

A Study to Assess Mothers Knowledge and their Practices in Prevention of Home Accidents among Toddler

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ABSTRACT- Accident injuries are most common cause of death in children over the age of one. Every year, millions of children are permanently disabled or disfigured because of the accident. The largest numbers of accidents happen in the living or dining room, but the most serious accident happens in the kitchen and on the stair. Major home accidents are attributed to careless of parents and poor maintenance. The unintentional injuries in the home result from falls, burns, poisoning, accidental shooting and suffocation and sharp knives. The objective of the study assesses the knowledge of mothers on their practices regarding prevention of home accidents among toddler with demographic variables. Demographic variable shown 45.6% mother were in the age group of 26–30 years, 62.2% of them belongs to Hindu religion, 55.6% belongs to joint family, 82.2% had only one toddler in family, 82.2% were housewives, 75.6% were living in pukka house, 55.6% got knowledge about prevention of home accident through mass media. e.g. T.V and radio etc.

Key-words- Child accident, Demographic variables, Toddler, Mothers knowledge,

INTRODUCTION

Home accidents are one of the leading causes of death. “Home accident” is accident which takes place in the home or in it’s immediate surroundings^[1].

“Prevention is better than cure”

Accidents are one of the five leading causes of death in developing countries yearly. 10% of children suffer for accident for which it is necessary to contact the health services. Home accidents are more in rural areas than the urban area and these home accidents depend on living conditions of mother’s educational status, age of mothers, number of children in family, and the surrounding environment both indoor and outdoor etc^[1].

Accidents are the main cause of death among the children aged between one to five years old. Increase the number of accident rate because of the explorative nature of children so it is important to know the preventive aspects. A study was conducted with knowledge of mother regarding prevention of less than five accidents.

Descriptive method was used with the simple random sampling technique. The result of the study shows that 6% of mothers have poor knowledge, 78% with average knowledge and 16% with good knowledge^[2].

Safety measure is an important aspect of child care to minimize the accidental hazards. Children are by nature accident prone. They are curious, investigative, impatient and less careful to listen warning. Accident injuries are leading cause of hospitalization, disability and death of children. It is expensive aspect of community health. Greater numbers of accidental injuries occur in 2–3 years and 5–6 years of age^[3].

This Study was done by the Department of public health, Dr. Stevens’ hospital and Dublin on investigated childhood accident in the home by randomly surveying children presenting to a Dublin accident and emergency department revealed that among 174 child’s accident, 66% of the survey were under five. So the accident prevention requires three prolonged approach that is environmental changes, enforcement of legislation and educational measures^[4].

Children are vulnerable to musculoskeletal injuries, both at home and on the street for various reasons. Morbidity and disabilities resulting from these, mostly preventable, injuries, make them a burden to their families and society. The role of various factors associated with injuries is often not documented. This prospective study, done on 100 children aged up to 12 years with musculoskeletal trauma,

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analyzed in details, the various modes of injuries. One in every five patients was a child below 12 years of age. Boys were injured more than girls. Injuries, especially fractures, were most common in the extremities, the upper limb more commonly injured than the lower limb. Most of the injuries occurred at home. The most common mode of injuries was fallen that happened while playing both within and outside the home, followed by road traffic accidents. Most injuries occurred during day time [5].

The study showed that 38.93% of the accidents occurred in the children belonging to the age group 49–60 months. This is analogous to the findings of a study done in the field practice area of the PGIMER, Chandigarh in which maximum number of accidents occurred in the age group of 25-36 months [6].

The child is the most precious possession of mankind, most loved and perfect in its innocence. Children are to be cared and protected from environmental hazards. Accidents do not just happen; they are the result of thoughtfulness, carelessness, neglect and momentary lack of concentration. The most common type of injuries occurs from motor vehicle crashes and bicycle crashes which are seen in children below the age group of 12 [7].

An accidental hanging child, although uncommon has been reported worldwide. We report a case of a toddler, who was brought to our hospital with an alleged history of hanging with his head trapped in-between the railings of a balcony. He became unconscious and developed seizures secondary to asphyxial injury and survived. Hanging is an important cause of homicidal and suicidal injury in adults, but in children, it is usually accidental, leading to death because of asphyxia as a result of partial or complete hanging. There is a paucity of data in Indian literature regarding accidental hanging injuries in children. According to available data from western countries, strangulation ranks fourth among the causes of unintentional injury in children younger than 1 year after roadside accidents, drowning, and burns [8].

Many unintentional injuries to young children occur in the home. The study examines the relation between family socioeconomic and sociodemographic factors and risk factors for home injury. Presence of household hazards was examined in 80 families with toddler-aged children. Parental ability to identify household hazards in the pictures was also assessed. ANOVAs and Pearson product-moment correlations examined the relationship between presence of household hazards, knowledge to identify hazards, and factors of yearly family income, parental age, parental education, parental marital status, child's ethnicity, and the number of children living in the home. A greater number of hazards were found in the homes of both the lowest and highest income families, but poorer knowledge to identify household hazards was found only among parents of the lowest income families and younger parents. Across family socioeconomic status, parental knowledge of hazards was related to observe household hazards [9].

India has one of the highest road traffic accidents in the world. Burn injuries are second only to motor vehicle

accidents as the curse of accidental death in children 1–4 yr of age. Most accidents occur in the age group of 2–5 yr, mostly in boys [10].

A study was done on 3500 subjects by using simple random sampling technique. The study was conducted in the rural field practice area of a medical college in South India between Jan to Dec 2010. Information regarding domestic accidents was gathered by interviewing the head of the family or the adult informant by using pretested and pre structured questionnaire. Total 330 domestic accidents were found in our study. 210 domestic accidents were due to falls, 225 accidents were seen in female, 217 subjects with accidents were illiterates 49.7% of accidents took place in the courtyard, 56.8% of accidents took place while playing or doing domestic work and 39.2% of accidents took place in the afternoon [11].

METHODOLOGY

The samples for this study were 90 mothers, who having children between 1-3 year of 51 residencies in selected urban community of Nashik, India. The house to house survey was done and found the mother of toddler in Indira nagar and Rane nagar. The sample was selected by using simple random technique. The sample obtain are 50 in Indira nagar, 40 in Rane nagar. Data were collected from the mothers, who were able to understand Hindi or Marathi or English.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1: Distribution of mothers according to demographic variables

S.No.	Demographic Variables	Number	Percentage (%)
1.	Type of family		
	a. Nuclear	40	44.4
	b. Joint	50	55.6
2.	Size of the family		
	a. < 4	25	27.8
	b. 5-7	29	32.2
	c. 8-10	34	37.8
3.	d. > 10	02	2.2
	Number of toddlers in family	74	82.2
	a. One	15	16.7
	b. Two	01	1.1
	c. ≥ Three		
4.	Type of house		
	a. Pucca	68	75.6
	b. Semi Pucca	22	24.4
5.	Source of knowledge		
	a. News and Magazine	16	17.8
		50	55.6
	b. TV and Radio	24	26.4
	c. Witnessed home accident		

Table 1 represents that the majority 50(55.6%) belongs to joint and remaining 40(44.4%) family belongs to nuclear.

In relation to size of family 34 (37.8%) belongs to 8-10 members, 29 (32.2%) belong to 5-7 members, 25(27.8%) belongs to less than four members and 2(2.2%) belongs to more than 10 members in family. In relation to number of toddlers in the family majority 74(82.2%) belongs to one toddler, 15(16.7%) families have two toddlers and remaining 1(1.1%) belongs to three or more the three toddlers in Family. Similarly in relation to type of house majority 68(75.6%) were Pukka whereas, 22(24.4%) were semi Pukka houses.

In view of source of knowledge 50 (55.6%) mothers obtained knowledge from T.V. and Radio, 24 (26.4%) by witnessed home accidents and remaining 16(17.8%) obtained the knowledge from news and Magazines.

CONCLUSIONS

The present study assesses the knowledge of mothers residing in urban community, about their practices in prevention of home accident among toddlers. The result revealed that was a significant association between knowledge with demographic variables of those mothers of children. The present study has shown that majority 60(66.7%) of the urban mother of toddlers have adequate knowledge in practice and 30 (33.3%) mother have moderately adequate knowledge on practices and nobody have inadequate knowledge on practice in prevention of home accident among toddler. The mean for over all knowledge on practice of mother of toddler was 23.46 (S.D=2.57). The highest mean knowledge of practice for burns and scalds 3.82(SD=1.02) and lowest mean for foreign body aspiration 1.60 (SD=0.63). There was a significant association between knowledge with selected demographic variables such as age, religions, type of family, number of toddler, size of family, educational status of mother, occupation of mother income by family and type of house etc.

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