

A STUDY TO ASSESS KNOWLEDGE REGARDING POCSO ACT AMONG MOTHERS OF ADOLESCENTS IN SELECTED AREAS AT PALLITHOTTAM KOLLAM DISTRICT WITH A VIEW TO DEVELOP A SELF INSTRUCTIONAL MODULE**Shahina H., Sheba Sam, Sini Y., Sofia Varghese, *Soja J. and Prince Christopher**

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ABSTRACT

The research project undertaken was "A study to assess the knowledge regarding POCSO act among mothers of adolescents in selected community area at Pallithottam, with a view to develop information booklet." They objective of the study was to assess the knowledge regarding POCSO act among mothers of adolescent, to find the association between knowledge regarding POCSO act among mothers of adolescents and selected demographic variables such as age of mothers, educational status of mothers, occupation of mothers, number of adolescents, gender of adolescents, age of adolescents, educational status of adolescents, type of family, economic status and to develop an information booklet regarding POCSO act. Non-experimental research design was adopted for this study. The study sample was selected by convenience sampling techniques. The tool used for the data collection consisted of socio demographic Proforma and structured knowledge questionnaire. Basic introduction of the study was given to the subjects and data was collected from 60 samples using self administrated tool. The analysis of data was based on the objective of the study using descriptive and inferential statistics. The findings of the present study revealed that majority of mother have adequate level of knowledge and there was significant association between knowledge of adolescent mothers regarding POCSO act and demographic variables such as age of mothers, education of mothers, occupation of mothers, age of adolescent and type of family. Also there was no significant association between knowledge of adolescent mothers regarding POCSO act and demographic variables such as number of adolescents, gender of adolescent, education of adolescent and economic status. Based on the findings of the study, it is recommended that a similar kind of study can be conducted for a large group and a study can be conducted to assess the effectiveness of structured teaching programme on knowledge regarding POCSO act for adolescent mothers in selected community area.

KEYWORDS: assess, knowledge, Posco act, adolescents, information booklet.**INTRODUCTION**

Protection Of Child from Sexual Offences, "An Act to protect children from offences of sexual assault, sexual harassment, and pornography and provide for the establishment of Special Courts for the trial of such offences and matters connected therewith or incidental thereto". It was passed in 2012 under the Ministry of Women and child development. The Act has been enacted to protect children from offences of sexual assault, sexual harassment and pornography and provide for the establishment of Special Courts for the trial of such offences and related matters and incidents.^[1]

A descriptive study was conducted by SandeepKadu, Pad. Dr.Vithalrao Vikhe Patil Foundations Medical College and Hospital, Ahmednagar, to evaluate the knowledge and attitude regarding POCSO act among medical practitioners. This was a questionnaire-based

study conducted amongst the Medical practitioners of Ahmednagar city. A questionnaire was prepared on Google form consisting of 10 questions about POCSO Act 2012. About 157 medical practitioners from Ahmednagar city participated in study. The questionnaire was distributed to the doctors & it was focused on knowledge, understanding, their attitude, and practice towards child abuse and POCSO Act 2012. The study revealed that out of total 10 questions average points scored was 6.11/10. Most disappointing observation made is majorly 57 % RMP doesn't know about the punishment if he/she fails to report the case under POCSO Act. The study showed that knowledge & attitude about POCSO Act 2012 amongst medical practitioner in Ahmednagar city was satisfactory. But in addition to strengthening of legislature, more in depth knowledge regarding child sexual abuse among medical

professionals will help to eradicate this sensitive childhood social issue.

STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

A study to assess the knowledge regarding POCSO act among mothers of adolescents in selected community area at Pallihottam, with a view to develop information booklet.

OBJECTIVES

- To assess the knowledge regarding POCSO act among mothers of adolescents.

- To find the association between knowledge regarding POCSO act among mothers of adolescents and selected demographic variables.
- To develop an information booklet regarding POCSO act.

ASSUMPTION

- To assess the knowledge regarding POCSO act among mothers of adolescents.
- To find the association between knowledge regarding POCSO act among mothers of adolescents and selected demographic variables.
- To develop an information booklet regarding POCSO act.

Research approach	: Quantitative research
Research design	: Non-Experimental research design
Variables	Demographic variables: In this study the demographic variables were age of mothers, educational status of mothers, occupation of mothers, number of adolescents, gender of adolescents, age of adolescents, educational status of adolescents, type of family, economic status.
Setting of the study	: This study was conducted at the community area in Pallihottam, Kollam.
Population	: Adolescents studying in Kristraj Higher Secondary school, Kollam.
Sample	: Mothers of adolescents in Pallihottam area.
Sample Size	: The sample size was 60 mothers of adolescents in Pallihottam area.
Sampling Technique	: Convenience sampling technique

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Section A: Description of level of knowledge regarding POCSO act among mothers of adolescents in selected community area at Pallihottam,

The scores were interpreted as

Good knowledge : 16-20

Average knowledge : 11-15

Poor knowledge : < 10

Demographic data of mothers of adolescents in selected community area at Pallihottam.

- In the case of age of mother, the chi square value was 3.899 which is greater than table value 2.776 at 0.05 level of significance. So there was significant association between age of mother and knowledge regarding POCSO act among mothers of adolescents in selected community area at Pallihottam.
- In the case of education of mother, the Chi-square value was 3.456 which is greater than table value 2.776 at 0.05 level of significance. So there was significant association between education of mother and knowledge regarding POCSO act among mothers of adolescents in selected community area at Pallihottam
- Regarding of occupation of mother the chi-square value was 9.07 which is greater than table value 2.776 at 0.05 level of significance. So there was significant association between occupation of mother and knowledge regarding POCSO act among mothers of adolescents in selected community area at Pallihottam.

- Regarding number of adolescents the Chi-square value was 0.791 which is less than table value 1.386 at 0.05 level of significance. So there was no significant association between number of Children to mothers and knowledge regarding POCSO act among mothers of adolescents in selected community area at Pallihottam
- Regarding gender of adolescent the Chi-square value was 0.489 which is less than table value 1.39 at 0.05 level of significance. So there was no significant association between gender of adolescent and knowledge regarding POCSO act among mothers of adolescents in selected community area at Pallihottam.
- Regarding age of adolescents the Chi-square value was 38.68 which is greater than table value 2.776 at 0.05 level of significance. . So there was significant association between age of adolescent and knowledge regarding POCSO act among mothers of adolescents in selected community area at Pallihottam.
- Regarding education of adolescent the Chi-square value was 2.46 which is less than table value 2.776 at 0.05 level of significance. So there was no significant association between education of adolescents and knowledge regarding POCSO act among mothers of adolescents in selected community area at Pallihottam.
- Regarding type of family the chi- square value was 6.45 which is greater than table value 1.386 at 0.05 level of significance. So there was significant association between type of family and knowledge

regarding POCSO act among mothers of adolescents in selected community area at Pallithottam.

- Regarding economic status, the Chi-square value was 0.378 which is less than table value 1.386 at 0.05

level of significance. So there was no significant association between economic status and knowledge regarding POCSO act among mothers of adolescents in selected community area at Pallithottam.

Table 1: Age of mother.

SL NO	AGE OF MOTHER	LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE		
		Good	Average	Poor
1	< 35	3	14	5
2	36-40	5	15	5
2	>40	3	4	6

The table of data regarding age of mother shows that out of 60 sample, 41.60% were in the age group of 36-

40 years and 36.70% were in the age group of < 35 years and 21.70% were in the age group of >40 years.

Table 2: Education of mother.

SL NO	Education of mother	LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE		
		Good	Average	Poor
1	Primary	1	2	3
2	SSLC	2	17	10
3	Plus 2	8	14	13

The data regarding education of mother shows that out of 60 sample, majority of samples 48.30% were qualified as

SSLC holders and 41.70% were qualified as plus two holders and 10% had only primary education.

Table 3: Occupation of mother.

SL NO	Occupation of mother	LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE		
		Good	Average	Poor
1	Jobless	5	24	10
2	Tailor	3	6	4
3	Handicraft worker	3	3	2

The data regarding the occupation of mother shows that out of 60 sample, 65% were unemployed and 21.70% were tailors and 13.30% were handicraft workers.

Table 4: No. of children to mother.

SL NO	No. of children to mother	LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE		
		Good	Average	Poor
1	1	4	17	8
2	2	7	16	8

The data regarding no. of children to mother shows that out of 60 sample, 51.70% have one adolescent child and 48.30% have two adolescents children.

Table 5: Gender of adolescent.

SL NO	Gender of adolescent	LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE		
		Good	Average	Poor
1	Male	6	14	7
2	Female	5	19	9

The data regarding Gender of adolescent shows that out of 60 sample, 55% have male child and 45% have female child.

Table 6: Age of adolescent.

SL NO	Age of adolescent	LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE		
		Good	Average	Poor
1	13-15	4	11	7
2	16-17	5	14	4
3	>18	2	8	5

The data regarding age of adolescent shows that out of 60 sample, 38.30% mothers had a child in the age group

of 16-17, 36.70% in the age group of 13- 15 and 25% in the age group of >18.

Table 7: Education of adolescents.

SL NO	Education of adolescents	LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE		
		Good	Average	Poor
1	High school	6	11	7
2	Higher secondary	4	18	4
3	Degree	1	4	5

The data regarding the education of adolescents shows that out of 60 samples, 43.30% of mothers of children who were studying in higher secondary and 40%

children were studying in high school and 16.70% were studying in degree.

Table 8: Type of Family.

SL NO	Type of Family	LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE		
		Good	Average	Poor
1	Nuclear family	9	29	9
2	Joint family	2	4	7

The data regarding the type of Family shows that out of 60 samples, 78.3% belonged to nuclear family and 21.7% belonged to joint family.

Table 9: Economic status.

SL NO	Economic status.	LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE		
		Good	Average	Poor
1	APL	3	10	6
2	BPL	8	23	10

The data regarding the economic status shows that out of 60 samples, 68.33% belongs to BPL category and 31.67% belongs to APL category.

Table 5: Association between knowledge of mothers of adolescents regarding POCSO Act with selected demographic variables.

N=60

SLNo	Variables	Level of knowledge			df	Chi square value	Table value	Significance
		Good	Average	Poor				
1.	Age of mothers <35	3	14	5	4	3.893	2.776	S*
	36-40	5	15	5				
	>40	3	4	6				
2.	Education of mother Primary	1	2	3	4	3.46	2.776	S*
	SSLC	2	17	10				
	Plus 2	8	14	3				
3.	Occupation of mother Jobless	5	24	10	4	9.072	2.776	S*
	Tailor	3	6	4				
	Handicraft worker	3	3	2				

4.	No. Of children to mother							
	1	4	17	8	2	0.791	1.386	NS*
	2	7	16	8				
5.	Gender of adolescent							
	Male	6	14	7				
	Female	5	19	9	2	0.489	1.386	NS*
6.	Age of adolescent							
	13-15	4	11	7				
	16-17	5	14	4	4	38.68	2.776	S*
	>18	2	8	5				
7.	Education of adolescents							
	High school	6	11	7				
	Higher secondary	4	18	4	4	2.46	2.776	NS*
	Degree	1	4	5				
8.	Type of family							
	Nuclear family	9	29	9	2	6.45	1.386	S*
	Joint family	2	4	7				
9.	Economic status							
	APL	3	10	6	2	0.3779	1.386	NS*
	BPL	8	23	10				

NS- non-significant

S* - Significant

From the above statistical data, it was clear that there is significant association of knowledge of mothers of adolescents regarding POSCO Act with demographic variable such as age of mother, education of mother, occupation of mother, age of adolescent, type of family. And it is also clear that there was no association of knowledge regarding POSCO act among adolescent mother with demographic variable such as number of children to mother, gender of adolescent, education of adolescents, economic status.

DISCUSSION

The present study was intended to assess the knowledge regarding POSCO act among mothers of adolescent in selected community area at Pallihottam Kollam district, with a view to develop a self-instructional module. In order to achieve the objectives of the study, a non-experimental research design was adopted. The subjects were selected by convenient sampling. The sample consisted of 60 mothers of adolescent in selected community area at Pallihottam Kollam. The findings of the study have been discussed in relation to the objectives and other similar studies.

Discussion of findings with other studies based on objectives

Assess the knowledge regarding POSCO among mothers of adolescent

The present study shows that out of 60 sample, The data shows that 18.3% of sample had good knowledge, 55% had average knowledge, 26.7% had poor knowledge

regarding POSCO act.

A quantitative study was conducted by Rakhi R Nath to evaluate knowledge regarding POSCO act among upper primary school children. The objectives of the study was to assess the knowledge regarding POSCO Act among upper primary school students, to find out the association between pre-test knowledge score and selected demographic variables. A pre-experimental one group pre-test and post-test design with quantitative approach and purposive sampling was used to accomplish the objectives. Demographic variables and knowledge was assessed by using baseline Performa and structured knowledge questionnaire respectively. After the assessment of pre-test knowledge, an awareness programme was implemented. On the 5th day after the implementation of the awareness programme, post-test knowledge was assessed. Analysis was performed using descriptive and inferential statistics.

Association between knowledge regarding POSCO act among mothers of adolescents and selected demographic variables.

In the present study, significant association was found between knowledge of adolescent mothers regarding POSCO act and demographic variables such as age of mothers, education of mothers, occupation of mothers, age of adolescent and type of family. No significant association was found between knowledge of adolescent mothers regarding POSCO act and demographic

variables such as number of adolescents, gender of adolescent, education of adolescent and economic status.

A study was conducted among rural as well as urban area among mothers of adolescents (N=120) Ludhiana district of Punjab. To assess the awareness regarding the POCSO Act. A self-structured checklist to assess the awareness regarding POCSO Act (2012) and its provisions was used to collect the requisite information from the sample mothers. The analysis of the data revealed a poor awareness regarding the POCSO Act (2012) among all mothers irrespective of locale. However, it was found that urban mothers were significantly more knowledgeable than their rural counterparts regarding some of the provisions under the POCSO Act, 2012. Further, the correlation analysis revealed that cognizance of mothers regarding POCSO Act was independent of their socio-personal characteristics viz. age, educational qualifications and teaching experience.

CONCLUSION

The present study was conducted to assess the knowledge regarding POCSO act among mothers of adolescent in selected community area at Pallihottam Kollam Nursing implication of the study included in the area of nursing practice, nursing education, nursing administration and nursing research are given below.

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