attitude and they are positively interdependent on each other. There were significant associations between the level of knowledge of the mothers with their age, education, their spouses' education/ occupation, monthly per capita income, source of knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse. There was significant association between the level of attitude with their source of knowledge regarding prevention of child abuse. So, it could be concluded that their source of information regarding child abuse were impacted positively on their attitude level. As the mother's age, educational level, occupation and source of knowledge are associated with mother's knowledge and attitude regarding prevention of child abuse; thus, it is very important for improvement of education and societal status of mothers, that they can move a step forward to prevent child abuse in future at their societies.

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