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A DESCRIPTIVE STUDY TO ASSESS THE KNOWLEDGE REGARDING EARLY DETECTION OF LEARNING DISABILITIES OF CHIDREN AMONG MOTHERS OF UNDER FIVE AT PALLITHOTTAM COASTAL COMMUNITY AREA KOLLAM

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ABSTRACT
The research project undertook was "a descriptive study to assess the knowledge regarding early detection of learning disabilities of children among mothers of under five at Pallithottam coastal community area, Kollam." The objectives of the study were to assess the knowledge regarding early detection of learning disabilities of children among mothers of under five, to find the association between knowledge regarding early detection of learning disabilities of children among mothers of under five with selected socio-demograhic variables. The study was conducted among 60 mothers of under five who were residing at Pallithottam coastal community area, Kollam. In order to assess the knowledge regarding early detection of learning disabilities among mothers of under five, the study sample was selected by non-probability convenience sampling technique. The tool used for data collection consisted of demographic performa, structured knowledge questionnaire, basic introduction of the study was given to the subjects. The analysis of the data was based on the objectives of the study using descriptive and inferential statistics. The finding of the present study revealed that out of 60 samples, 8.3% mothers of under five children had adequate knowledge regarding early detection of learning disabilities, 20% had moderate knowledge and 71.6% had inadequate knowledge. There was significant association between knowledge and selected socio demographic variables like age, type of marriage, education, mode of delivery and type of family and there is no significant association between occupation. Based on the findings the investigators has drawn implications which were of vital concerns in the field of nursing practice, nursing administration, nursing education for future development.

KEYWORDS: Knowledge, Learning disabilities, mother, early detection, early detection of learning disabilities, under five, mothers of under five.

INTRODUCTION
Learning is the acquisition of new knowledge and skills. The nature of children during their early years of development is that, they acquire spoken language first and then to speak. Occurrence of any discrepancy in the ability and performance of the actual process of learning is characterized as a learning disability. Individuals with specific childhood learning disorders face numerous challenges that persist throughout their lifetime. Different types of learning disabilities are seen among children.

Learning disabilities are developmental disorders characterized by difficulties in reading, writing or performing arithmetical calculations, in spite of adequate instruction, intact hearing and vision as well as social opportunity. The difficulty in learning is not due to intellectual deficit, emotional disturbance or cultural difference. They have normal intelligence and sensory abilities. Developmental dyslexia is a disorder in which children have significant and persistent deficits for reading. Reading skills develop only with direct instruction. Phonemic sensitivity, phonetic decoding, word recognition, word decoding skills and reading comprehension develop in stages. If the initial skill is not developed, further skills will not develop without scientific remedial training.

Early diagnosis and individualized remedial training are necessary to manage the learning problems of children. Parental guidance is more important in the diagnosis and therapy of these children.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBL
"A descriptive study to assess the knowledge regarding early detection of learning disabilities in children among

mothers of under five at Pallithottam coastal community area, Kollam."

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the study were

- To assess the knowledge regarding early detection of learning disabilities in children among mothers of under five.
- To find out the association between knowledge regarding early detection of learning disabilities in children among mothers of under five and selected socio-demographic variables.

Operational Definition

Assess

In this study assess refers to determine the knowledge regarding early detection of learning disabilities in children among mothers of under five.

Knowledge

In this study knowledge refers to the scores obtained by the respondents to the items in knowledge questionnaire regarding early detection of learning disabilities of children among mothers of under five.

Under five children

In this study under five children refers to the age group of 3-5 years of age.

Mother

In this study a mother refers to a female parent in between the age of 20-49 years who has performed her parenthood responsibility for an under five child.

Learning disabilities

In this study learning disabilities refers to the children who have difficulty to follow the instructions in reading, writing, arithmetic and recalling.

Assumptions

- Mothers of under five children may have some knowledge regarding early detection of learning disabilities through experience and education.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research approach	: Quantitative research
Research design	**:** Non-Experimental research design
Variables	**Dependent variable:** knowledge of mother's of under five children regarding learning disabilities. **Demographic variables:** In this study demographic variables are age of mother, age of child, sex of the child, education of the mother, occupation of the mother, type of marriage, type of family.
Setting of the study	:The setting of the study was conducted at Don Bosco Nagar of Pallithottam coastal community area, Kollam.
Population	:. In this study the population consists of mothers of under five child.
Sample	: In this study sample consisted of 60 mothers of under five children at Pallithottam coastal community area, Kollam.
Sample Size	: 60 mothers of under five children in Pallithottam coastal community area, Kollam.
Sampling Technique	: Convenience sampling technique

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1: Age.

SL NO	AGE	KNOWLEDGE		
		ADEQUATE	MODERATE	INADEQUATE
1	20-29	34	10	4
2	30-39	8	2	1
3	40-49	1	0	0

The table of data regarding age shows that out of 60 mothers, who were in the age group of 20-29 years, 34 of them had adequate knowledge, 10 had moderate and 4 of them have inadequate knowledge regarding early detection of learning disabilities in children among mothers of under five. Mothers who were in the age group of 30-39 years, 8 of them had adequate knowledge, 2 had moderate and 1 had inadequate knowledge. Among 40 -49 years, only 1 of them have adequate moderate regarding early detection of learning disabilities in children among mothers of under five.

Table 2: Type of marriage.

SL NO	TYPE OF MARRIAGE	KNOWLEDGE		
		ADEQUATE	MODERATE	INADEQUATE
1	Arranged marriage	34	6	2
2	Love marriage	9	6	3
3	Consanguineous	0	0	0

The data regarding type of marriage shows that in arranged marriage, 34 had adequate knowledge, 6 had moderate knowledge and 2 had inadequate knowledge regarding early detection of learning disabilities among mothers of under five. In love marriage, 9 had adequate knowledge, 6 had moderate knowledge and 2 had inadequate knowledge regarding early detection of children among mothers of under five. There is no consanguineous marriage.

Table 3: Education.

SL NO	EDUCATION	KNOWLEDGE		
		ADEQUATE	MODERATE	INADEQUATE
1	HS	10	3	0
2	HSS	13	4	2
3	Others	20	5	3

The data regarding education shows that out of 60 samples, 10 had adequate Knowledge, 13 had moderate knowledge and 20 had inadequate knowledge regarding early detection of learning disabilities among mothers of under five who has high school education. Mothers who has higher Secondary education, 13 had adequate knowledge, 4 had moderate knowledge and 2 had inadequate knowledge regarding early detection of learning disabilities among mothers of under five. Mothers who have duploma, graduate and post graduate education, 20 had adequate knowledge, 5 had moderate knowledge and 3 had inadequate knowledge regarding early detection of learning disabilities among mothers of under five.

Table 4: Occupation.

SL NO	OCCUPATION	KNOWLEDGE		
		ADEQUATE	MODERATE	INADEQUATE
1	Employed	9	2	3
2	Self Employed	2	4	1
3	Unemployed	32	4	1

The data regarding the occupation shows that out of 60 mothers, who are employed, 9 had adequate knowledge, 2 had moderate knowledge and 3 had inadequate knowledge regarding early detection of learning disabilities in children among eof under five. Mothers who are self employed as tailors, fishermen 2 had adequate knowledge, 4 had moderate knowledge and 1 had inadequate knowledge regarding early detection of learning disabilties among mothers of under five. Mothers who are unemployed 32 had adequate knowledge, 4 had moderate knowledge and 1 had inadequate knowledge regarding early detection of learning disabilties among mothers of under five.

Table 5: Mode of delivery.

SL NO	MODE OF DELIVERY	KNOWLEDGE		
		ADEQUATE	MODERATE	INADEQUATE
1	Normal	19	8	2
2	Caesarean	24	4	3

In The data regarding income shows that among mothers who had undergone normal delivery, 19 had adequate knowledge, 8 had moderate Knowledge and 2 had inadequate knowledge regarding early detection of learning disabilities among mothers of under five. Mothers who had undergone caesarean section, 24 had adequate knowledge, 4 had moderate knowledge and 3 had inadequate knowledge regarding early detection of learning disabilities among mothers of under five.

Table 6: Type of family.

SL NO	TYPE OF FAMILY	KNOWLEDGE		
		ADEQUATE	MODERATE	INADEQUATE
1	Nuclear family	26	7	3
2	Joint family	17	5	2

The data regarding type of family shows that in nuclear family, 26 had adequate knowledge, 7 had moderate knowledge and 3 had inadequate knowledge regarding early detection of learning disabilities in children among mothers of under five. In nuclear family, 17 had adequate knowledge, 5 had moderate knowledge and 2 had inadequate knowledge regarding early detection of learning disabilities in children among mothers of under five.

Table 7: Association between knowledge regarding early detection of learning disabilities in children among mothers of under five and selected socio demographic variables.

Sl.No	Variables	Knowledge			df	Chi square value	Table value	Inf
		Adequate	Moderate	Inadequate				
1	**Age in years**							
	20-29 yrs	34	10	4				
	30-39 yrs	8	2	1	4	0.53	9.49	NS
	40-49 yrs	1	0	0				
2	**Type of Marriage**							
	Arranged	34	6	2				
	Love	9	6	3	4	6.4	9.49	NS
	Consanguineous	0	0	0				
3	**Education**							
	HS	10	3	0	8	11.61	15.51	NS
	HSS	13	4	2				
	Others	20	5	3				
4	**Occupation**							
	Employed	9	2	3				
	Self Employed	2	4	1	4	18.13	9.49	S
5	**Mode of Delivery**							
	Normal	19	8	2	2	2.0	5.99	NS
	Caesarean	24	4	3				
6	**Type of family**							
	Nuclear family	26	7	3	2	0.20	5.99	NS
	Joint family	17	5	2				

0.05- level of significance
NS- non-significant
S-Significant

From the above statistical data, it was clear that there is significant association of knowledge regarding early detection of learning disabilities in children among mothers of under five and demographic variable occupation. And it is also clear that there was no association with knowledge regarding early detection of learning disabilities in children among mothers of under five and demographic variable such as age, type of marriage, education, mode of delivery and type of family.

DISCUSSION

The present study was conducted to assess the knowledge regarding early detection of learning disabilites of children among mothers of under five at Pallithottam coastal community area Kollam. In order to achieve the objectives of the study non experimental design was adopted. The Sample was selected by convenience sample technique. The sample consisted of 60 mothers of under five children in Pallithottam coastal community area, Kollam. The findings of the study have been discussed in relation to objectives and other similar studies.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the study were

1. To assess the knowledge regarding early detection of learning disabilities of children among mothers of under five.
2. To find out the association between knowledge regarding early detection of learning disabilities of children among mothers of under five and selected socio-demographic variables.

Discussion of findings with other studies based on objectives

● To assess the knowledge regarding early detection of learning disabilities of children among mothers of under five at Pallithottam community area Kollam.

The present study revealed that out of 60 samples, 8.3% mothers of under five children had adequate knowledge regarding early detection of learning disabilities, 20% had moderate knowledge and 71.6% had inadequate knowledge.

The above findings are supported by a descriptive study to assess knowledge regarding learning disabilities in

teacher's in Pune in 2012 using samples of 60 for both male and female teachers, by a non-convenience sampling technique. Teachers acquired adequate knowledge regarding learning disability the study relieved that According to the video games are helpful in improving the writing and reading skills of learning-disabled children since they train the brain parts responsible for motion perception and attention. However, video games should only be allowed to children in the presence of their parents.

- **To find the association between knowledge regarding early detection of learning disabilities of children among mothers of under five and selected socio-demographic variables**

In the demographic variable occupation, the chi square value 18.13 is greater than table value 9.49 at 0.05 level of significance. There was no significant association between knowledge regarding early detection of learning disabilities of children among mothers of under five and demographic variables such as age, type of marriage, education, mode of delivery, type of family. In the demographic variable age, the chi square value 0.53 is less than table value 9.49 at 0.05 level of significance. In the demographic variable type of marriage, the chi square value 6.4 is less than table value 9.49 at 0.05 level of significance. In the demographic variable education, the chi square value 11.61 is less than table value 15.51 at 0.05 level of significance. In the demographic variable mode of delivery, the chi square value 2.0 is less than table value 5.99 at 0.05 level of significance. In the demographic variable type of family, the chi square value 0.20 is less than 5.99 level of significance. In short significant association was found between knowledge and demographic variable occupation. No significant association was found between knowledge regarding early detection of learning disabilities of children among mothers of under five and demographic variables such as age, type of marriage, education, mode of delivery, type of family.

The above findings are supported by a descriptive study to assess the knowledge of primary school teachers about learning disabilities and their prevention among children in Bangalore. A self-administered structured questionnaire was prepared and administered to 50 primary school teachers between the First to Seventh standard based on a purposive sampling technique. The outcome was that teachers did acquire adequate knowledge regarding learning disabilities. According to Karande, Sholapurwala and Kulkarni (2011), 15% of school children were affected by learning disabilities in India. Although the government has carried out various awareness campaigns over the last decade, much is needed to be done to achieve an ideal scenario. For this, teachers will play a vital role, so proper training is required for screening for learning disability in primary school. School management should offer structured teaching programs and employ special instructors to ensure that children receive regular remedial education.

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