A Descriptive Study to Assess the Knowledge and Attitude Regarding Malnutrition among Mothers of Under Five Children in Selected Hospital at Barabanki District, Uttar Pradesh

Abhilasha Saha¹, Sheelu Verma²

¹Associate Professor, ²M.Sc. Nursing Student, ^{1,2}Hind Institute of Medical Sciences, Barabanki, Uttar Pradesh, India

ABSTRACT

Present research aims the study to assess the knowledge and attitude regarding malnutrition among mothers of under five children. The study employed a quantitative approach and non-experimental descriptive research design. The non- probability convenience sampling technique was used to select the sample of 80 mothers with under five children at selected hospital, Barabanki, (U.P). Data collection tool used was structured interview schedule to assess the knowledge and attitude of the mothers with under-five children. The collected data was analysed by using the descriptive and inferential statistics. In the term of knowledge on malnutrition 73.75% of the mothers had inadequate knowledge, 20.0% of the mothers had moderately adequate knowledge and 05.0% of the mothers had adequate knowledge. In the term of attitude on malnutrition, 65.0% of the mothers had unfavourable attitude, 21.25% of the mothers had moderately favourable attitude and 13.75% of the mothers had favourable attitude. Study revealed that strong positive correlation was observed between knowledge and attitude (r- 0.9794). The major finding of the study showed that under-five children mothers had inadequate knowledge and negative attitudes on malnutrition. Educating and creating awareness among the mothers on malnutrition is vital for reduce the mortality and morbidity associated with nutritional disorders among under five children.

How to cite this paper: Abhilasha Saha | Sheelu Verma "A Descriptive Study to Assess the Knowledge and Attitude Regarding Malnutrition among Mothers of Under Five Children in Selected Hospital at Barabanki District, Uttar

Pradesh" Published in International Journal of Trend in Scientific Research and Development (ijtsrd), ISSN: 2456-6470, Volume-9 | Issue-3, June 2025, pp. 175-183



pp.175-183, URL: www.ijtsrd.com/papers/ijtsrd79926.pdf

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KEYWORDS: Knowledge & Attitude on Malnutrition, Mothers of under five children

INTRODUCTION

The health of the nation depends on its healthy citizens. Children are priceless resources and if the nation neglects their health, it would become a nation of unhealthy citizens. Nutrition of under-five children is of paramount importance because it can lead to long lasting effect on the mental and physical health of the children. India faces the burden of diseases in which nutritional deficiencies are most common. Joint estimates child malnutrition prevalence. In 2022, an estimated 45 million children under 5 (6.8 per cent) were affected by wasting, of which 13.6 million (2.1 per cent) were suffering from severe wasting. More than three quarters of all children with severe wasting live in Asia and another 22 per cent live in Africa. Stunting has been declining steadily over the last decade, with 148.1 million, or 22.3 per cent of children under age 5 worldwide child affected in 2022. Nearly

all children affected lived in Asia (52 per cent of the global share) and Africa (43 per cent of the global share). There are now 37 million children under 5 living with overweight globally, an increase of nearly 4 million since 2000. When children get the right food at the right time their brains and bodies develop the way they should. When this doesn't happen, malnutrition occurs. In worst cases, it robs children of their futures and leaves young lives hanging in the balance. UNICEF works to prevent all forms of malnutrition by improving children's and women's access to nutritious, safe, affordable and sustainable diets. Since 1990, the percentage of undernourished children worldwide has almost halved. But we still have a lot of work to do. Today about 200 million children's lives are at risk because they are malnourished, almost twice as many suffer from deficiencies in vitamins and other essential micronutrients.

NEED FOR THE STUDY

All forms of malnutrition are preventable. To stop malnutrition before it starts, children and their families need access to nutritious diets, essential services and positive practices to set them on the path to survive and thrive. But today, these vital pathways to good nutrition are under growing threat, as many countries plunge deep into a global food and nutrition fuelled by poverty, conflict, climate and the enduring secondary effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. A descriptive survey to assess the knowledge, attitude, and practice on dietary practices in prevention of malnutrition among 200 mothers of under-five children. Results revealed that majority 112(56%) of mothers had moderately adequate knowledge and moderately adequate practice 116(58%) regarding dietary practices in prevention of malnutrition. Favourable attitude towards dietary practices in prevention of malnutrition was found among majority 112(56%) of the mothers. Study concluded that adequate knowledge of mothers regarding dietary pattern of under five children will enhance the attitude and practice to prevent malnutrition. Malnutrition in children is a significant risk factor for child mortality and is a global health problem. One of the influencing factors is low economic factors and the mother's education. Nutrition education impacted mothers" knowledge, attitudes, and skills (p < 0.001).

Balanced nutrition is important for maintaining positive health of the child and prevents nutritional problems like malnutrition. Mothers, being the first caregivers of the under-five children, are in the best position to prevent the nutritional problems of their children and promote growth. Maternal knowledge and their attitude have an impact in changing the child's nutritional pattern. It is important that mothers have knowledge on prevention of malnutrition, which in-turn can help them to have good attitude towards the dietary practices, so that, they can change their behaviour and harmful practices. So, this study helps to identifying awareness level on malnutrition among under five children mother. These results help government and local bodies to plan and develop

various health promotion strategies and interventions for preventing nutritional disorders among under five children.

Objectives

- 1. To assess the knowledge regarding malnutrition among mothers of under five children.
- 2. To assess the attitude regarding malnutrition among mothers of under five children.
- 3. To find out the correlation between knowledge and attitude regarding malnutrition among mothers of under five children.
- 4. To determine the association between knowledge scores regarding malnutrition among mothers of under five children with their selected demographic variables.
- 5. To determine the association between attitude scores regarding malnutrition among mothers of under five children with their selected demographic variables.

Hypotheses:

H1: There will be a significant correlation between the knowledge and attitude scores regarding malnutrition among mothers with under five children.

H2: There will be a significant association between the knowledge scores regarding malnutrition among mothers of under five children with their selected demographic variables.

H3: There will be a significant association between the attitude scores regarding malnutrition among mothers of under five children with their selected demographic variables.

METHDOLOGY

Sample:

Sample for the study consisted of 80 mothers of underfive children in selected hospital at Barabanki District, Uttar Pradesh.

Tool:

Data collection tool used was structured interview schedule.

Statistical Analysis:

descriptive and inferential statistics.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

Table 2: Frequency and percentage distribution of the mothers of under five children based on knowledge regarding malnutrition N-80

Loyal of Wnovyladge	Frequency	Percentage
Level of Knowledge	f	%
Inadequate	59	73.75
Moderately adequate	16	20.00
Adequate	5	6.25
TOTAL	80	100.00

Table-2 showed that knowledge regarding malnutrition of under-five children's mothers in which 73.75 % of the mothers had inadequate knowledge, 20% of the mothers had moderately adequate knowledge and 05% of the mothers had adequate knowledge.

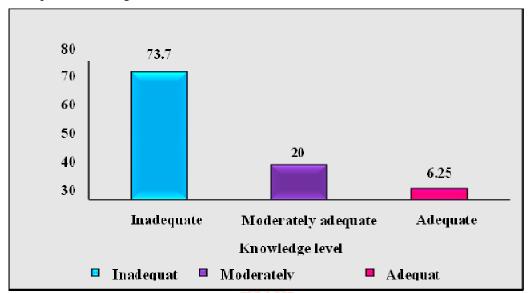


Fig.-4: Distribution of the mothers of under five children based on knowledge regarding malnutrition.

Assess the attitude regarding malnutrition among mothers of under five children.

Table 3: Frequency and percentage distribution of the mothers of under five children based on attitude regarding malnutrition

	OKD	N=80
Level of knowledge	Frequency	Percentage
Level of knowledge	f	%
Unfavorable attitude	52	65.00
Moderately favorable	17	21.25
Favorable attitude		13.75
TOTAL ISSN:	2456- 80 70	100.00

Table3 showed that attitude regarding malnutrition of under- five children's mothers in which 65.00 % of the mothers had unfavorable attitude, 21.25% of the mothers had moderately favorable attitude and 13.75 % of the mothers had favorable attitude.

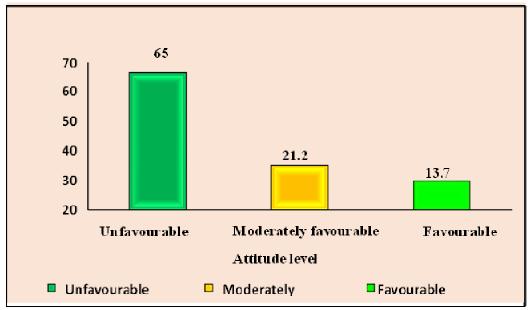


Fig.-4: Distribution of the mothers of under five children based on attitude regarding malnutrition

Table 3: Correlate the knowledge and attitude regarding malnutrition among mothers of under five children.

				n=80
Variables	Mean	SD	Correlation co-efficient (r)	<i>P</i> -value
Knowledge	10.36	6.50	0.9794	0.00001
Attitude	40.65	17.77	0.9794	0.00001

df=78 p<0.05 level

Table-3 Showed that the correlation coefficient of knowledge and attitude score is r-0.9794 which has strong positive correlation at <0.05 level. The knowledge scores go with high attitude scores. So, hypothesis H1 was accepted.

Table-4: Association between knowledge regarding malnutrition among mothers of under five children with their selected demographic variable

n=80

D 1 17 11			Knowledg	ge Score			
Demographic Variable	n	Inadequate	Moderately adequate	Adequate	X ²	DF	P value
Age		•					
18 -20 years	29	20	7	2			
21- 25 years	32	26	5	1	3.0911	6	0.79733 NS
26- 30 years	14	10		1	3.0911	U	0.79733 NS
≥31 Years	5	3		1			
Education status			in Scientific &				
No formal Education	12	5,0	5	2			
Primary	21	9 15	LITCED	2 \(\)1	8.8919	6	0.17974NS
High & Higher secondary	24	20	1010130	9 1)	0.0919	0	0.17974103
Graduate and above	23	19 In	ternationa 3 Journal	1/2			
Occupation		3 5 of	Trend in Scientific				
Home Maker	34	30	Researc2 and	<u> </u>			
Self -Employee	18	15	Develop2nent	0 1	19.956	6	0.00282 S**
Government Employee	7	5	1	5 A] 19.930	U	0.00282 5
Labor	21	9	ISSN: 2456-6470	r A			
<u> </u>		S AY					·

			Knowledg	ge Score			
Demographic Variable	n	Inadequate	Moderately adequate	Adequate	X ²	DF	P value
Place of residence			Million				
Urban	23	20	2	1			
Semi Urban	29	26	2	1	30.597	6	0.00003 S**
Rural	16	11	3	2	30.397		0.00003 3***
Tribal	12	2	9	1			
Monthly income in rup	ees						
< 5000	9	5	2	2			
5001-10,000	16	12	3	1	8.436	6	0.2078 NS
10,001-15,000	29	25	3	1	8.430	0	0.2078143
Above 15,001	26	17	8	1			
Religion							
Hindu	51	48	1	2			
Muslim	13	4	8	1	35.888	6	0.00001 S**
Christian	12	5	6	1	33.000	U	0.00001 3
Others	4	2	1	1			
Type of family							
Nuclear	32	26	4	2			
Joint	44	31	11	2	4.5693	4	0.33440 NS
Extended	4	2	1	1			

Type of food consum	Type of food consumption												
Vegetarian	36	30	4	2	3.4515	٥	0.17804 NS						
Non - Vegetarian	44	29	12	3	3.4313	2							
Total number of und	Total number of under-five children												
1	18	12	4	2									
2	46	33	11	2	3.4138	4	0.49110 NS						
3 above	16	14	1	1									

Demographic Variable			Knowledg	ge Score						
		Inadequate	Moderately adequate	Adequate	\mathbf{X}^{2}	DF	P value			
Source of information regarding malnutrition										
Radio/Television	16	11	3	2						
Newspaper/ Magazine	33	22	10	1	5 9027	6	0.44552 NG			
Health Care Professionals	12	10	1	1	5.8037	О	0.44553 NS			
Friends/family members	19	16	2	1						

Table:4. depicts that the association between knowledge regarding malnutrition among mothers of under five children with their selected demographic variables. In this there was a significant association between the selected demographic variables such as occupation, religion, area of residence was significant at p<0.05 level. Hence research hypothesis H2 was accepted. Remaining Variables such as Age, educational status, monthly family income, type of family, type of house, type of food consumption, total number of under five children and source of information regarding malnutrition were not significant at p<0.05 level. Hence research hypothesis H2 was rejected

Table-5: Association between attitude regarding malnutrition among mothers of under five children with their selected demographic variables

N = 80

D 11 77 111			Attitude	Score						
Demographic Variable	n	unfavorable	Moderately favorable	Favorable	\mathbf{X}^{2}	DF	P value			
Age		75	10011 0450 0450	\$ 8						
18 -20 years	29	11	155N: 2456-3470	82						
21- 25 years	32	17	11 - 11	4 5	8.491	6	0.20424 NS			
26- 30 years	14	8	/ +1-1+ 1/1° /5	3	0.491	0	0.20424 NS			
≥31 Years	5	16	2	1						
Education status	Education status									
No formal Education	12	9	1	2						
Primary	21	12	6	3	4.371	6	0.62652 NS			
High & Higher secondary	24	18	3	3	4.3/1	O	0.02032 NS			
Graduate and above	23	13	7	3						
Occupation										
Home Maker	34	21	9	4						
Self -Employee	18	12	3	3	1.152	6	0.97917 NS			
Government Employee	07	05	1	1		U	0.9/91/ NS			
Labor	21	14	4	3						

D 11 77 111		Attitude Score							
Demographic Variable	n	Unfavorable	Moderately favorable	Favorable	\mathbf{X}^{2}	DF	P value		
Place of residence									
Urban	23	11	9	3			0.04010 **		
Semi Urban	29	22	3	4	12 100	6			
Rural	16	14	1	1	13.190	0	0.04010		
Tribal	12	5	4	3					

Monthly income in ru	ipees										
< 5000	09	3	3	3							
5001-10,000	16	9	3	4	11 162	6	0.00244 NG				
10,001-15,000	29	24	4	1	11.163	6	0.08344 NS				
Above 15,001	26	16	7	3							
Religion											
Hindu	51	32	12	7							
Muslim	13	10	1	2	5.066	6	0.5652				
Christian	12	9	2	1	3.000	O	0.3032				
Others	04	1	2	1							
Type of family											
Nuclear	32	22	5	5							
Joint	44	28	10	5	3.725	4	0.44447 NS				
Extended	04	1	2	1							
Type of food consum	ption										
Vegetarian	36	28	4	4	5.142	2	0.07645 NS				
Non -Vegetarian	44	24	13	7	3.142		0.07043 NS				
Total number of unde	Total number of under-five children										
1	18	8	5	5		•					
2	46	34	1000	2	9.696	4	0.04586 S**				
3 above	16	10	Scie ² tic	4							

		Attitude Score								
Demographic Variable	n	Unfavorable	Moderately favorable	Favorable	\mathbf{X}^{2}	DF	P value			
Source of information re	Source of information regarding malnutrition									
Radio/Television	16	7 5 8	illational 40ullial	. 4						
Newspaper/Magazine	33	20 01	rend in Scientific	3	7 720	6	0.2505 NG			
Health Care Professionals	12	$2 \rightarrow 8$	Research 2nd	2	7.729	6	0.2585 NS			
Friends/Family members	19	16	Development •	2						

Table:5. depicts that the association between attitude regarding malnutrition among mothers of under five children with their selected demographic variables. In this there was a significant association between the selected demographic variables such as place of residence and total number of under five children was significant at p<0.05 level. Hence research hypothesis H3 was accepted. Remaining Variables such as Age, educational status, monthly family income, type of family, type of house, type of food consumption, occupation, religion, source of information regarding malnutrition were not significant at p<0.05 level. Hence research hypothesis H3was rejected

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

In terms of knowledge on malnutrition,73.75 % of the mothers had inadequate knowledge, 20 % of the mothers had moderately adequate knowledge and 05 % of the mothers had adequate knowledge. In terms of attitude on malnutrition,65.00 % of the mothers had unfavorable attitude, 21.25 % of the mothers had moderately favorable attitude and 13.75 % of the mothers had favorable attitude. Study revealed that strong positive correlation was observed between knowledge and attitude.

CONCLUSION

The present study assessed the knowledge, attitude regarding malnutrition among mothers with under five children. Major finding of the study showed that under five children mother had inadequate knowledge and negative attitudes on malnutrition. Educating and

creating awareness among the mothers on malnutrition is vital for reduce the mortality and morbidity associated with nutritional disorders.

Acknowledgements

We are immensely thankful to the management of the Hind School and College of Nursing, Barabanki, Uttar Pradesh, for giving us an opportunity to undertake the M.Sc. Nursing in this esteemed institution. We are extremely thankful to Mrs. Amod Kumar Sachan, founder and managing director of Hind Institute of Medical Sciences, Barabanki, Uttar Pradesh, for their remarkable guidance and academic support during this study.

Conflict of interest

The authors certify that they have no involvement in any organization or entity with any financial or non-

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financial interest in the subject matter or materials discussed in this paper.

Funding source

There is no funding source for this study.

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