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A STUDY TO ASSESS THE KNOWLEDGE OF MOTHERS REGARDING FIRST AID MANAGEMENT OF ILL OR INJURED CHILDREN IN KERALA

Betcy K. Jayims*[1], Manila Mathews[2] and Vidya V.[3]

[1]Associate Professor, Bishop Benziger College of Nursing, Kollam, Kerala, India.
[2]Assistant Professor, Bishop Benziger College of Nursing, Kollam, Kerala, India.
[3]Lecturer, Bishop Benziger College of Nursing, Kollam, Kerala, India.

***Corresponding Author: Betcy K. Jayims**
M Pharm in Pharmaceutics, Saraswati Higher Education and Technical College of Pharmacy Gahani Murdaha Varanasi.

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ABSTRACT
A study to assess the knowledge of mothers regarding first aid management of ill or injured children in Kerala. **Objectives:** 1. To assess the knowledge score of mothers regarding first aid management of ill or injured children 2. To find out the association between pretest knowledge scores of mothers with their selected demographic variables. **Methodology:** The study was conducted using Quantitative approach and Non- experimental descriptive design was used. The variables under study were knowledge of mothers regarding first aid management of ill or injured children. The setting is Virtual platform using Google form. The population include mothers of children under 12 years of age in Kerala who has email id and internet accessibility. The sample size is 70 and Convenience sampling technique was used. The tool consist of two sections: Section A: demographic variables and Section B: structured knowledge questionnaire regarding first aid management of ill or injured children. The data were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. The result shows that 16 % of mothers had good knowledge, 67 % had average knowledge and 17 % had poor knowledge regarding first aid management of ill or injured children. There was a significant association between knowledge score and age whereas there is no association with other demographic variables.

KEYWORDS: First aid, children, knowledge, mothers, informational booklet.

INTRODUCTION
Children are the future of any nation. The healthy existence of children is essential to build up a challenging nation. Accidents among children are increasing day by day in India. Overcrowding, lack of awareness and poor implementation of safety precautions result in an increasing number of accidents.[1] Globally about 16,000 people die of injuries every day. In India, the accident death rate is increasing sharply. Sudden illness, injury or animal bites can often be serious unless proper care is administered promptly.[2]

A study was conducted to identify the epidemiology of pediatric trauma in an urban scenario of India and compare results with studies from developed countries and to formulate preventive measures to decrease such traumas. 500 pediatric, orthopedic trauma patients presenting to their hospital were prospectively studied. The results of the study revealed that children's ages ranged from 0 to 16 years; 274 were males. Most fractures occurred in children aged 7 to 12 years and decreased in older children. In descending order, most injuries were sustained at home (47%), in school (21%), due to sports (17%), and vehicular accidents (13%). The study concluded the effective accident prevention programme in developing countries requires changes in lifestyle and environment, and overcoming obstacles such as ignorance, illiteracy.[3]

Another study was conducted to evaluate first aid and home safety program for adolescents. Randomized controlled trial with two conditions: first aid and home safety. Participants were assessed at baseline, at immediate post-intervention, and at 1-year follow-up. A total of 660 adolescent and parent pairs participated in a program. The intervention consisted of first aid and home safety training. Both groups were exposed to eight-sessions. The sessions consisted of lectures, discussions, skills development and practice. To examine the efficacy of the first aid and home safety intervention, adolescents were assessed for changes in first aid confidence, knowledge of items in a first aid kit, knowledge of how to respond in an emergency situation, acquisition of a first aid kit and behavioral skills testing in response to two emergency scenarios. Similar changes in confidence were observed in both groups after the intervention. Participants in the first aid and home safety program were better able to identify items to include in a first aid

kit, how to respond in an emergency situation. They concluded that the programme was successful at achieving and maintaining change in confidence and knowledge of first aid and emergency response skills over a yearlong period.[4]

Findings from the Global and National Burden of Diseases and Injuries among Children and Adolescents between 1990 and 2013 shows that the vast majority of deaths in children and adolescents are preventable. The findings indicate that proven health interventions could save millions of lives.[5]

Injuries are an important public health problem worldwide, accounting for 5 million deaths, of which unintentional injuries account for 0.8 million deaths in children.[6] A basic knowledge and understanding of first aid can be invaluable for individuals to be able to provide emergency care in the event of an accident, possibly saving lives and minimizing injury.[7] There are many situations where appropriate steps taken immediately can save lives, prevent future complications, and prevent bad situations from getting worse. The care givers especially parents should know the basic steps of treatments in order to be prepared for a number of situations that can arise like burns, falls, bites, chocking, drowning etc.

The researchers felt, it is virtually important to provide basic knowledge about first aid management for the primary caregivers regarding common illness and injury.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

A study to assess the knowledge of mothers regarding first aid management of ill or injured children in Kerala.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the study are to:

- assess the knowledge of mothers regarding first aid management of ill or injured children.
- find out the association between knowledge score of mothers with their selected demographic variables.

OPERATIONAL DEFINITION

1. **Knowledge: -**It refers to the understanding of or information regarding selected first aid measures among mothers of ill or injured children
2. **Mothers:** In this study, mothers of children under 12 years of age.
3. **First aid management:** It refers to the basic medical treatment which is given to someone as soon as possible after they have been hurt in an accident or suddenly become ill before regular medical aid can be obtained. In this study it refers to first aid measures for selected conditions such as falls, drowning, burns, bites, fainting and chocking.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Research approach: Quantitative approach.

Research design: Non- experimental descriptive design was used.

Variables

Research variable: Knowledge of mothers regarding first aid management of ill or injured children.

Setting of the study: Virtual platform through Google forms.

Population: Mothers of children in Kerala under 12 years of age who has internet accessibility.

Sample: Mothers of children under 12 years of age in Kerala.

Sample Size: 70 mothers of children under 12 years of age.

Sampling Technique: Convenience sampling technique

Inclusion Criteria

- Mothers not attended any teaching programme related to first aid management of ill or injured children.
- Mothers available during the time of data collection.

Exclusion Criteria

- Mothers who are health care professionals.

DESCRIPTION OF TOOL

- **Section A:** Demographic Variables.
- **Section B:** Structured Knowledge questionnaire regarding first aid management of ill or injured children.

DATA COLLECTION PROCESS

- **Ethical Consideration** – The researcher ensures to follow the ethical principles. Ethical Clearance has been obtained from the Institutional Ethics Committee of Bishop Benziger College of Nursing.
- **Informed Consent –** The researcher gave brief description about the study. Participation consent was obtained from all the participants.
- **Collection of Data –** Data was collected virtually through Google forms.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Section I: Description of sample characteristics based on demographic variables

This section shows the analysis of the frequency and percentage distribution of the samples according to selected demographic variables.

(N=70)

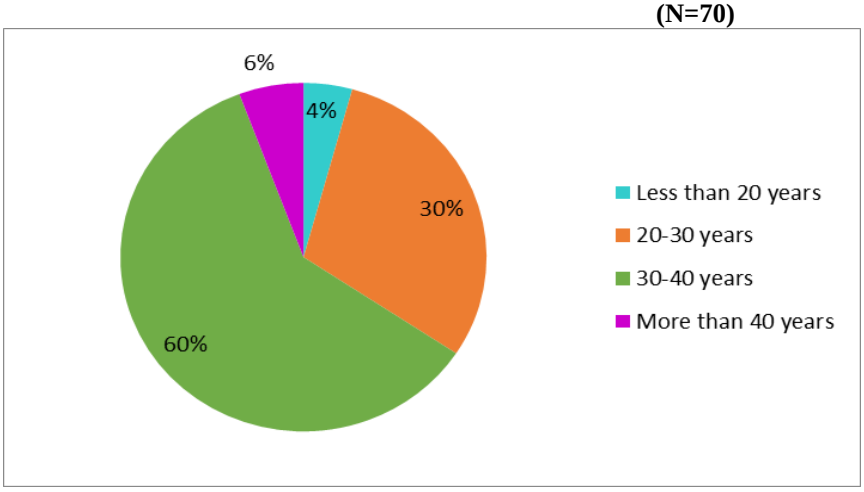

Figure 1: Percentage distribution of samples according to age.

Most of the samples (60%) were in the age group of 30 - 40 years and 30% of samples belongs to the age group of 20-30 years.

(N=70)

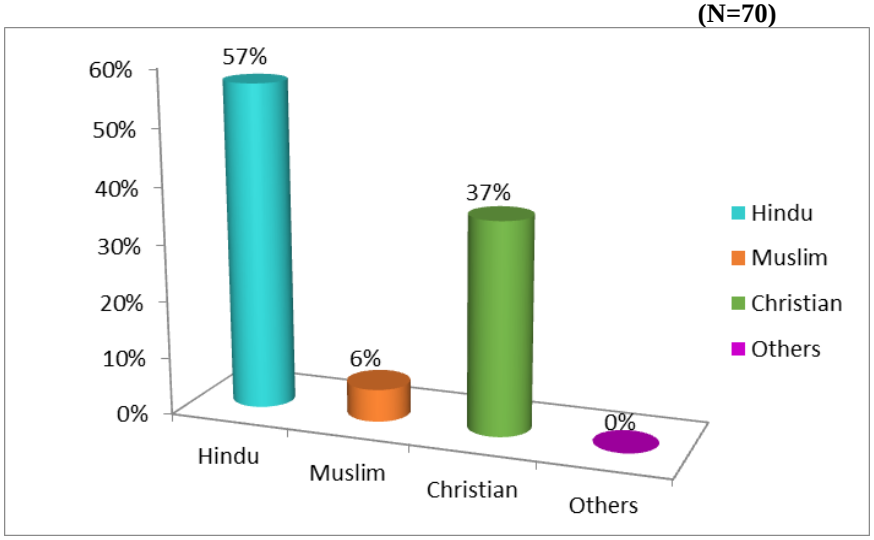

Figure 2: Percentage distribution of samples according to religion.

Majority of the samples (57%) belongs to Hindu religion, 37% of samples belong to Christian religion and 20 % belong to Muslim religion.

(N=70)

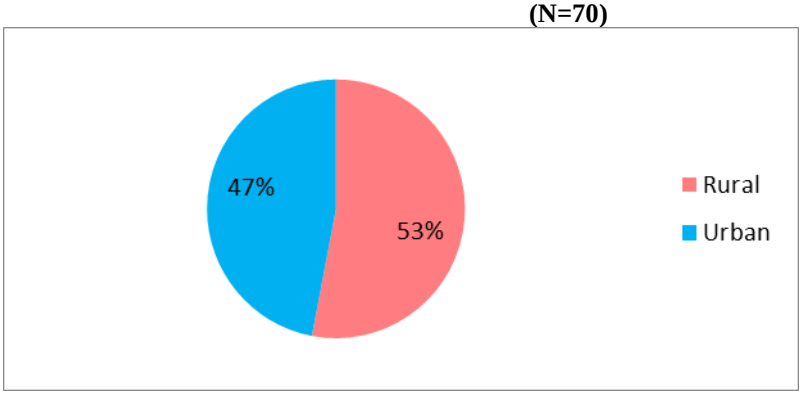

Figure 3: Percentage distribution of samples according to place of residence.

Majority of the samples (53%) lives in rural area and remaining 47% lives in urban area.

(N=70)

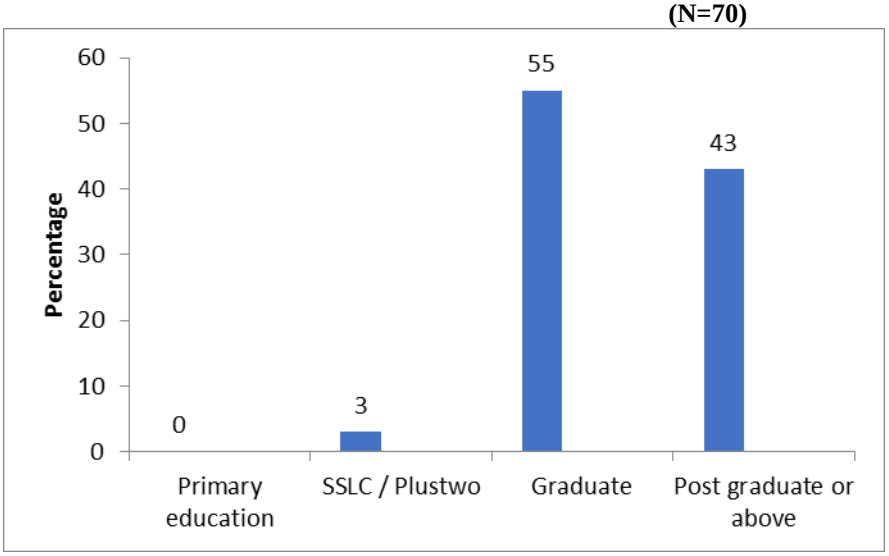

Figure 4: Percentage distribution of samples according educational status.

In regards to educational status, 55 % of the mothers are graduates, 43% are post-graduates and 12% have SSLC / plus two qualification.

(N=70)

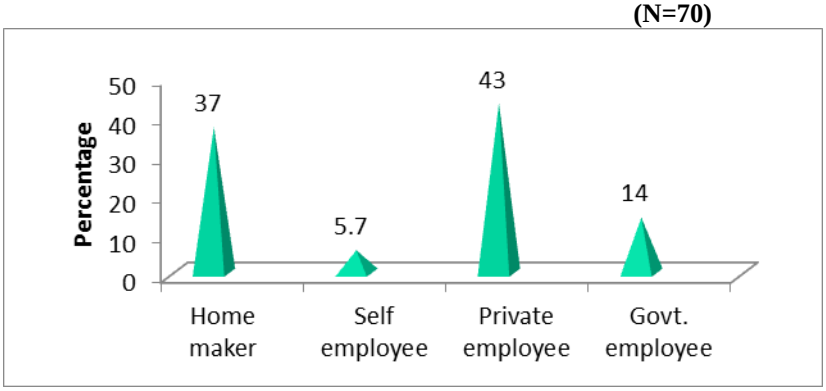

Figure 5: Percentage distribution of samples according occupational status.

The occupational status of mothers is homemakers (37%), self employee (5.7%), private employee (43%) and professionals (14%).

(N=70)

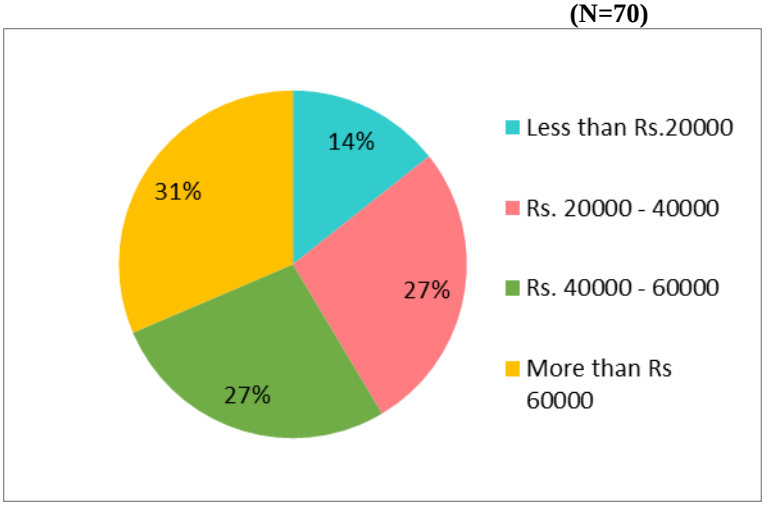

Figure 6: Percentage distribution of samples according family income.

The family income is less than Rs.20000 (14%), Rs.20000 -40,000 (27%), Rs.20000 -40000 (27%), and more than Rs.60000 (31%).

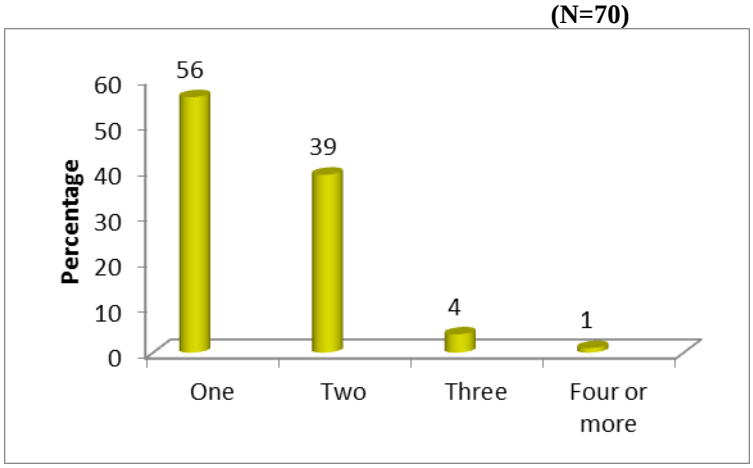

Figure 7: Percentage distribution of samples according number of children.

Most of the samples have one (37%) and two (39%) children.

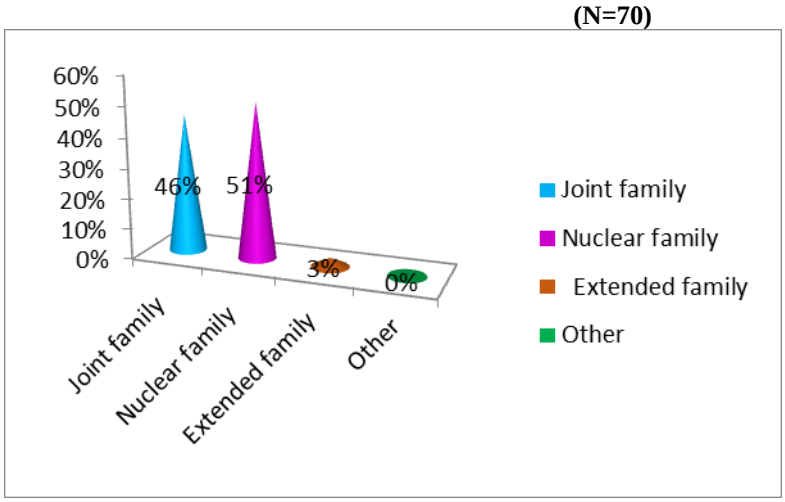

Figure 8: Percentage distribution of samples according to the type of family.

The samples belong to nuclear family (51%), joint family (46%) and extended family (3%).

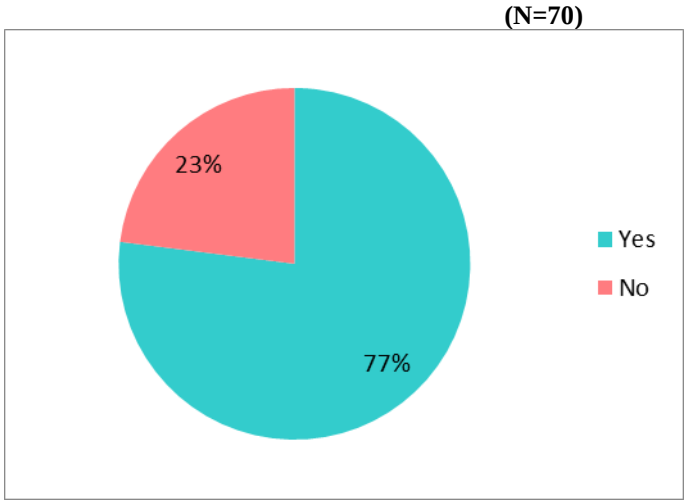

Figure 9: Percentage distribution of samples according to previous knowledge regarding the topic.

Majority of the samples (77%) have no previous knowledge while 23% have previous knowledge regarding the topic.

Section II: Assessment of knowledge among mothers regarding first aid management of ill and injured children
Table 1: frequency and percentage distribution of sample according to knowledge scores.

Level of score	Frequency	Percentage
Good	11	16
Average	47	67
Poor	12	17

The results obtained shows that 16% of mothers had good knowledge, 67% had average knowledge and 17% had poor knowledge regarding first aid management of ill or injured children.

Section III: Association between knowledge score and selected demographic variables Table 2: Association between knowledge score and selected demographic variables such as age, Religion, Place of residence, Educational status, Occupational status, Family Income /Month, Number of children, Type of family and Previous knowledge regarding the topic.

(N=70)

Sl.no	Variables	Knowledge			df	Chi square	p value	Significance
		Poor	Average	Good				
1	**Age in years**							
	Less than 20	1	2	0	**6**	**14.32**	**0.026**	**S**
	21 - 30	4	15	2				
	31 - 40	7	26	9				
	More than 40	0	4	0				
2	**Religion**							
	Hindu	9	29	2	**4**	**9.28**	**0.054**	**NS**
	Christian	3	15	8				
	Muslim	0	3	1				
	Others	0	0	0				
3	**Place of residence**							
	Rural	9	22	6	**2**	**3.06**	**0.21**	**NS**
	Urban	3	25	5				
4	**Educational status**							
	Primary education	0	0	0	**4**	**3.86**	**0.42**	**NS**
	SSLC/ Plus two	1	1	0				
	Graduate	7	27	4				
	Post -graduate	4	19	7				
5	**Occupational status**							
	Home maker	3	19	3	**6**	**2.03**	**0.91**	**NS**
	Self employee	1	2	1				
	Private employee	6	20	6				
	Govt. employee	2	6	1				
6	**Family Income/ month**							
	Less than Rs.20000	3	6	1	**6**	**2.55**	**0.86**	**NS**
	Rs. 20000 - 40000	4	13	3				
	Rs. 40000 - 60000	2	12	4				
	More than Rs 60000	3	16	3				
7	**Number of children**							
	One	6	28	5	**6**	**6.92**	**0.33**	**NS**
	Two	5	17	5				
	Three	1	2	0				
	Four or more	0	0	1				
8	**Type of family**							
	Joint family	4	26	2	**4**	**8.77**	**0.07**	**NS**
	Nuclear family	7	21	8				
	Extended family	1	0	1				
9	**Previous knowledge regarding the topic**							
	Yes	2	11	3	**2**	**0.39**	**0.82**	**NS**
	No	10	36	8				

0.05 level of significance

NS- non-significant
S - Significant

Table 2 shows that the calculated chi-square value for age (14.32) is greater than the table value, hence there is a significant association between knowledge score and age whereas there is no association with other demographical variables.

CONCLUSION

The present study was undertaken by the researcher to assess the knowledge of mothers regarding first aid management of ill or injured children in Kerala. A sample of 70 mothers were selected by using convenience sampling technique. Structured knowledge questionnaire regarding first aid management of ill or injured children was used as tool for assessing the knowledge of mothers regarding first aid management of ill or injured children. Data were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics and interpreted in the forms of tables and graphs. The findings of the study shows that 16% of mothers had good knowledge, 67% had average knowledge and 17% had poor knowledge regarding first aid management of ill or injured children. The calculated chi-square value for age(14.32) found to be greater than the table value, hence there is a significant association between knowledge score and age whereas there is no association with other demographical variables.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In the light of the present study findings, the researcher makes the following recommendations for the future research:

1. The study can be replicated in larger sample for better generalization.
2. Similar study can be conducted in different groups and also at different settings.
3. A comparative study can be carried out in different community to find out the significant difference between rural and urban mothers.

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