

Knowledge on Worm Infestation among Mothers with Under Five Children at Maraimalai Nagar, Kancheepuram District

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Abstract

Introduction: Worm infestation affect the child growth and development and it leads to major complication if the children are not treated in the earlier stage. The mother plays a major role in child care as is the prime care giver. *Objective:* The objective of the study was to assess the knowledge on worm infestations among mothers with underfive children in Maraimalai nagar. *Methodology:* The research approach selected for the present study was Quantitative approach and descriptive research design. The study was conducted in Maraimalainagar, Kancheepuram District. The study was conducted among 50 mothers with under five children. Non probability purposive sampling technique was adopted for the study. The data was collected using structured questionnaire which consists of 20 questions. *Results:* 50 mothers, 18 (36%) mothers have in adequate knowledge; 20 (40%) mothers have moderately adequate knowledge and 12 (24%) mothers have adequate knowledge. *Conclusion:* Hence the knowledge of the mothers can be enhanced through mass awareness program on prevention of worm infestation which in turn promotes the health of the under five children.

Keywords: Worm Infestation; Mothers; Underfive Children; Health Promotion.

Introduction

Worm infestation remains one of the main problems of child development. This is especially a greater health hazard in developing countries [1]. Globally 3.5 billion people are infected with intestinal worms.

Of which 1.15 billions are with roundworm. 1.3 billion people with hookworm and 1.05 billion people with whipworm [2]. In 1995, The "WHO" estimated that there were 250 million persons infected with *Ascaris lumbricoides* and 60,000 persons died from ascariasis[3].

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In India, the problem is likely to be more common because of bad hygiene, poor awareness, illiteracy, misbeliefs, poverty and a variety of allied factors [4]. Children population is considered to be the greatest potential of any nation because in developing countries health and child care need greater attention. Children enjoy a state of well being in every family that is in true sense the harmony stability and happiness. This harmony is distributed due to many factors affecting the under five children health. Some of the factors are communicable disease child accidents etc. One of the major problem in the under five children is worm infestation [5].

Worm infestation affect the child growth and development and it leads to major complication if the children are not treated in the earlier stage [6]. By improving health of the children the researcher contributes to the health of the general population. The mother plays a major role in child care as is the prime care giver. She has to be equipped with knowledge about control and prevention of worm infestation. Adequate knowledge in the mother would lead to optimum health status in children.

Home teaching result in the natural environment of the parent and it is for this reason the mothers are chosen as samples to assess their knowledge about worm infestation [7].

In any community mother and children constitute a priority group. Mother and children are the major consumer of health child are multi factorial. Despite current efforts the health of child still constitutes one of the most serious health problem affecting the community. Particularly in the developing countries. Care approach combines all elements in the local community necessary to make a positive impact on the health status of the children's [8].

Prevention and control of worm infestation involves sanitary disposal of feces, periodic case finding and treatment of all infected person treatment of anemia and health education. The preventive measures include simple habit of improved personal hygiene, avoiding contact of contaminated soil by using foot wear, use of sanitary latrine for the disposal of feces to prevent soil pollution. Community involvement through health education is an important aspect of prevention of worm infestation [9].

Research Methodology

The research approach selected for the present study was Quantitative approach and descriptive research design. The study Variable was Knowledge on worm infestation and demographic variables comprises of Age, sex, educational status, occupation, religion, income and source of

information. The study was conducted in Maraimalainagar, Kancheepuram District. The study was conducted among 50 mothers with under five children. Non probability purposive sampling technique was adapted for the study. Section A it consist of demographic variables including age, education, occupation, type of food, income, type of family under five mothers. The tool used for the study comprises 2 sections, Section A consists of demographic variables including age, education, occupation, type of food, income, type of family under five mothers, Section B was structured questionnaire which consists of 20 questions. Content validity was obtained from 2 nursing Experts. Reliability was assessed by using test-retest method, the r- value was 0.8.

Ethical Considerations

The research proposal was approved by the Research committee, S.R.M College of Nursing, S.R.M University. Informed consent was obtained from the study participants, after explaining about nature and duration of the study. The researcher have explained benefits of the study to the participants,. Assurance was given to the individuals that each individual report will maintained confidentially and any point of time they can withdraw from the study. The investigator has collected data within one week. Formal approval was obtained from Dean, SRM college of Nursing. The investigator introduced herself to the samples and the purpose of the study was explained to ensure better cooperation during the data collection period. Using structured questionnaire data collection was completed. The collected data was analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics.

Results

Table 1: Frequency and percentage distribution of demographic variables of mothers with under five children N=50

Demographic variables	Mothers of under 5 Children		
	Number	%	
Age	18-21	5	10
	22-25	20	40
	26-29	9	18
	30-34	16	32
Education	Non formal Education	29	58
	Primary	21	42
Occupation	Un employed	13	26
	Private	37	74
Type of food	Vegetarian	15	30
	Non veg.	35	70
Income	Rs 1590-4726	2	4
	Rs 4727-7877	19	38
	Rs 7878-11876	18	36
	11877-15754	11	22
Type of family	Nuclear	11	22
	Joint	39	78

Table 2: Level of knowledge on worm infestation among mothers of under five children N=50

Level of knowledge	Number	Percentage
In adequate knowledge	18	36
Moderately adequate knowledge	20	40
Adequate knowledge	12	24

The above Table 2 reveals that among 50 mothers, 18 (36%) mothers had in adequate knowledge; 20 (40%) mothers had moderately adequate knowledge and 12 (24%) mothers had adequate knowledge

Table 3 reveals that there is significant

association between the level of knowledge on worm infestation among mothers of under 5 children and with their demographic variables of education, occupation and type of food. There is no association with respect to other variables.

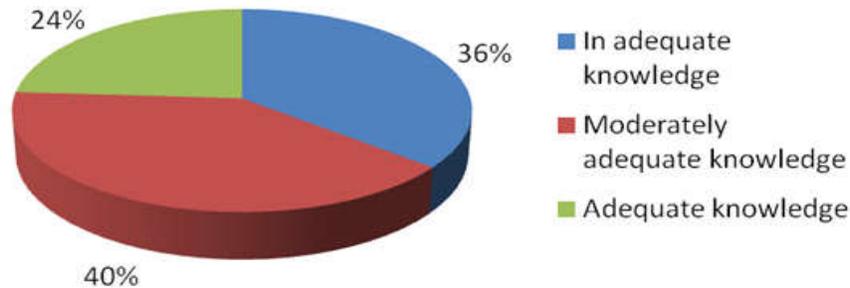


Fig. 1: Level of knowledge on worm infestation among mothers with under five children

Table 3: Association between the level of knowledge on worm infestation among mothers with their demographic variables N = 50

Demographic variables		Level of knowledge				Chi square test		
		In adequate n	%	Moderately adequate n	%	Adequate N	%	
Age	18-21	0	0	3	45	2	16.7	X ² = 10.75 P = 0.12
	22-25	5	27.8	8	40	7	58.3	
	26-29	3	16.7	4	20	2	16.7	NS
	30-34	10	55.6	5	2.5	1	8.3	
Education	Non formal Education	5	27.8	12	60	12	100	X ² = 15.47 P = 0.000 Significant
	Primary	13	72.2	8	40	0	0	
Occupation	Un employed	7	38.9	6	30	0	0	X ² = 6.93 P = 0.05 Significant
	Private	11	61.1	14	70	12	100	
Type of food	Vegetarian	12	66.7	3	15	0	0	X ² = 18.80 P = 0.000 Significant
	Non veg	6	33.3	17	85	12	100	
Income	Rs 1590-4726	1	5.6	0	0	1	8.3	X ² = 10.96 P = 0.09
	Rs 4727-7877	10	55.6	7	35	2	16.6	
	Rs 7878-11876	7	28.9	6	30	5	41.7	NS
	11877-15754	0	0	7	35	4	33.3	
Type of family	Nuclear	3	16.7	5	25	3	25	X ² = 0.48 P = 0.79 NS
	Joint	15	83.3	15	75	9	75	

Discussion

Worm infestation in children is a major public health problem caused by in effective disposal of contamination of water, food, vegetables, fruits and human excrete. Underfive childrens are the most

vulnerable groups of worm infestations which can be prevented through effective health education. The present study findings revealed that 50 mothers, 18 (36%) mothers have in adequate knowledge; 20 (40%) mothers have moderately adequate knowledge and 12 (24%) mothers have adequate knowledge.

The present study findings was supported study done by Dayanand G, Singh S, Pandit S in 2015 on Knowledge and practice of worm infection among mothers of school going children of Arba VDC, Kaski, Nepal. The majority of the mothers were in the age group of 26-30 years, followed by 31-35 years and <25 years. Among the age group <25 years had good and average types of knowledge and their practice score was also good. Among the 26-30 years age group mothers, knowledge score was relatively good. Among all the groups poor quality of knowledge was almost nil. Practice score was good amongst all age groups [10].

Similar study was done by Jeyalakshmi Alva Janet et al., in 2016 to identify the knowledge and practice of mothers of under-five children regarding worm infestation with the view to develop a health education pamphlet in rural community in Dakshina Kannada district. The main objective of this study was to determine the knowledge and practice of mothers of under-five children regarding worm infestation and to find the correlation between the knowledge and practice scores of mothers of under-five children. A total of 200 mothers of under-five children were participated in the study. Results: the result showed that 38.0% of mothers of under-five children had fair knowledge and 34.5% of mothers had poor knowledge regarding worm infestation; 92.5% of mothers of under-five children had satisfactory practice. And also the study results showed that, there is a significant relationship ($p < 0.05$) between the knowledge and practice scores [11].

Conclusion

The present study findings revealed that 18 (36%) mothers had in adequate knowledge; 20 (40%) mothers had moderately adequate knowledge and 12 (24%) mothers have adequate knowledge. Hence the knowledge of the mothers can be enhanced through mass awareness program on prevention of worm infestation which in turn promotes the health of the under five children. Posters, leaflets can be made and issued to the community for improving the knowledge on worm infestation among the mothers of under five children.

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