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To Assess the Knowledge Regarding Management of Fever among Mothers of Under Five Children

Rinu David[1], Anusha T.V.[2], Ashly Vagitese[3], Ashna Joji[4], Christina Babu[5], Daya Johney[6]

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Abstract

Health of the children has been considered as the vital importance to all societies because children are the future resources of mankind. Children are future citizens of our country. *Statement of Problem:* A descriptive study to assess the knowledge regarding management of fever among mothers of under five children in Amala institute of medical sciences & Research center, Thrissur. *Objectives:* To assess the knowledge of mothers of under-five regarding fever management, To find out association between level of knowledge and selected demographic variables, To prepare an information leaflet on fever management. The research approach adopted for this study is non experimental quantitative approach. The research design selected for this study is descriptive design. Population in this study consisted of mothers having children below five years of age sample in this study consisted of 50 mothers of under five children who were admitted in pediatric wards and OPD of Amala Institute of Medical Sciences. Convenient sampling was adopted for the study. *Results:* 2% of mothers were found to have very good knowledge. 27% of mothers having good knowledge. 21% of mothers having average knowledge. From the findings, it is found that there are association with income and usage of thermometer and knowledge of mothers. No association with selected demographic variables such as age, birth order, type of family. Nurse educators should continuously update their knowledge with latest research findings and provide health education programmes to mothers.

Keywords: Fever, Mothers, Knowledge

Introduction

Health of the children has been considered as the vital importance to all societies because children are the future resources of mankind. Due to developing immunological system and poor sense of hygiene among the children they are prone tomany infections. The main primary symptom in any infection is fever. If any disease occur the first and for most symptom is increase in temperature. Fever is condition in which an increase in average body temperature of 98.6^0 C. Fever in children is one of the most common manifestations of an illness. Fever occurs when various infections and non infectious processes interact with the host's defense mechanism.

Author's Affiliations: [1]Assistant Professor, Amala College of Nursing, Thrissur, [2-6]U.G. Scholars, Amala College of Nursing, Thrissur, Kerala 680555, India.

Corresponding Author: Rinu David, Assistant Professor, Amala College of Nursing, Thrissur, Kerala 680555, India.

E-mail: rinu.david45@gmail.com

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Need and Significance

A child is precious not only to parents, family, community & nation but also to the world at large. So mother's knowledge on care of children greatly influences the health status of the child by reducing the mortality and the morbidity rate

Statement of Problem

A descriptive study to assess the knowledge regarding management of fever among mothers of under five children in Amala institute of medical sciences & Research center, Thrissur.

Objectives

- To assess the knowledge of mothers of under-five regarding fever management.
- To find out association between level of knowledge and selected demographic variables.
- To prepare an information leaflet on fever management.

Assumptions

Mothers have a little knowledge regarding management of fever.

Hypothesis

There is a significant association between knowledge regarding fever management among under five mothers with the selected demographic variables.

Materials and Methods

Research Approach

The research approach adopted for this study is non experimental quantitative approach.

Research Design

The research design depicts the overall plan for organization of scientific investigation. The research design selected for this study is descriptive design.

Population

Population is a set of people or entities to which the results of a research are to be generalized. Population in this study consisted of mothers having children below five years of age.

Sample and Sample Size

It is the process of selecting a part of assigned population to represent the entire population. The sample in this study consisted of 50 mothers of under five children who were admitted in pediatric wards and OPD of Amala Institute of Medical Sciences.

Sampling Technique

Convenient sampling was adopted for the study. Samples are selected from the pediatric wards and OPD.

Sampling Criteria

Inclusion Criteria

- Mothers having children five years of age.
- Mothers who are attending pediatric OPD and wards.

Exclusion Criteria

- Mothers who are not willing to participate in the study
- Mothers who can't read or write English or malayalam

Data Collection Tool

A structured questionnaire on fever & its management was used for the collection of data.

Questionnaire was divided into 2

I. Demographic variables

II. A structured knowledge questionnaire on fever and its management.

The questionnaire consist of 25 questions. The scoring was done in such a way that correct score carries one mark and for wrong response 0.

Criteria Measures

0-5 - Very poor

6-10- Poor

11-15- Average

16-20- Good

21-25- Very good

Data Collection Procedure

After getting permission from the management of Amala hospital, data was collected using questionnaires from mothers of under five children in pediatric wards and OPD of Amalahospital. Data collection for period of 3 days. After self introduction, nature and objectives of the study was explained to the samples. Concern was taken. Questionnaires was given and samples were asked to fill the questionnaire according to the instructions given. At the end of successful data collection, to enhance their knowledge an information leaflet on fever management was distributed to the samples. Later we conveyed gratitude to all participants who cooperated for the study.

Pilot Study

Pilot study is a primary research conducted to test the elements of design before commencement of an actual full scale project.

In order to test the feasibility and practicability of tool, pilot study was conducted in mothers of under five children who were admitted in pediatric wards and OPD of Amala Hospital, Thrissuron 24/7/18. The average time taken for the study was 25 minutes. The reliability of tool is checked and 'r' value is 0.93.

Data Analysis

Data collected were analyzed and interpreted using descriptive statistics. Tables, diagrams are used to represent the data. The study findings are discussed in three sections.

Section 1: Analysis of demographic variables

Section 2: Analysisof knowledge of mother regarding fever management

Section 3: Association between knowledge of mothers and demographic variable

Section 1: Analysis of Demographic Variables

Table 1: Distribution of subjects according to age

N=50

Sl. No	Age	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	20-25	17	34%
2	26-30	20	40%
3	>30	13	26%

Table 2: Distribution of subjects according to Religion N=50

Sl. No	Religion	Frequency	Percentage(%)
1	Hindu	20	40%
2	Muslim	13	26%
3	Christian	17	34%

Table 3: Distribution of subjects according to education N=50

Sl. No	Education	Frequency	Percentage(%)
1	Primary	2	4%
2	Secondary	8	16%
3	Degree	34	68%
4	Post Graduate	6	12%

Table 4: Distribution of subjects according to type of family

N=50

Sl. No	Type of Family	Frequency	Percentage
1	Nuclear family	21	42%
2	Joint family	29	58%

Section 2: Analysis of Knowledge of Mothers Regarding fever Management

Fig. 1: Distribution of subjects according to knowledge of mothers

Impression: Majority of subjects 54% having good level of knowledge,42%have average knowledge and only 4% have very good knowledge.

Section 3: Association between Selected Demographic Variables and Knowledge of Mothers

Table 5: Association between age and knowledge of mothers

Sl. No	Age in Year	Average	Good	Very Good	X^2	Table Value
1	20-25	6	9	1	2.275	9.49
2	26-30	8	12	0		
3	>30	6	7	1		

Table 5 shows that calculated value is < table value, so there was no association between age and knowledge of mothers.

Table 6: Association between income and knowledge of mothers

Sl. No	Income	Average	Good	Very Good	X^2	Table Value
1	<10000	11	10	0	16.66	12.52
2	10000-15000	8	9	0		
3	15000-20000	0	6	0		
4	>20000	1	3	2		

Table 6 shows that calculated value is > table value, so there is association between income and knowledge of mothers.

Table 7: Association between birth order and knowledge of mothers

Sl. No	Birth Order	Average	Good	Very Good	X^2	Table Value
1	1	7	11	1	6.725	12.59
2	2	11	14	0		
3	3	3	1	1		
4	4	0	1	0		

Table 7 shows that calculated value is < table value, so there was no association between birth order and knowledge of mothers.

Table 8: Association between type of family and knowledge of mothers

Sl. No	Type of Family	Average	Good	Very Good	X^2	Table Value
1	Nuclear family	8	13	0	1.97	5.99
2	Joint family	13	14	2		

Table 8 shows that calculated value is < table value , so there was no association between type of family and knowledge of mothers.

Table 9: Association between usage of thermometer and knowledge of mothers

Sl. No	Usage of Thermometer	Average	Good	Very Good	X^2	Table Value
1	Present	12	12	1	9.64	9.49
2	Absent	9	15	1		

Table 9 shows that calculated value is > table value, so there is association between usage of thermometer and knowledge of mothers.

Findings of the Study

Findings of the Study are Presented in the Following:

Association between selected demographic variables and knowledge of mothers from the findings, it is found that there are association with income and usage of thermometer and knowledge of mothers. No association with selected demographic variables such as age, birth order, type of family.

Recommendations

- A similar study can be conducted using large sample.
- The duration of study could be increased.
- Appropriate instructions could be planned to solve the limitations.
- Emphasize should be given on multi disciplinary supervision.
- A comparative study with control group can be done in order to have a better precision and accuracy in the findings.

Limitations

- The study was only to the mothers who came to the outpatient and inpatient department of Amala Institute of Medical sciences.

Nursing Implications

The present indicates that the mothers have average knowledge about management of fever. The study serves as a guiding point towards identifying the level of knowledge and the demographic variables. The implications of this study were discussed under the following headings:-

Nursing Education

An effective education to mothers will enlighten their knowledge regarding the fever management. Special interest should also to be taken to educate young mothers about the importance of fever management and prevention of febrile seizures. Nurse educators should continuously update their knowledge with latest research findings and provide health education programmes to mothers.

Nursing Administration

- Adequate provision can be made by the nursing administrators to provide education to young mothers.
- Administrative support should be provided to staff nurses to implement health education programmes.
- Efficiency of the health education programmes has to be ascertained and suitable modifications can be brought about in content and plan of the programmes.

Nursing Practice

In general clinical settings and in child health settings nurse can take the initiative to assess and provide health education about the management of fever.

Nursing Research

Fever occurs most commonly in under five children. They are more prone to get infections. So there is a wide opportunity to conduct research on the management of fever. The nurse researcher can conduct the study in a large population setting. The findings from the study can be utilized while providing care in the pediatric settings.

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