

Effectiveness of Educational Intervention Regarding Child Sexual Abuse on Knowledge and Attitude of Parents

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Abstract

Background: Child sexual abuse is a serious violation of children's rights and abuse of power. CSA is a matter of global concern and occurs across all socio-economic, educational, racial, and ethnic groups. There is a lack of knowledge and awareness regarding child sexual abuse and its preventive aspects. Parent education regarding CSA is important for keeping children safe. The study aimed to evaluate the effectiveness of information package as an educational intervention, on the knowledge and attitude of parents regarding CSA.

Methodology: An experimental, 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 and 150 in control group). The outcome variables were knowledge and attitude. The data was collected using socio-demographic performa, knowledge questionnaire and attitude scale.

Results: The majority of the parents in both the experimental and control group had an average level of knowledge and a moderately favorable attitude about prevention of CSA. There was a significant difference in the post-test knowledge (22.10 ± 3.15 and 12.19 ± 3.20 ; $F = 101.33$; $p < 0.001$) and attitude scores (102.23 ± 10.67 ; 84.23 ± 15.18 ; $F = 54.88$; $p < 0.001$) of parents regarding CSA in the experimental group when compared to the control group. **Conclusion:** The Educational intervention was effective in improving the knowledge and bringing a favorable change in the attitude of parents regarding CSA in the experimental group. The Information package is recommended for use as a primary prevention effort for educating parents on CSA.

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

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Introduction

Child abuse and neglect is a global public health concern. It is a prevailing problem in all generations, socioeconomic strata, and societies. Child sexual abuse is the involvement of a child in sexual activity that he or she does not fully comprehend, is unable to give informed consent to, or for which the child is not developmentally prepared and cannot give