Knowledge of mothers on prevention of childhood accidents – A study with particular reference to selected area of New Delhi

Nanthini Subbiah

Shape the future of life. Healthy environments for children. The children of today are the adults of tomorrow. They deserve to inherit a safer, fairer and healthier world. There is no task more important than safeguarding their environment.

Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland, Director General, WHO (2003)

A child’s world centers around the home, school and the community. The biggest threats to children’s health lurk in the very places that should be safest – home, school and community. Every child has the right to grow up in a healthy environment.

The future development of our children depends on their enjoying good health today. A house is an exciting place for infants and small children, who love to explore but aren’t aware of the potential dangers. Life can’t be risk-free, but most household accidents can be prevented by utilizing a household safety list.

The incidence of accidental injuries is increasing in India especially home accidents in children; hence the knowledge of mothers is essential for undertaking measures to prevent them.

Objectives of the Study
1. To assess the knowledge of mothers regarding types of common childhood accidents among the under five children.
2. To assess the knowledge of mothers regarding first aid measures of childhood accidents among under five children.
3. To assess the knowledge of mothers regarding prevention of childhood accidents among under five children.
4. To find out the association between knowledge and selected demographic characteristics.

Assumptions of the study.
* Employed mothers will have more knowledge regarding prevention of childhood accidents than the housewives.
* Mothers having more than one child will have more knowledge regarding prevention of childhood accidents than the mothers having one child.

Delimitations
* The study is delimited to the mothers who are having children below five years of age.
* Data collection is limited to mothers who are willing to participate during data collection.
* Data collection period is delimited to two weeks.

Research Approach
This study was designed to assess the knowledge of mothers of under five children regarding the prevention of childhood accidents. The research approach used in this study was descriptive approach.

Setting of the study
This study was conducted in the selected houses and nursery schools, situated at a distance of about half to one kilometer away from IIT, New Delhi.

The study population belonged to different socio-economic strata of the society.

Population
The mothers residing in the area of about half to one kilometer away from IIT, New Delhi were included in the study as study population.

Sample size
The sample consisted of 100 mothers of under five children who were residing in the area of about half to one kilometer away from IIT, New Delhi and who fulfilled the following criteria.
1. Mothers having children under five years of age.
2. Mothers who were willing to participate in the study.
3. Mothers who can understand and communicate in English/Hindi.

Sampling Technique
The method of sampling was the random sampling method. The sample selected for data collection were those who fulfilled the criteria laid down for the selection of the sample and were available during the period of data collection. No special technique was adopted.

Research Tool and Technique: The structured interview schedule
was used to collect the relevant data. In this study, the interview schedule was a questionnaire that was read out to the respondents and filled in. The questionnaire was formulated after discussions with the experts in the related field and on the basis of review of literature. After constructing a tentative questionnaire, it was modified in consultation with the experts in the filed.

Description of the tool:
The structured interview schedule designed for the study consisted of demographic data and knowledge of mothers of under five children regarding primary and secondary prevention of accidents among children.

Validity:
To evaluate the content validity, the tool was given to 4 experts in the related field and to the statistician. They validated the tool. As far as adequacy of content, all the experts approved the tool constructed except for slight modifications.

Reliability:
Reliability of the tool was checked by test retest method. The tool was administered to two subjects. They were selected according to the criteria, in the study. It was administered first time and again administered after 2 days. In both the cases, responses of both times were similar. Hence consistency was observed to support reliability.

Pilot Study:
In order to test the reliability, relevance and practicability of the tool, a pilot study was conducted on 5 mothers of under five children who fulfilled the criteria for sample selection. It was conducted in the manner in which the final study would be done. These subjects were excluded from the final study.

Data collection
The period of data collection was planned for 2 weeks and the time was chosen to the convenience of the subjects. During the above period the investigator visited the houses and nursery schools situated in the area of about ½ to 1 kilometer away from IIT, New Delhi and collected the data.

The investigator introduced herself to the mother first, and her consent was obtained verbally. Then the nature of study was explained and assurance regarding the confidentiality of the answers was provided. On completion of the questionnaire the mother was given time to clarify her doubts and ask questions.

Data Analysis
The data analysis was planned according to the objectives of the study. As this was a descriptive study, analysis was done by descriptive statistics (frequency, percentage and graph). Chi-Square was used to see the association between knowledge and demographic characteristics.

Study findings
The majority of the study population were employed (67%), living in nuclear family set up (64%) and their family monthly income was above Rs. 5000/- (67%). They represent the total population.

With regard to distribution of age, twenty four (24) subjects out of 100 were below 25 years, forty (40) subjects were between 26-35 years and thirty six (36) subjects were between the age of 36-45 years.

None of the population under study was illiterate. Eleven (11) of the subjects had primary school education, Nineteen (19) of the subjects had education up to high school, thirty six (36) of the subjects had higher secondary education and thirty four (34) of the subjects had graduation.

The data on socio-economic status of the mothers shows that majority of the subjects (67) had family monthly income of above Rs. 5000/- Twenty Nine (29) of the subjects had family monthly income Rs. 2001- Rs. 5000 and only four (4) of the subjects had family monthly income below Rs. 2000/-

The occupational status of the subjects shows that majority of them (67) were employed. Regarding the type of family, majority of the study population (64) belong to the nuclear family.

With regard to number of living children, twenty (20) of the study population had one child, fifty seven (57) of the population under study had 2 children, twenty three of the study population had more than 2 children.

Average knowledge score (%) regarding prevention of childhood accidents among the study population (100) was 49.46%. Majority of the population had more knowledge in some aspects of childhood accidents and less knowledge in other aspects. The data on types of childhood accidents shows that fifty one (51) out of 100 population had moderately adequate knowledge, forty (40) of the population had adequate knowledge and nine (9) subjects had inadequate knowledge.

With regard to knowledge regarding first aid measures. Majority (64) of the population had moderately adequate knowledge, twenty eight (28) of the population had inadequate knowledge and only eight (8) out of 100 population had adequate knowledge.

Regarding preventive measures of childhood accidents, majority (79) of the study population had inadequate knowledge and
only two (2) out of 100 mothers had adequate knowledge.

In order to find out the association between knowledge and demographic characteristics of the subjects towards prevention of childhood accidents chi-square was computed.

Mothers having more than one child and living in a nuclear family setup had more knowledge regarding the meaning of falls than the mothers having more than one child and living in a joint family set-up.

There was significant difference in the knowledge of meaning of Laceration between housewives and employed mothers (p=0.038) mothers whose family monthly income was above Rs. 5000/- also had more knowledge in this aspect when compared with mothers whose family monthly income was below Rs. 5000 (p=0.038).

There was significant difference in the knowledge of meaning of burns among the nuclear and joint family mothers having more than one child (p=0.028).

Graduate mothers had more knowledge with regard to meaning of burns than the non-graduate mothers (p=0.019). Employed mothers whose family monthly income was above Rs. 500 also had more knowledge in this aspect than the mothers whose income was below Rs. 5000 per month (p=0.015). Mothers having more than one child with the family monthly income above Rs. 5000/- had more knowledge regarding the meaning of burns than the mothers with below Rs. 500 as family monthly income.

Conclusions:

From the study findings it can be concluded that more mothers under study were employed living in a nuclear family setup and their family monthly income was above Rs. 5000/-. None of them were illiterate. However they had poor knowledge on first aid and preventive measures of childhood accidents. Knowledge of mothers on prevention of accidents seems to have no significant association with age of the mother, educational status, type of family, occupation, family monthly income and number of living children. However, there was significant difference in the knowledge of some types of accidents between housewives and employed mothers, between nuclear and joint family mothers having more than one child, between mothers whose family income was above Rs. 5000 and below Rs. 5000 and between graduate and non-graduate mothers.

Recommendations:

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations are proposed:

1. A similar kind of study can be conducted for a large group.
2. A comparative study can be carried out to mothers on prevention of childhood accidents in urban and rural community.
3. A similar study can be conducted by using experimental and control group.
4. An observational study can be conducted in the actual practice for a period of time.

References


SHRI GURU RAM DASS COLLEGE OF NURSING
CANAL COLONY ROAD, HOSHIARPUR – 146001
PHONE No. 01882-252709 FAX NO. 01882-252709
E-MAIL : sard_hsp@yahoo.com
WEBSITE : www.sardnursingcollege.com

WANTED

The following faculty position for the basic B.Sc. Nursing

Lecturer - 1 Paediatric Nursing
M.Sc. Nursing with three years experience

Lecturer - 1 Obstetric Nursing
M.Sc. Nursing with three years experience

Lecturers - 2 Medical Surgical Nursing
M.Sc. Nursing with three years experience

Salary is Negotiable, Suitable accommodation will be provided.

NOTE - Year of experience relaxable if a suitable candidate is not available. Retired persons in good health can also apply. Interested candidates may send their biodata with two photographs, photocopies of all certificates and two stamped self addressed envelopes up to 17th October 2006 to the Principal, Dr. (Mrs.) Kanwal Jit Gill on the above mentioned address.