



International Journal of Research in Academic World



Received: 11/June/2023

IJRAW: 2023; 2(7):96-98

Accepted: 14/July/2023

A Descriptive Study to Assess the Knowledge Regarding Good Touch and Bad Touch among School Going Children at Selected Schools, Puducherry

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Abstract

Background: In today's world, it is imperative that parents talk to their children about the differences between right and wrong, appropriate and inappropriate. It's also necessary to talk to children about sexual development, sexual identity, and other such related topics. Children must know that no one is ever allowed to touch their private parts, and that it is important to keep these areas covered and safe in public spaces. When sexual behaviours manifest in children, parents need to re-direct the child's attention, clearly informing the child about concepts like good touch" and "bad touch". This study investigates the level of knowledge on good touch and bad touch among school going children in selected schools of Puducherry.

Method: This study utilized a quantitative research approach. A self-structured questionnaire consisting of 20 questionnaires were used to collect data. The study population consisting of 50 school going children. The study was conducted in St. Thomas High School, Puducherry. Data was collected and analysed using frequency & percentage distribution.

Result: The study results revealed that out of 50 school going children 25(50%) had moderate level of knowledge, 21(42%) had adequate level of knowledge and 4(8%) had inadequate level of knowledge.

Conclusion: Researchers concluded that there is moderate level of knowledge regarding good touch and bad touch going children among school going children.

Keywords: Good & bad Touch, child abuse, sexual development

Introduction

Good touch and bad touch is gradually learnt through a child's day to day activities. We can increase these learnt behaviors by making an effort to teach a child about the difference between good touch and bad touch in early age.

Explain what constitutes 'good touch' and what 'bad touch' is. You can explain "good touch" as a way for people to show they care for each other and help each other (i.e., hugging, holding hands, changing a baby's diaper). "Bad touch", on the other hand, is the kind you don't like and want it to stop right away (e.g. hitting, kicking, or touching private parts). You can make your child learn about what an acceptable is and what is an unacceptable touch. Tell your child to say "NO" and inform you if any touches that are unacceptable or confusing or that scare him or her.

First of all, speak to the child about "private parts". Parents shouldn't hesitate in speaking with the child about it in clear terms. Use the right terminology for the private parts such as breast, penis, hips etc. Explain to the child that these parts can be touched only by parents or someone who routinely takes care of the child and that too while cleaning them or giving

bath. If others try to touch them (or even people familiar to them touch these parts without a reasonable cause), they have the right to say "NO". Give the child full authority of his/her own body.

The warning signs include touching genitals/masturbating in public or private, looking at or touching a peer's or new sibling's genitals, showing genitals to peers or manifesting with sexual behaviors, standing or sitting too close to someone, trying to catch a glimpse of peers or adults naked.

Sexual abuse of adolescents is a very real problem in India and the situation is aided by the absence of legislation and the silence that surrounds the offence. Sexual abuse referred to as molestation, is the forcing of undesired sexual behavior by one person upon another. There are many types of sexual abuses that includes rape, sexual assault, sexual kissing, fondling, exposing a child to pornography, unwanted touching, molestation, and sexual harassment. Sexual abuse of girls and women has become increasingly prevalent in our society. Yearly, referrals to state child protective services involve 6.3 million children, and around 3 million of those children are subject to an investigated report. In 2012, State

Agencies found an estimated 686,000 victims of maltreatment, but only tells a part of the story.

Problem Statement: A descriptive study to assess the knowledge regarding good and bad touch among school going children in selected schools, Puducherry.

Objectives

- To assess the level of knowledge regarding good touch and bad touch among school going children.
- To compare the demographic variables regarding good touch and bad touch among school going children.

To distribute the pamphlets regarding good touch and bad touch among school going children

Materials and Methods

The quantitative research approach was followed to conduct the study. A descriptive research design was used to assess the knowledge regarding good touch and bad touch among school going children. The study was conducted in selected School going children available during the period of data collection from St. Thomas high school, Puducherry. Totally 50 samples were selected School going children between the age group of 10-15 years using purposive sampling technique. After self-introduction, the purpose of the study was explained to the subjects and requested their willingness and co-operation to participate in this study. The demographic data was collected and the level of knowledge regarding good touch and bad touch among school going children from the subjects with the help of structured questionnaire.

Results and Discussion

Demographic Data of the Subjects

The study reveals that in regards to demographic variables 76% were in the age group of 12-13 years, 62% were male, 62% children’s father were private employees, 42% children’s mother were house wife, 58% children’s father were completed secondary education, 54% children’s mother were completed secondary education, 42% children’s family income/month were 5,000-`10,000, 88% were Hindu, 86% were living in urban area, 92% were known about good touch and bad touch.

Table 1: Frequency and percentage distribution of the level of knowledge regarding good touch and bad touch among school going children.

(N=50)		
Level of Knowledge	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Inadequate	4	8
Moderate	25	50
Adequate	21	42
Total	50	100

Shows frequency and percentage distribution of level of knowledge regarding good touch and bad touch among school going children. Majority of the children 25(50%) had moderate level of knowledge, 21(42%) had adequate level of knowledge and 4(8%) had inadequate level of knowledge regarding good touch and bad touch.

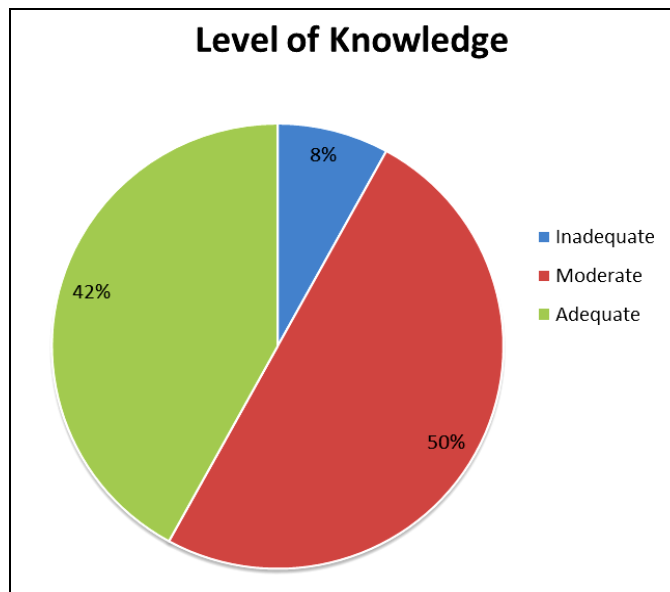


Fig 1: Level of Knowledge of School Going Children

Conclusion

The study concluded that majority of the children had moderate level of knowledge regarding good touch and bad touch.

The study suggested that continued educational programme and regular awareness programme must be conducted to sustain and improve the knowledge; thereby school going children will be educated and aware about good touch and bad touch.

Recommendations

- This study can be replicated on a large sample and similar such studies can be conducted in different setting to validate the findings.
- A similar study can be conducted by analysing the various aspects of good touch and bad touch.
- A comparative study can be done between school going children of government and private schools.
- Similar study can be conducted with pre-test and post-test design.

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