A STUDY TO EVALUATE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF INFORMATION PACKAGE REGARDING CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE ON KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDE OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS IN SELECTED SCHOOLS OF BANGALORE

Mrs. Bhavani B. B.

ABSTRACT

**Background:** Child sexual abuse is a serious violation of children’s rights. CSA is a matter of global concern and occurs across all socio-economic, educational, racial and ethnic groups. It is an insidious, persistent, and serious problem that, depending on the population studied and definitions used, affects 2 to 62% of women and 3 to 16% of men as victims. There is a lack of knowledge and awareness regarding child sexual abuse, its consequences and the preventive aspects. As a result of this all forms of sexual abuse that a child faces do not get reported to anyone. Keeping children safe is one of the most important things to be done as parents, educators, or other caring adults. To ensure personal safety of children they must be equipped with the knowledge and skills to avoid risky situations, and give them an understanding of their rights to protect their own body. Hence the study was undertaken to evaluate the effectiveness of information package regarding child sexual abuse on knowledge and attitude of parents and teachers in selected schools of Bangalore.

**Objectives:** To develop an information package on child sexual abuse for parents and teachers. To identify the knowledge and attitude of parents and teachers regarding child sexual abuse. To evaluate the effectiveness of information package regarding child sexual abuse on knowledge and attitude of parents and teachers. To determine the correlation between knowledge and attitude of parents and teachers regarding
CSA and to find the association between knowledge and attitude of parents and teachers with their selected socio-demographic variables.

**Methodology:** A pre-test, post-test control group design was adopted for the study. The setting of the study was selected schools of Bangalore. The sample included 300 parents (150 in experimental group and 150 control group) and 200 teachers (100 in experimental group and 100 control group). The outcome variables were knowledge and attitude. The data was collected using socio-demographic performa, knowledge questionnaire and attitude scale. Pre-test data on sample characteristics, knowledge and attitude regarding child sexual abuse were collected on day one followed by educational intervention by administering information package to the experimental group. Post test data on knowledge and attitude regarding CSA was collected after one week.

**Results:** The majority of the parents in both the experimental (79.3%) and control group (75.3%) had an average level of knowledge. Three fourth of the teachers in both the experimental (77%) and control (80%) group had an average level of knowledge. The majority of the parents in both the experimental (76%) and control (90%) group, had a moderately favorable attitude with regard to prevention of CSA. Around 58% the teachers in the experimental and 86% in the control group had moderately favorable attitude with regard to prevention of CSA.

There was a significant difference in the post-test knowledge of parents regarding CSA in the experimental group (22.01±3.15) when compared to the control group (12.19±3.20); t=26.78, p<0.001. There was a statistically significant difference in mean post-test knowledge scores of teachers regarding CSA in the experimental group (27.83±3.32) when compared to the control group (14.58±3.14) at 0.001 level (t=29.0, p<0.001). There was a significant difference in post-test attitude of parents
regarding CSA in experimental group (102.23±10.67) when compared to the control group (84.23±15.18); t=18.0, p<0.001. There was a statistically significant difference in mean post-test attitude scores of teachers regarding CSA in the experimental group (113.93±9.42) when compared to the control group (89.43±12.13) at 0.001 level (t=15.95, p <0.001). Hence there was a change in knowledge and attitude of parents and teachers regarding CSA after the intervention in the experimental group compared to the control group.

**Conclusion:** The information package was effective in increasing the knowledge and bringing a favorable change in the attitude of parents and teachers regarding CSA in the experimental group. Primary prevention efforts in terms of education of parents and teachers are one of the important steps for awareness and protection of children from sexual abuse.

**Key Words:** CSA (Child Sexual Abuse), Parents, Teachers, Information Package, Knowledge, Attitude.