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# Comparative study to assess the knowledge regarding child abuse among the parents residing in selected urban and rural areas with a view to develop an information booklet

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### Abstract

**Background of the study:** An emergency is a situation that possesses an immediate risk to health, life property or environment which have already caused by the loss of life, health determinants, property damage. The emergency can be classified in to four sub divisions like, dangerous to life, health, property, the environment. Child abuse concern with providing highly specialized health care to children of all ages. Parents are primary care takers of the children because usually the children depend on their Parents for fulfilling their needs. Especially mothers play a vital role in safeguarding their children against many kind of child abuse. So their knowledge regarding child abuse and their prevention is of vital important.

**Methodology:** This was comparative study with 100 subjects, selected through simple random sampling technique. One group pre test post test without control group design was used. Data was collected by researcher himself by using structured closed ended Questionnaire and Interview methods. Data was analyzed by using descriptive and inferential statistics in terms of mean, frequency distribution, percentage 'z' test and chi-square test.

**Results:** The levels of knowledge regarding child abuse among rural and urban mothers reveals that, most of rural mothers (56%) had poor knowledge, 40 percent of them had average knowledge, 4 percent of them had very poor knowledge and there were no mothers who had excellent & good knowledge regarding child abuse. Where as in urban area majority (64%) of the mothers had average knowledge, 32 percent of them had poor knowledge, 4 percent of them had good knowledge, and there were no mothers who had very poor & excellent knowledge regarding child abuse. The Comparison of knowledge level of rural and urban mothers reveals that, a statistically significant difference was found between the knowledge of rural mothers ( $13 \pm 4.2$ ) and urban mothers ( $17.64 \pm 3.78$ ) regarding child abuse at 0.05 level of significance [ $Z = 5.71$ ]. It indicated that urban mothers had good knowledge regarding child abuse as compared to rural mothers hence there is a significant difference in knowledge regarding child abuse between mothers residing in selected rural and urban areas was accepted. Chi-square test was used, There is a significant association between knowledge of rural mothers and demographic variable like educational status ( $\chi^2 = 3.8$ ;  $P < 0.05$ ). Significant association was found between knowledge of urban mothers and demographic variables like Income ( $\chi^2 = 4.7$ ;  $P < 0.05$ ).

**Conclusion;** In pre test, more than half of respondents i.e. 52% had very poor knowledge where as in post test, tremendous increase by participants i.e. 66% had good and 26% had excellent knowledge, hence planned teaching programme was highly effective.

**Keywords:** Mothers, child abuse, effectiveness, planned teaching programme, self instructional module, knowledge, socio-demographic variables

### Introduction

The Child abuse cases can be observed everywhere around the world. It can occur in any house, in any family and neighborhood. Many studies revealed reasons behind child abuse are an incompetent and strained relationship between the partners, financial pressure on the loss of a job, stressed due to loss of house, alcoholism, substance abuse, depression DL<sup>[1]</sup>.

The ideal parent should love, nurture and wisely discipline his children so they may develop as ideal children and into ideal adults. But the real world is rarely like that, even with the best will in the world and no matter how much we love our children they sometimes do get us down. Perhaps we sometimes smack them as a result of our own anger or frustration rather than in a genuine desire to teach them not to do the wrong things. Children of all ages are frequently abused in our community. The abuse may be physical, emotional, sexual abuse and child neglect<sup>[1]</sup>.

According to the national study conducted by the ministry of women and child development, child abuse and neglect issues are common in almost all countries. In Asia where population density is high the issues of child labor and child sexual exploitation are also high [2].

Child abuse is defined as “A variety of harmful behaviors directed against children, which includes physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse and child neglect”<sup>2</sup>. Physical abuse of a child includes any physical injuries as a result of punishing, beating, kicking, biting, burning, shaking, throwing, stabbing, choking, hitting with a hand, stick strap or other objects [3]. Emotional abuse is also known as “verbal abuse”, “mental abuse” or “psychological maltreatment”. It includes acts or the failure to act by mothers or care takers that have caused or could cause, serious behavioral cognitive, emotional or mental trauma. This can include mothers or care takers using extreme and or bizarre forms 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. Whereas Child’s sexual abuse is an inappropriate sexual behavior with a child. It includes fondling a Child’s genital, making the child fondle the adult’s genitals, intercourse, incest, rape, sodomy, exhibitionism and sexual exploitation. To be considered child abuse these acts have to be committed by a person responsible for the care of a child [4]. Child Neglect is the failure to provide for the child’s basic needs. Neglect can be physical, educational or emotional. Physical neglect can include, not providing adequate food or clothing, appropriate medical care, supervision or proper weather protection (cold/heat), it may include abandonment. Educational neglect includes failure to provide appropriate schooling or special educational needs, allowing excessive truancies. Psychological neglects include the lack of any emotional support and love, never attending to the child, substance abuse including allowing the child to participate in drug and alcohol use [4].

Child abuse is the major global problem and all communities are faced with various forms of it. This phenomenon can be investigated from verbal, physical, emotional and sexual aspects. In many cases the victims of child abuse cannot reveal the event due to various reasons. The event can remain as a secret and consequently leads to serious health and mental problems that are difficult to compensate in future. The US department of health and human services drawing from reports from state child protective service agencies estimated that, 12 in 1000 children were abused resulting in a total of 905,000 child victims. By far the most common type of child abuse was neglect rates of child abuse in the US per 1000 children in 2006. Neglect 7.6% physical abuse 2.0% sexual abuse 1.1% emotional and 0.9% psychological abuse [5].

The experience of abuse may negatively affect student academic performance and educational experience. Child’s maltreatment is a global problem with serious consequences for children’s wellbeing and development, and society in general. The world health organization (WHO) and international society for prevention of child abuse and neglect reported that child abuse and neglect are important contributors to death, injuries and illness in young children. The world health organisation reported approximately 31,000 deaths attributed to homicide among children less than 15 years of age. Each year more than 40 million children around the world abused below the age of 15 suffer from abuse and neglect and require health and social care [4].

Prevention of child abuse is first through awareness, then early detection and intervention. In an ideal world, psychiatric help would be available to treat those who abuse children. To prevent abuse by changing the behavior of the abuser or mothers, tendencies to be abusive must be identified before any actual abuse take place. Once a tendency is identified, the best hope for treating this serious mental disorder is behavior counseling [5].

Role of parent is very vital and essential to upgrade the child in optimal development. Raising children can be a successful and satisfying experience. Without basic parenting skills the task is difficult and frustrating. Children seek love and discipline. Discipline takes the form of structured appropriate behaviors, not just physical punishment and obedience. Love and encouragement is the complementary behavior to discipline. Both are necessary if you are to be a successful parent. Both are needed to create the correct balance of concern and caring required to raise well –adjusted and blended correctly your child will be mentally, safe assured, responsible, self- controlled and prepared for their own parenting experience [5].

After going through the many literature, it is very clear that the child abuse is prevalent globally and in India also. Mothers lacks in knowledge regarding the various forms of child abuse and its prevention. And there is lots of difference in knowledge of rural and urban mothers in this regard. Thus researcher felt the need to conduct a comparative study to assess the knowledge regarding child abuse among mothers.

### Objectives

1. To assess the knowledge regarding child abuse among mothers residing at selected urban areas.
2. To assess the knowledge regarding child abuse among mothers residing at selected rural areas.
3. To compare the knowledge regarding child abuse between mothers residing in selected urban and rural areas.
4. To find out the association between knowledge regarding child abuse among mothers residing in selected urban and rural areas with their selected socio-demographic variables.
5. To develop and distribute an informational booklet regarding child abuse among mothers residing in selected rural and urban areas.

### Hypothesis

**H<sub>1</sub>:** There will be a significant difference in knowledge regarding child abuse between mothers residing in selected urban and rural areas.

**H<sub>2</sub>:** There will be a significant association between knowledge of mothers residing in selected urban and rural areas of regarding child abuse with their selected socio demographic variables.

### Methodology

**Research Approach:** Non-experimental descriptive approach

**Research Design:** Descriptive comparative survey design

**Sampling technique:** Non-Probability; Convenient Sampling Technique

**Sample size:** 100

**Setting of study:** Selected areas of Vijayapur

**Tool used for data collection:** Following tools used for the data collection.

**Part-I**

The socio-demographic profile consists of information about mothers; age, religion, education status of mother, occupation of mother, monthly income, type of family, number of children in the family and source of information.

**Part-II**

It consists of 40 items to assess the knowledge of rural and urban mothers regarding child abuse. It has five sections as mentioned below.

**Section A:** consist of 6 items on general information regarding child abuse.

**Section B:** consist of 8 items on knowledge of mothers regarding physical abuse its prevention and management.

**Section C:** consist of 10 items on knowledge of mothers regarding sexual abuse its prevention and management.

**Section D:** consist of 9 items on knowledge of mothers regarding emotional abuse its prevention and management.

**Section E:** consist of 7 items on knowledge of mothers regarding child neglect its prevention and management.

**Procedure of data collection**

Data was collected after obtaining administrative permission from selected wards head of Vijayapur. The investigator personally explained the participants the need and assured them of the confidentiality of their responses. Data was collected through face to face interview with the help of structured interview schedule for 35 days. The mothers were interviewed from 9am to 5 pm, based on their availability and convenience. Daily 5-mothers were interviewed soon after the test, the learning intervention was administered.

**Results**

a. The findings related to socio-demographic variables of participants

**Part- I****Frequency and percentage distribution of socio-demographic variables of participants N=100**

The Percentage wise distribution of sample according their age depicts that, majority of rural mothers (46%) were belonging to 30-35 years of age, (34%) of them were belonging to 35-40 years of age, (18%) of them were belonging to 25-30 years of age and (2%) belongs to 40 and above years of age. Where as in urban area, most of the mothers (34%) were belonging to 30-35 years of age, (30%) of them were belonging to 35-40 years of age, (24%) of them were belonging to 25-30years of age and (12%) belongs to 40 and above years of age.

The percentage wise distribution of sample according to their religion shows that, majority of rural mothers (64%) were belonging to Hindu religion, (30%) of them were belonging to Muslim community and (6%) were belonging to Christianity. Where as in urban area most of the mothers (54%) were belonging to Hindu religion, (38%) of they were belonging to Muslim community and (8%) were belonging to Christianity.

The percentage wise distribution of sample according to their education status illustrates that, majority of rural

mothers (50%) had secondary education, (36%) of them had completed primary schooling, (12%) of them had PUC and (2%) of them had completed Graduation. Where as in urban area, most of the mothers (38%) had primary education, (34%) of them had secondary education, (16%) of them had PUC and (12%) of them had completed Degree and there were no illiterate mothers.

Percentage wise distribution of Sample according to their Occupation illustrate that, in rural area 36% of the mothers were House wife, 36% of them were Laborer, 12% of them were Formers, 2% of them doing business, 2% of them were Government employee, and 12% of them were Private employee. Where as in urban area, most of the mothers (46%) were House wife, 18% of them were Private employees, 18% of them were laborer, 8% of them were doing Business, 8% of them were former, and 2% of them were Government employee.

The Percentage wise distribution of sample according to their Income reveals that, In urban area most (40%) of the mothers family monthly income was Rs.6001 – 8000, 34% of them were having Rs.8001-10,000, 16% of them were having Rs.4001-6000, and 10% of them were having Rs.10,001and above. Where as in rural area, most (64%) of the mothers family monthly income was between Rs.6001 - 8000, 20%of them were having Rs.8001 -10,000, 6%of them were having Rs.4001-6000, 6%of them were having less Rs.4000 and 4%of them were having Rs. 10,001 and above.

The Percentage wise distribution of sample according to their type of family reveals that, in rural area most of (88%) the mothers were Joint family and 12% of them were Nuclear. Where as in urban area, most of the mothers (74%) were belongs to Nuclear family and 26% of them were Joint family.

The Percentagewise distribution of sample according to their Number of children in the family depicts that, in urban area most of (48%) the mothers had 3 & above children, 34%of them had 2 children and 18% of them had 1 child. Where as in rural area 58% the mothers had 2 children, 36% of them had 3 & above children and 6% of them had 1 child. The Percentagewise distribution of sample according to their source of information depicts that, in rural area most of (48%) the mothers getting from friends, 44%of them were getting information from mass media, 4% from relatives and 4% mothers getting information from medical professionals. Where as in urban area 56% the mothers getting information from mass media, 20% were getting information from friends, 16% from relative and 8% of information getting from medical professionals.

**Part-II: Assessment of levels of knowledge regarding child abuse among mothers residing in selected urban and rural areas**

**Table 1:** Levels of knowledge regarding child abuse among rural & urban mothers N = 100

Level of knowledge	Rural		Urban	
	F	%	F	%
Excellent	0	0	0	0
Good	0	0	2	4
Average	20	40	32	64
Poor	28	56	16	32
Very Poor	2	4	0	0
Total	50	100	50	100

Table-1 reveals that the levels of knowledge regarding child abuse among rural and urban mothers reveals that, most of rural mothers (56%) had poor knowledge, 40 percent of them had average knowledge, 4 percent of them had very poor knowledge and there were no mothers who had excellent & good knowledge regarding child abuse. Where

as in urban area majority (64%) of the mothers had average knowledge, 32 percent of them had poor knowledge, 4 percent of them had good knowledge, and there were no mothers who had very poor & excellent knowledge regarding child abuse.

**Table 2:** Area wise mean, SD and mean percentage of knowledge score N = 100

Knowledge area	Max score	Rural			Urban		
		Mean	SD	Mean%	Mean	SD	Mean%
General information regarding child abuse	6	2.16	±1.09	36	3.38	±1.41	56.33
Physical abuse, its treatment & prevention	8	2.6	±1.2	32.5	3.44	±1.47	43
Sexual abuse, its treatment & prevention	10	3.1	±1.64	31	4.12	±0.97	41.2
Emotional abuse, its treatment & prevention	9	2.94	±1.56	32.66	3.72	±1.11	41.33
Child neglect, its treatment & prevention	7	2.2	±1.03	31.4	2.98	±1.36	42.57
Total	40	13	±4.2	32.5	17.64	±3.78	44.1

Table-2 reveals The Area wise mean, SD and mean percentage of knowledge score of rural mothers reveals that, The total mean percentage of knowledge scores of rural mothers was 32.5 percent with mean and SD 13±4.2. Area wise mean percentage of knowledge scores was 36 percent in the area of ‘General information regarding child abuse’ with mean and SD 2.16 ± 1.09. In the area of ‘Physical abuse, its treatment & prevention’, the mean percentage was 32.5 percent with mean and SD 2.6 ± 1.2. In the area of ‘Sexual abuse its treatment & prevention’ with mean percentage was 31% with mean and SD 3.1±1.64. In the area of ‘Emotional abuse its treatment & prevention’ with mean percentage was 32.66% with mean and SD 2.94±1.56. In the area of ‘Child neglect its treatment & prevention’ with mean percentage was 31.4% with mean and SD 2.2±1.03.

The Area wise mean, SD and mean percentage of knowledge score of urban mothers reveals that, The total mean percentage of knowledge scores of urban mothers was 44.1 percent with mean and SD 17.64±3.78. Area wise mean percentage of knowledge scores was 56.33 percent in the area of ‘General information regarding child abuse’ with mean and SD 3.38 ± 1.41. In the area of ‘Physical abuse, its treatment & prevention’, the mean percentage was 43 percent with mean and SD 3.44±1.47. In the area of ‘Sexual

abuse its treatment & prevention’ with mean percentage was 41.2% with mean and SD 4.12±0.94. In the area of ‘Emotional abuse its treatment & prevention’ with mean percentage was 41.33% with mean and SD 3.72±1.11. In the area of ‘Child neglect its treatment & prevention’ with mean percentage was 42.57% with mean and SD 2.98±1.36.

**Table 3:** Comparison of Knowledge Level of rural and urban Mothers N=100

Rural			Urban		
Mean	SD	Mean%	Mean	SD	Mean%
13	4.2	32.5	17.64	3.78	44.1

Z = 5.81 (Table value = 1.96)

The data presented in the Table 3 depicts the Comparison of knowledge level of rural and urban mothers reveals that, a statistically significant difference was found between the knowledge of rural mothers(13±4.2)and urban mothers (17.64±3.78) regarding child abuse at 0.05 level of significance [Z= 5.81]. It indicated that urban mothers had good knowledge regarding child abuse as compared to rural mothers.

Hence H<sub>1</sub> stated “there is a significant difference in knowledge regarding child abuse between mothers residing in selected rural and urban areas” is accepted.

**Table 4:** Association of the knowledge scores of mothers with their selected socio-demographic variables

Demographic Variables of mothers	Rural	Urban	df	Table value	Level of significance	
	Chi-square value	Chi-square value			Rural	Urban
Age	0.64	1.80	1	3.84	P>0.05 (NS)	P>0.05 (NS)
Religion	0.64	0.10	1	3.84	P>0.05 (NS)	P>0.05 (NS)
Educational status	3.9*	0.76	1	3.84	P<0.05 (S)	P>0.05 (NS)
Occupation	1.17	0.02	1	3.84	P>0.05 (NS)	P>0.05 (NS)
Income	2.20	4.9*	1	3.84	P>0.05 (NS)	P<0.05 (S)
Type of family	0.10	3.22	1	3.84	P>0.05 (NS)	P>0.05 (NS)
Number of children in the family	0.009	1.23	1	3.84	P>0.05 (NS)	P>0.05 (NS)
Source of Information	0.06	0.25	1	3.84	P>0.05 (NS)	P>0.05 (NS)

df: Degrees of Freedom NS: Not Significant \*S: Significant

Table-4 reveals that the association of the knowledge scores of mothers with their selected socio-demographic variables shows that, there is a significant association between knowledge of rural mothers and demographic variable like educational status of mother ( $\chi^2= 3.9$ ;  $P<0.05$ ) and no significant association found between knowledge of rural mothers with their other demographic variables like age,

religion, occupation of mother, income, type of family, number of children in the family and source of information. Similarly, significant association was found between knowledge of urban mothers and demographic variables like Income ( $\chi^2= 4.9$ ;  $P<0.05$ ), and no significant association found between knowledge of urban mothers with their other demographic variables like age, religion, educational status



of mother, occupation of mother, type of family, number of children in the family and source of information.

Thus the H<sub>2</sub> stated is accepted for socio demographic variable of educational status of mother in case of rural mothers. Whereas H<sub>2</sub> stated is accepted for socio demographic variables like income in case of urban mothers at 0.05 level of significant.

### Conclusion

On the basis of the findings of the study, the following conclusions are drawn:

- Assessment of level of knowledge regarding child abuse among rural and urban mothers reveals that, most of rural mothers (56%) had poor knowledge, 40 percent of them had average knowledge, 4 percent of them had very poor knowledge and there were no mothers who had excellent & good knowledge regarding child abuse. Where as in urban area majority (64%) of the mothers had average knowledge, 32 percent of them had poor knowledge, 4 percent of them had good knowledge, and there were no mothers who had very poor & excellent knowledge regarding child abuse.
- Comparison of knowledge level of rural and urban mothers reveals that, a statistically significant difference was found between the knowledge of rural mothers ( $13\pm 4.2$ ) and urban mothers ( $17.64\pm 3.78$ ) regarding child abuse at 0.05 level of significance [ $Z= 5.81$ ]. It indicated that urban mothers had good knowledge regarding child abuse as compared to rural mothers.
- A significant association was found between knowledge scores related to educational status of rural mothers. Where as in urban area, there was significant association between knowledge scores related to income.

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