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KNOWLEDGE OF MOTHERS ON GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF INFANTS AT SELECTED HOSPITAL

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ABSTRACT
The Objectives of the study were to assess the knowledge of mothers on growth and development of infants, to find the association of knowledge of mothers with selected demographic variables. The study included 60 mothers of Infants who visited outpatient department of selected Hospital, Kollam. Demographic Proforma was used to collect the demographic variables. Self-structured questionnaire on mother's knowledge regarding growth and development during infancy. 50% of the mothers belongs to the age 20-28yrs, 40% of the mothers belongs to 29 – 37 yrs, 7% of mothers were having 38-45yrs. Majority (93%) of mothers were having (1-2yrs) children and 7% of mothers having (3-4yrs) of children and 3% of them were >45yrs. education of mothers in which 52%,35%, 13% were 5th -12th standard, graduate and post graduate respectively. Majority 95%, non- working mothers and 5% were working mothers. Level of Knowledge among mothers regarding growth and development of infants, in which out of 60 mothers, 47% and 53% were having moderate and good knowledge respectively. The association between the knowledge of mothers with their selected demographic variables, in which there is no association between the mother's knowledge score with their selected demographic variables such as age, sex, occupation and previous knowledge.

KEYWORDS: Knowledge, mothers, infants, growth, development.

INTRODUCTION
Child development refers to the biological, psychological and emotional changes that occur in human beings between birth and the end of adolescence, as the individual progresses from dependency to increasing autonomy. Developmental change may occur as a result of genetically-controlled processes known as maturation, or as a result of environmental factors and learning, but most commonly involves an interaction between the two. It may also occur as a result of human nature and our ability to learn from our environment.[1]

Infancy is a very crucial period of child because of rapid changes that occur during this stage like brain growth, acquisition of various skills and physical growth. Development is a phenomenon peculiar to infant and child. Development specifies changes in functions (stages of maturity) of the organism. The development of psychomotor functions follow progressive sequences along gross motor abilities, communication skills, fine motor skills and personal social behaviour.[2] It proceeds from cephalic to caudal and proximal to distal as well as from generalized reactions to stimuli to specific, goal-directed reactions that become increasingly precise.[3]

Assessment of the quality of skills and monitoring the attainment of developmental milestones are essential to early diagnosis of developmental disabilities and expedient referral to early intervention program.[4] Any problems noticed during developmental monitoring should be followed-upwith ***developmental screening***. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that all children be screened for developmental delays and disabilities during regular well-child doctor visits months18 months24 or 30 months.[5]

Parents' knowledge of development as well as accurate and appropriate expectations for children's behaviour are key factors in parenting effectiveness, which is associated with better child outcomes. Knowledge of child development appears to be a component of skilful parenting and optimal child development. Parents who were knowledgeable about child development demonstrated high parenting efficacy and competence.[6] Mother's knowledgeof child development has been positively correlated with her ability to enhance the development of her child

OBJECTIVES

1. To assess the knowledge of mothers on growth and development of infants.
2. To find the association of knowledge of mothers with selected demographic variables.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study selected the Quantitative approach for determine the knowledge of mothers. Descriptive design was used to collect data from 60 mothers of infantswho visited outpatient department of Bishop Benziger Hospital, Kollamby purposive sampling

Sampling Criteria

Inclusion criteria

- Mothers who are having or had an infant within last 2 years.
- Mothers who are willing to participate in the study.

Exclusion criteria

- Mothers of critically ill children

Description of Tool

Tool consists of two sections.

Section A: demographic proforma

Section B: structured interview schedule

Data collection process

Formal permission was obtained from the concerned authorities and informed consent was taken from mothers. The investigators introduced themselves to the subjects and the purpose of the study was explained to them. Confidentiality was assured. Purposive sampling technique was used to select the 60 mothers of who visited outpatient department of Bishop Benziger Hospital, Kollam.

Statistical analysis

The data collected were analyzed according to the objectives. The obtained data were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics

RESULTS

I. Description of demographic variables

Out of 60 mothers of infants were

a. Age

Fig.1.50% of the mothers belongs to the age 20-28yrs, 40% of the mothers belongs to 29 – 37 yrs., 7% of mothers were having 38-45yrs and 3% of them were >45yrs.

b. Number of children

Fig.2. Majority (93%) of mothers were having (1-2yrs) children and 7% of mothers having (3-4yrs) of children.

c. Education

Fig.3. shows the education of mothers in which 52%, 35%, 13% were 5th -12th standard, graduate and post graduate respectively.

d. Occupation

Fig 4. Majority 95%, non- working mothers and 5% were working mothers.

II. Level of Knowledge among mothers.

Figure 5. Shows the level of Knowledge among mothers regarding growth and development of infants, in which out of 60 mothers, 47% and 53% were having moderate and good knowledge respectively.

III. Association between the knowledge of mothers with their selected demographic variables

Table 1. Presents the association between the knowledge of mothers with their selected demographic variables, in which there is no association between the mother's knowledge score with their selected demographic variables such as age, sex, occupation and previous knowledge.

1. Description of Demographic variables

a) Age

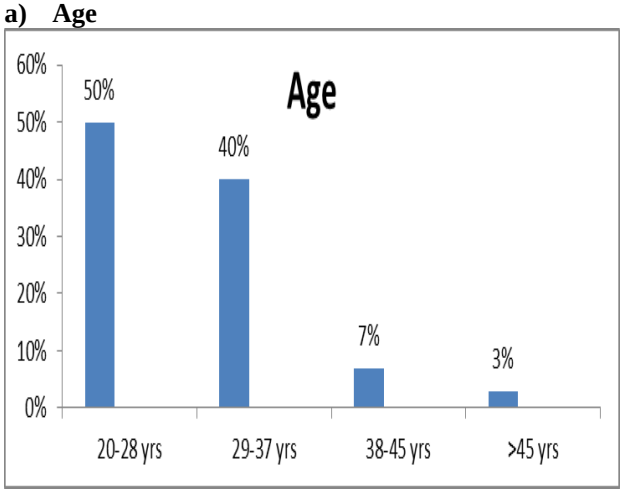

Fig. 1: Shows the frequency and percentage of age.

b) Number of children

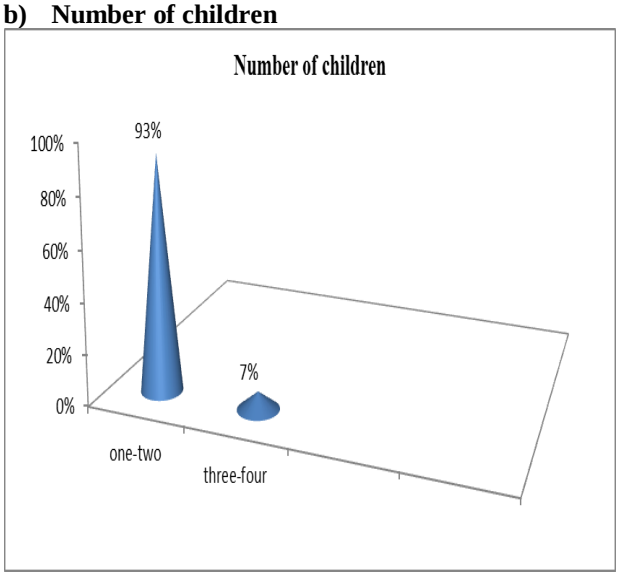

Fig. 2: Shows the frequency and percentage of number of children N.

c) Education of mothers

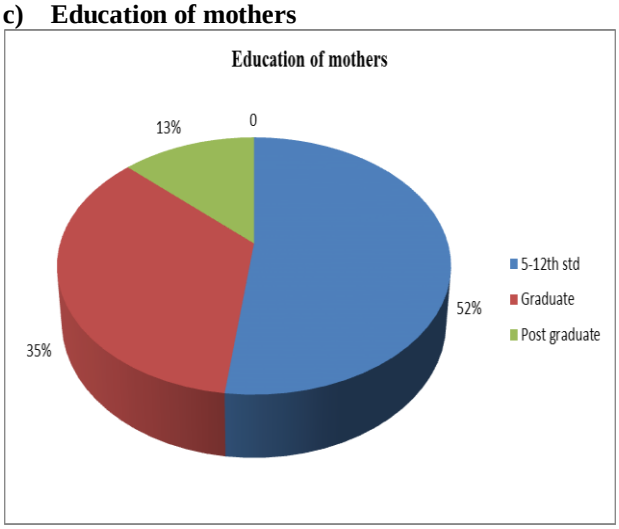

Fig. 3. Shows the frequency and percentage of education of mother.

d) Occupation of mother.

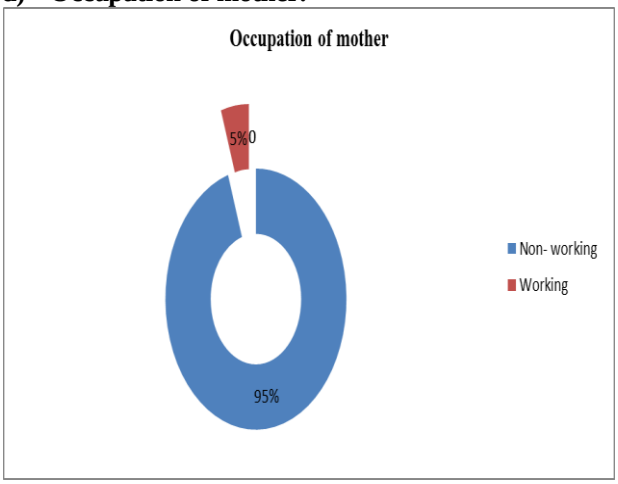

Fig. 3: Shows the frequency and percentage of Occupation of mother.

II. Description of level of knowledge of mothers regarding infant's growth and development.

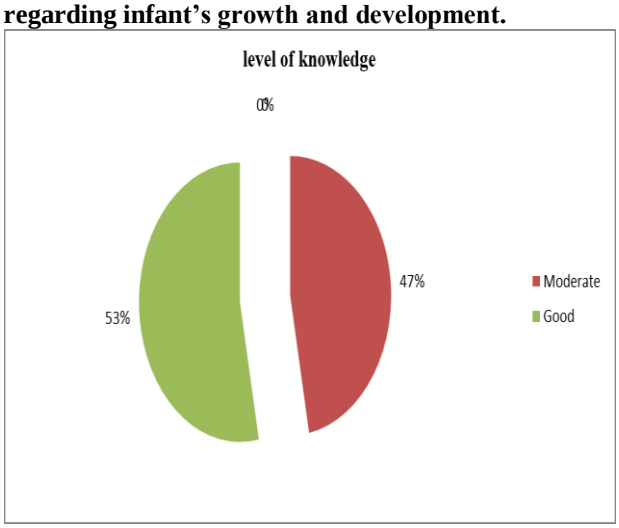

Figure 5: Shows the level of Knowledge among mothers regarding growth and development of infants, in which out of 60 mothers, 47% and 53% were having moderate and good knowledge respectively.

III. Association between the knowledge of mothers with their selected demographic variables. (N=60)

Demographic variables	Level of knowledge		Chi square	Level of significance
	Moderate	Good		
Age				
20-28 yrs	12	18	2.30	Non significant
29-37 yrs	13	11		
38-45 yrs	3	1		
>45 yrs	1	1		
Number of children				
1-2	23	33	1.7502	Non significant
3-4	3	1		
Education of mothers				
5-12 standard	14	17	0.95	Non significant
Graduate	9	12		
Post Graduate9	5	3		
Occupation of mothers				
Non working	28	29	0.35	Non significant
Working	2	1		

DISCUSSION

The study selected the Quantitative approach for determine the knowledge of mothers. Descriptive design was used to collect data from 60 mothers of infantswho visited outpatient department of Bishop Benziger Hospital, Kollamby purposive sampling.

50% of the mothers belongs to the age 20-28yrs, 40% of the mothers belongs to 29 – 37 yrs, 7% of mothers were having 38-45yrs. Majority (93%) of mothers were having (1-2yrs) children and 7% of mothers having (3-4yrs) of children and 3% of them were >45yrs. education of mothers in which 52%,35%, 13% were 5th -12th standard, graduate and post graduate respectively. Majority 95%, non- working mothers and 5% were working mothers. level of Knowledge among mothers regarding growth and development of infants, in which out of 60 mothers,47% and 53% were having moderate and good knowledge respectively.

The association between the knowledge of mothers with their selected demographic variables, in which there is no association between the mother's knowledge score with their selected demographic variables such as age, sex, occupation and previous knowledge.

CONCLUSION

Parenting knowledge of child rearing and child development encompasses many domains: parents' cognitions about various approaches appropriate to fulfilling the biological and physical as well as socioemotional and cognitive needs of children as they develop; parents' understanding of normative child development (i.e., both developmental processes and the abilities and accomplishments of children as they grow); and parents' awareness of practices and strategies for maintaining and promoting children's health and coping effectively with children's illness.[8]

This study will be focusing to understand the mother's knowledge about growth and development and developmental needs of the child.[9] The data collected can be evaluated and will be helpful in identifying the gap in knowledge as well as to assess the areas of information they need,[10,11] Increased knowledge among mothers about growth and development of infant will be of great help in understanding developmental delays and related malformations.

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