

Assessing the Knowledge on Learning Disability among Mothers of Under-Five Children

Ansa Roy¹, Anupama K B¹, Aparna P G¹, Chaithanya Babu¹, Derin Davis¹,
Karunalakshmi M R¹, Liz Nixon¹, Ashmin Jolly², Dr. Lt. Col Rosy K. O³

¹Fourth Year BSc Nursing Student, ²Assistant Professor, ³Head of the Institution,
^{1,2,3}Aswini College of Nursing, Thrissur, Kerala, India

ABSTRACT

Recognition and identification of learning disabilities is a daunting task in India due to the vast socio-linguistic diversity we see among the population, the pronounced socioeconomic disparities and many other schisms. Whether it's the sheer number of languages spoken or the cultures that thrive, whether it's the polarity between regions or the differences in ethos, the more diverse and therefore complex a society is the harder it becomes to assess and scrutinise intellectual activity objectively. That we are a developing nation that lives in various stages of industrialization and urbanization simultaneously, ranging from the archaic to the most cosmopolitan, the intellectual disposition of our society and least of all intellectual disability or learning disability to be precise cannot be narrowed down without taking into consideration many factors. Nevertheless, it is inevitable when it comes to research. The estimated prevalence rates of LD in India range widely between 2% and 19%. Considering this fact, a descriptive study was conducted to assess the knowledge of learning disabilities among mothers of under-five children at a selected panchayat, Thrissur. The study aimed to associate the knowledge of mothers of under-five children with the selected demographic variables. The samples were 60 mothers, selected through purposive sampling technique, who met the inclusion and exclusion criteria. The data was collected using questionnaires regarding learning disabilities and demographic profiles. The setting of the study was Nadathara panchayat, Thrissur. The collected data was analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. The study revealed that all the subjects had various levels of knowledge. The results showed that the majority 45(75%) had moderate knowledge, 11(18.33%) had inadequate knowledge whereas 4(6.66%) had adequate knowledge. Analysis showed that there was an association between the level of knowledge of mothers of under-five children regarding learning disabilities and their selected demographic variables such as age of mother, type of family and type of delivery. This study concluded that the majority had moderate knowledge. The study helped the mothers acquire knowledge of learning disabilities through the information booklet that was distributed among the subjects.

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KEYWORDS: Learning disabilities

INTRODUCTION

A Learning Disability is a term that refers to a varied group of disorder that is manifested as significant difficulties in the acquisition, organization, retention, understanding or use of verbal or non-verbal information. These disorders which may affect learning in individuals who otherwise demonstrate at

least average abilities essential for thinking and/or reasoning. As such, learning disabilities are distinct from global intellectual deficiency. Learning disabilities result from impairments in one or more processes related to perceiving, thinking, remembering or learning.

NEED AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Mothers are the primary caregivers in the life of every child, if attention given it would be easier for them to identify the early signs of learning disabilities at the very young age. This immensely help to render the essential care in order to prevent future progression. The incidence of learning disabilities among primary school students in India lies between 2-18%.

The result of a study conducted to assess the level of knowledge of the mothers regarding learning disabilities had revealed that the mothers have a below average level of knowledge regarding learning disabilities.

The need for the study is to assess knowledge of mothers of under five children regarding Learning Disabilities in children and this will help the mothers to cope up with the present condition of the children. Mothers may detect early signs of Learning Disabilities in preschool aged children. This helps to provide appropriate care in order to prevent further complications.

Statement of the problem

A study to assess the knowledge on learning disability among mothers of under- five children at Anganwadies of Nadathara Grama Panchayat, Thrissur.

Objectives

- To assess the knowledge on learning disability of mothers of under five children regarding learning disability.
- To associate the knowledge of mothers of under five children regarding learning disability with their selected demographic variable.
- To prepare and distribute an information booklet regarding learning disability of under five children

Description of tool:

Section A: Demographic profile of mothers:

The demographic data of classified according to 12 variable such as age of mother, age of the child, gender of the child, educational qualifications of mother, monthly income of the family, type of family, type of delivery, whether the child is fullterm or pre term, any complications pregnancy if any, information regarding learning disabilities, source of the information, history of learning disabilities in the family. Section B: Structured questionnaire on learning disabilities.

A Structured knowledge questionnaire on learning disability with 30 questions was constructed to assess knowledge of the mothers regarding learning disabilities among under five. Each question had only one correct response that carried one mark. The maximum score was 30. To interpret the level of knowledge, the score were distributed as follows Score interpretation

Level of knowledge	Range	Percentage Interpretation
Inadequate	1-9	<30%
Moderate	10-19	30_63%
Adequate	20-30	>63%

Hypothesis

H0: There is no association between knowledge level of mothers of under-five children regarding learning disabilities within their selected demographic variables.

H1: There is an association between knowledge level of mothers of under-five children on learning disabilities and selected demographic variables.

METHODOLOGY

RESEARCH APPROACH: Quantitative research approach

RESEARCH DESIGN: Descriptive research design

SAMPLE: Mothers of under five children residing under Nadathara Gramapanchayat

SAMPLE SIZE: 60

SETTING OF STUDY: Nadathara Gramapanchayat ward 11,16,17

SAMPLING TECHNIQUE: Purposive sampling technique

Criteria for sample selection Inclusion criteria

- *Mothers of under five children.
- *Mothers who were willing to participate in this study.
- *Mothers who are available during the data collection.

Exclusion criteria

- *Mothers who are not willing to participate in this study.
- *Mothers who are not available during data collection.

Section C: Information booklet on learning disabilities**PROCEDURE FOR DATA COLLECTION**

The collection of data was conducted from 12.10.2022_14.10.2022. A formal permission was obtained from Nadathara panchayath and principal, Aswini college of Nursing.

RESULT FINDINGS**SECTION A****Description of demographic profile of the subjects**

Table 1 Frequency and percentage distribution of the subjects according to the age of the mother, the age of child and gender of child and educational qualification of the mother.

N=60

Sl No. Demographic variables	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1. Age of mother		
a) <20 years	0	0
b) 20-30 years	31	53.7
c) 30-40 years	28	46.6
d) >40 years	1	1.7
2. Age of child		
e) 0-1 years	6	10
f) 1-2 years	10	16.7
g) 2-3 years	23	38.3
h) 4-5 years	21	35
3. Gender of child		
i) Male	31	51.7
j) Female	29	48.3
4. Education of mother		
k) Below SSLC	4	6.7
l) SSLC	4	6.7
m) Higher secondary	10	16.6
n) Degree	35	58.3
o) Others	7	11.7

TABLE 2 Frequency and percentage distribution of the subjects according to monthly income, type of family, type of delivery and whether the child was term or preterm.

N=60

Sl No. Demographic variables	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1. Monthly income		
a) <5000	15	25
b) 5001-10000	12	20
c) 10001-20000	20	33.3
d) >20000	13	21.7
2. Type of family		
e) Joint family	16	26.7
f) Nuclear family	44	73.3
g) Extended family	0	0
3. Type of delivery		
h) Normal delivery	16	26.7
i) Caesarian delivery	44	73.3
4. Term or preterm		
j) Female	50	83.3
k) No	10	16.7

SECTION B

Description of the assessment of the level of the knowledge of mothers of under-five children regarding learning disability.

N=60

Level of knowledge	Range	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Inadequate	1-9	11	18.33
Moderate	10-19	45	75
Adequate	20-30	4	6.67

SECTION C

Description of the association between level of knowledge of the subjects with their selected demographic variables.

Sl No.	Demographic variable	χ^2	Table value
1	Age of mother	22.269*	3.84
2	Type of family	6.74*	3.84
3	Type of delivery	6.834*	3.84

*Significant at 0.05 level

DISCUSSION

Objective:1- To assess the knowledge of mothers of under five children regarding learning disability

The current study revealed that out of 60 subjects, 11 (18.33%) had inadequate knowledge regarding learning disability whereas 45 (75%) had moderate knowledge and 4(6.67%) had adequate knowledge regarding learning disability.

Objective:2- To associate knowledge of mothers of under five children with their selected demographic variables.

The present study revealed that there is a significant association between the knowledge of learning disabilities among subjects with their selected demographic variables such as the age of the mother($X^2=22.26$), type of family($X^2=6.74$) and type of delivery ($X^2=6.734$).

Objective:3- To prepare and provide an information booklet regarding learning disability.

An Information booklet was prepared by investigator on various types of learning disabilities and concerning strategies to handle and manage them effectively. It was validated by the experts in the subject. The types of learning disabilities covered include dysgraphia, dyslexia, dyscalculia, dysrhythmia. After assessing the knowledge, the information booklet was distributed to the sample in regional language.

CONCLUSION

Learning disabilities are often attributed to genetic and/or neurobiological factor that alter brain functioning in a manner which affects one or more cognitive processes related to learning. These processing problems can interfere with learning basic

skills such as reading, writing and /or math. They can also interfere with higher level skill such as organization, time planning, abstract reasoning, long or short-term memory and attention. "Stigma, underachievement and misunderstanding of learning disability continue to be stubborn barriers for parents and children to overcome. If learning disability is left unaddressed, millions of individuals risk being left behind, burdened by low self esteem, subjected to low expectations, and diminished in their ability to pursue their dreams". A leaning disability cannot be cured or fixed; it is a lifelong challenge. However, with appropriate support and intervention people with learning disabilities can achieve success in school, at work, in relationship, and in the community at large. In the light of these facts, the current study helps us to assess the knowledge regarding learning disabilities among mothers of under five children and an information booklet regarding learning disabilities was provided to parents.

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