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KNOWLEDGE ON CARE OF EPILEPTIC CHILDREN AMONG THEIR MOTHERS

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ABSTRACT

A child is precious not only to the parents, family, community, and Nation but also to the world at large. Neurological symptoms are also frequently encountered in a wide variety of systemic illnesses. Almost 20-30 percent of children encounter acute, chronic or recurrent neurological illnesses. The descriptive research design was conducted to the knowledge on care of the children with epilepsy among mothers of children with the objective to assess the level of knowledge on care of the children with epilepsy among mothers of children. 60 mothers of children with epilepsy were selected using convenient sampling technique. A self-structured questionnaire was used to collect the data. The study concluded that the most of mothers of epileptic children had moderate level of knowledge on care of the children with epilepsy.

KEYWORDS

Epilepsy, Mothers of children and Knowledge.

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INTRODUCTION¹⁻⁸

Epilepsy is one of the most prevalent neurological conditions and it knows no age, racial, social class, geographic, or national boundaries. The impact of epilepsy rests not only on the individual patient, but also on the family and indirectly on the community. Furthermore, epilepsy is a disorder associated with significant psychological consequences, with increased levels of anxiety, depression, and poor self-esteem compared with people without this condition (Krishna Kumari 2010). Hence, the

researcher felt the need to assess the knowledge on care of the children with epilepsy among mothers of children in Puducherry. A study to assess the knowledge on care of the children with epilepsy among mothers of children was conducted in Puducherry with the following assumptions.

- The investigator assumes that the mothers of children will have inadequate knowledge on care of the children with epilepsy.
- The health education regarding care of the children with epilepsy will improve the knowledge among the mothers of children.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

A quantitative research approach and a descriptive research design were adapted for this study. The sample consisted of 50 mothers of epileptic children, selected using Convenient sampling technique. The mothers were assessed using a structured questionnaire developed by the researchers, on the knowledge of the care of epileptic children. A pilot study is a trail run for the major study to test the practicability, appropriateness of the instrument and feasibility of the study. The result of the pilot study revealed that the study was feasible and practicable and no modification is needed in the tool after pilot study.

The Internal consistency of Knowledge questionnaire on care of epilepsy $r = 0.87$ respectively which indicated that the tool was highly reliable.

Descriptive statistics was used to describe the demographic and Variables and Assessment of the knowledge on care of the children with epilepsy among mothers of children.

Inferential Statistics was used to association of the knowledge on care of the children with epilepsy among mothers of children with selected demographic Variables, using Chi square test.

RESULTS

Among the mothers of epileptic children, majority of them had moderate level of knowledge 24 (40%), 21 (35%) had inadequate level of knowledge and others had adequate level of knowledge on care of the children with epilepsy among mothers of children is 15 (25%).

The above table depicts that the demographic variables Mothers Age, Education status, Monthly Income and frequency of epilepsy in last 5 years had shown statistically significant association with level of knowledge on care of the children with epilepsy among mothers of children with chi-square value at $p < 0.05$ level.

Table No.1: Frequency and percentage wise distribution of level of knowledge on care of the children with epilepsy among mothers of children

S.No	LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE ON CARE OF THE CHILDREN WITH EPILEPSY. (N = 60)	FREQUENCY (N)	PERCENTAGE (%)
1	Inadequate	21	35
2	Moderate	24	40
3	Adequate	15	25

Table No.2: Association of the level of knowledge on care of the children with epilepsy among mothers of children with their selected demographic variables (N=60)

S.No	DEMOGRAP HIC VARIABLES	LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE						X ²	df	p- value
		INADEQUA TE		MODERA TE		ADEQUA TE				
	N	%	N	%	N	%				
1	Mothers Age									
1	Below 25 years	15	53.6	6	21.4	7	25	13.3	6	0.037*
2	25-40 years	4	23.5	9	53	4	23.5			
3	41-60 years	2	14.3	9	64.3	3	21.4			
4	60 years and above	0	0	0	0	1	100			

Religion								2.03	4	0.730
5	Hindu	19	37.3	20	39.2	12	23.5			
6	Christian	2	33.3	2	33.3	2	33.3			
7	Muslim	0	0	2	66.7	1	33.3			
8	Others	0	0	0	0	0	0			
Education status								12.8	6	0.046*
9	Illiterate	9	34.6	14	53.8	3	11.6			
10	Primary school	11	44	8	32	6	24			
11	Higher Secondary	1	16.7	1	16.7	4	66.6			
12	Graduate and above	0	0	1	33.3	2	66.7			
Monthly Income								12.9	6	0.044*
13	Below rs.5000	15	38.5	18	46.1	6	15.4			
14	Rs.6000-15000	6	42.8	4	28.6	4	28.6			
15	Rs.15000-30000	0	0	0	0	2	100			
16	Above rs.30000	0	0	2	40	3	60			
Type of family								11.9	6	0.062
17	Joint family				41.2	5	29.4			
18	Nuclear family				41	7	18			
19	Extended family				100	0	0			
20	others				0	3	100			
Gender of the children								.397	2	0.820
21	Male	12	37.5	13	40.6	7	21.9			
22	Female	9	32.1	11	39.3	8	28.6			
How many children are you have?								1.69	2	0.428
23	1 children	8	44.4	5	27.8	5	27.8			
24	2-5 children's	13	31	19	45.2	10	23.8			
25	5 children's and above	0	0	0	0	0	0			
Causes of epilepsy								2.08	4	0.720
26	Fever	8	32	11	44	6	24			
27	Others	12	35.3	13	38.2	9	26.5			
frequency of epilepsy in last 5 years								10.7	4	0.029*
28	1 time	5	23.8	8	38.1	8	38.1			
29	2 time	3	17.6	9	52.9	5	29.5			
30	3 times and above	13	59.1	7	31.8	2	9.1			

CONCLUSION

In the present study, majority of the mothers of children with epilepsy had moderate to inadequate knowledge scores; however, there is still for improvement regarding avoiding the wrong measures there is a need for developing informational booklet and conducting educational sessions on epilepsy for the mothers in particular and public in general.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

We declare that we have no conflict of interest.

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