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## Research Article

### A STUDY ON KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEFS ABOUT TEETHING AMONG MOTHE IN SELECTED HOSPITAL AT MANGALORE

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Knowledge; beliefs; teething, Mothers.

#### ABSTRACT

**Background:** The Signs and symptoms associated with teething may be local or systemic .However teething does not cause diarrhea, fever, rashes, seizures. It may be associated with some day time restlessness, thumb sucking, gum rubbing, and drooling, temporary loss of appetite.

**Objective:** The aim of the present study is to determine the knowledge and beliefs about teething among mothers in selected hospital at Mangalore.

**Methodology:** Descriptive study design and purposive sampling technique was used to select 113 mothers to assess the knowledge and beliefs about teething among mothers. The data was collected with structured knowledge questionnaire and rating scale on beliefs among mothers.

**Results:** The result shows that most (77%) of the mothers had average knowledge about teething, 15.9% had poor knowledge and 7.1% had good knowledge regarding teething. The result shows that most (78.8%) of the mothers had false beliefs about teething and 21.2% had true beliefs.

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#### INTRODUCTION

Teething is the process of eruption of the deciduous teeth which emerges through gums .The primary teeth to erupt in babies, commonly referred to as milk teeth, is already formed under the gums prior to birth (Lyttle C *et al* 2015). Eruption of primary teeth is associated with some signs and symptoms; they may vary from child to child. The local symptoms include gum swelling, irritation, redness and rubbing, drooling, thumb sucking, biting and gawning (Gilani AH and Abusaadse 2017).

Bankole OO and Lawal FB (2017) reported that Some of the misconceptions and beliefs about teething are, early teeth eruption is associated with higher intelligence, child born with natal teeth become famous soldiers, primary tooth eruption is cause for severe illness including vomiting, diarrhoea and convulsion, delayed teething signal later learning difficulties and exfoliated teeth need to be thrown on the roof top to allow the growth of a new set.

Misbelieves about the teething are associated with the high infant mortality and morbidity, which was reported in Nigeria due to consumption of an adulterated drug used in the prevention and treatment of teething-related illnesses in infants. In England and Wales 5016 deaths by 1839 were presumably

blamed related to teething. Following infant deaths in London were due to teething:

- 4.8% of all deaths of infants;
- 7.3% of deaths between the ages of 1 and 3; and
- 12% of all deaths under 4 years. (Akhil C 2015)

Teething should be considered as a normal physiological process. It is acknowledged that it is associated with the appearance of symptoms most of which are minor and related to discomfort rather than physical illness. There is a possibility that the parents may overlook an illness which could need medical attention and appropriate treatment (Irving J.2013).

Nishana E *et al* (2018) false beliefs of parents about signs and symptoms associated with teething may inhibit the prompt diagnosis and management of serious illnesses. However, to ensure the correct transfer of information, it is pertinent that baseline data of their knowledge and beliefs should be explored. It is therefore the aim of this study to determine the knowledge and beliefs about teething.

#### Objectives of the Study

To assess the knowledge about teething among mothers.

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1. To find out the beliefs about teething among mothers.
2. To find the correlation between knowledge and beliefs about teething among mothers.
3. To find the association of knowledge about teething among mothers with selected baseline variables.
4. To find the association of beliefs about teething among mothers with selected baseline variables.

### Hypothesis

The following hypothesis was tested at 0.05 level of significance

**H<sub>1</sub>:** There is significant correlation between knowledge and beliefs about teething among mothers.

**H<sub>2</sub>:** There is significant association of knowledge regarding teething among mothers with selected baseline variables.

**H<sub>3</sub>:** There is a significant association between beliefs about teething among mothers with selected baseline variables.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Methodology

#### Research Design

Non experimental descriptive survey was selected for the study.

#### Population

In this study population comprises of mothers of under five year children who visited the Out Patient Department of Father Muller Medical College Hospital Mangalore.

#### Setting of the study

The present study was conducted in Pediatric ward and Pediatric out Patient Department at Father Muller Medical College hospital, Mangalore. It is a tertiary care hospital with all required outpatient department.

#### Sample size and Sampling Technique

In this study comprised of 113 mothers with under five year children attending the pediatrics ward and Pediatric Out Patient Department at Father Muller Medical college hospital, Mangalore.

#### Sampling Criteria

#### Inclusion Criteria

Mothers who are having under-five children (0-5 years)

#### Exclusion criteria

1. Mothers who have mental illness.
2. Mothers who are health professionals

#### Instruments

**Tool I:** Baseline Performa with nine items.

**Tool II:** Structured knowledge questionnaire on knowledge about teething with 15 items.

**Tool III:** Rating scale on Mothers belief about teething.

#### Tool I: Baseline Performa

Baseline Performa consisted of 9 items to obtain information regarding age, number of children, education, occupation, type of family.

**Tool II: Structured knowledge questionnaire**

Structured knowledge questionnaire on knowledge about teething consisted 15 questions covering the following area:

- Meaning of teething
- Symptoms appearing during teething
- General aspects and Primary teething.
- Permanent teething.

#### Tool III: Rating scale on Mothers beliefs about teething

Rating scale on Mothers beliefs about teething consisted 13 questions regarding Mothers beliefs about teething.

#### Validity reliability and scoring of instruments

##### Validity

The tool was validated by 6 experts from nursing profession. As per the opinion of the experts, five questions modified and added.

##### Reliability

The investigators collected data from 5 mothers to check the internal consistency and subjected to split half method. The reliability was found by using split half method correlation formula. The reliability obtained was 0.8 which was considered to be reliable.

#### Data Collection Procedure

The investigator obtained permission from the concerned authority. The mothers from Pediatric ward and Pediatric out Patient Department who met the criteria were selected and investigators introduced them to the participants. Their willingness to participate in the study was ascertained and was assured of the anonymity and confidentiality of the information provided. Data collection was done on 11/06/2018 to 7/7/18. Subjects were selected according to purposive sampling technique. The subjects were provided with baseline Performa of the mothers and structured knowledge questionnaire on knowledge about teething. The subjects had taken approximately 20 minutes. After the completion of the questionnaire, the data collected back and analyzed.

#### Data Analysis Method Including Statistical Tests

The Descriptive statistics includes frequency, percentage, mean, standard deviation and mean percentage and inferential statistics includes chi square test to find out the association and Pearson correlation coefficient to find out the correlation of data.

## RESULTS

### Section I Baseline Performa

**Table 1** Distribution of subjects according to baseline characteristics

Sl.No	Baseline Variables Age of mother(yrs)	Frequency	N=113 Percentage (%)
1	a)20-25	39	34.5
	b)26-30	44	38.9
	c)31-35	22	19.5
	d)>35	08	7.1

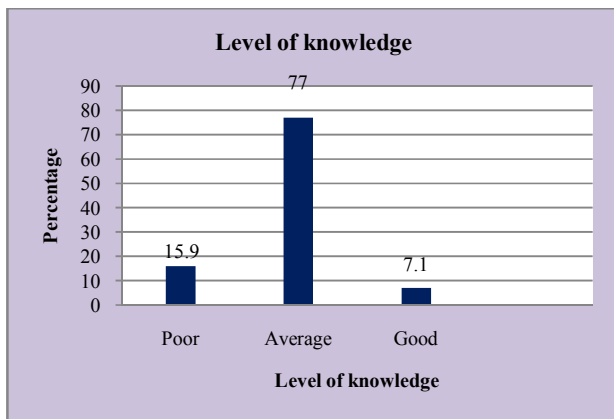
	<b>Number of children</b>		
2	a)1	32	28.3
	b)2	50	44.2
	c)3	22	19.5
	d)≥4	09	8.0
	<b>Education of mother</b>		
3	a)Primary	31	27.4
	b)High school	50	44.2
	c) P.U.C	22	19.5
	d)Diploma	02	1.8
	e)Graduation	08	7.1
	<b>Occupation of mother</b>		
4	a)Home maker		
	b)Daily worker	95	84.1
	c)Salaried private	09	8.0
	d)Salaried government	07	6.2
		02	1.8
	<b>Type of family</b>		
5	a)Joint family	55	48.7
	b)Nuclear family	58	51.3
	<b>Place of living</b>		
6	a)Rural	64	56.6
	b)Urban	49	43.4
	<b>Pre information about teething</b>		
7	a)Yes	39	34.5
	b)No	74	65.5
	<b>If yes, source of information</b>		
b)	a)Family members	28	71.79
	b)School	07	17.94
	c)Previous experience	04	10.25

SECTION II: Level of knowledge regarding teething among mothers

**Table 2** Distribution of subjects according to the level of knowledge regarding teething among mothers n=113

Level of knowledge	Score	Score Percentage	Frequency	Percentage(%)
Poor	0-5	0-39%	18	15.9
Average	6-10	40-66%	87	77
Good	11-15	67-100%	08	7.1

Maximumscore:15



**Figure 3** Bar diagram showing level of knowledge

Data in table 2 and figure 3 shows that most (77%) of the mothers had average knowledge about teething, 15.9% had poor knowledge and 7.1% had good knowledge regarding teething

**Table 3** Range, Mean, Standard deviation and Mean percentage of overall knowledge level on teething among mothers. n=113

Variable	Mean	Standard Deviation	Obtained Minimum Score	Obtained Maximum Score	Range	Mean percentage (%)
Knowledge on teething among mothers	7.6 ±	2.12	03	13	10	50.6

**Total maximum score:15**

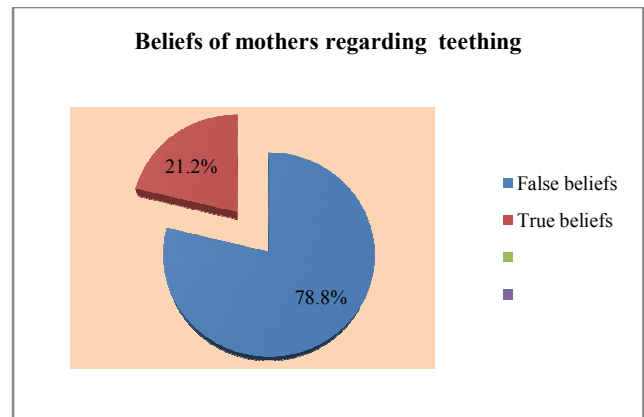
Table 3 shows that the mean percentage of overall knowledge level was 50.6 with mean ±standard deviation(7.6±2.12) which signifies that most mothers have average level of knowledge.

SECTION III: Beliefs of mothers regarding teething

**Table 4** Distribution of subjects according to beliefs of mothers regarding teething

Beliefs of mothers regarding teething	Score	Frequency	Percentage (%)
False beliefs	<45	89	78.8
True beliefs	≥45	24	21.2

**Maximum Score:65**



**Figure 4** Pie diagram showing beliefs of mothers about teething beliefs

Data in Table 4 and figure 4 shows that most (78.8%) of the mothers had false beliefs about teething and 21.2% had true beliefs.

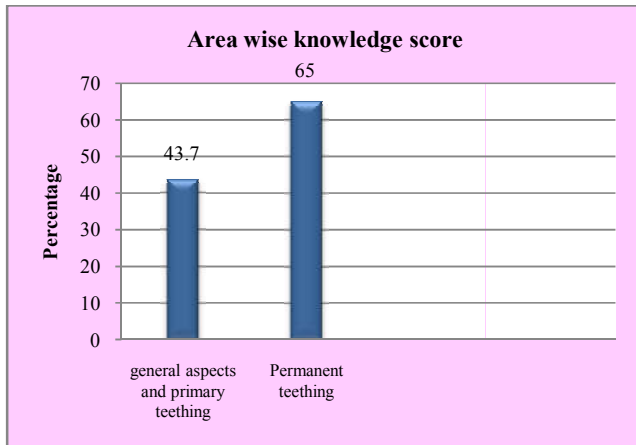
**Table 5** Range, Mean, Standard deviation and Mean percentage of overall beliefs of mothers regarding teething

Variable	Mean	Standard deviation	Minimum score	Maximum score	Range	Mean percentage (%)
Beliefs of mother regarding teething	40.8 ±	5.20	30	61	31	62.7

Table 5 shows that the mean percentage of overall beliefs of mothers regarding teething was 62.7 with mean ±standard deviation (40.8±5.20) which signifies that most mothers have false beliefs.

**Table 6** Area-Wise distribution of Range, Mean, Standard deviation and Mean percentage of knowledge score  
n=113

Area	Mean	Standard deviation	Minimum score	Maximum score	Range	Mean percentage (%)
General aspects and primary teething	4.37 ±	1.66	0.00	9.00	9.0	43.7
Permanent teething	3.25 ±	1.21	0.00	5.00	5.0	65



**Figure 5** Bar diagram showing the area wise distribution of Mean Percentage of Knowledge Score

The data presented in table 6 and figure 5 shows that the mean percentage of knowledge score in the area general aspects and primary teething(43.7%) was lower than the mean percentage of knowledge score in the area permanent teething(65%).Hence it shows that subjects have inadequate knowledge on general aspects and primary teething.

**SECTION IV:** Correlation between knowledge and beliefs about teething among mothers.

The correlation between knowledge and beliefs about teething among mothers was found out using Pearson correlation coefficient. The following null was formulated.  
Hypothesis

**H<sub>01</sub>:** There is no significant correlation between knowledge and beliefs about teething among mothers.

**Table7** Correlation between knowledge and beliefs about teething among mothers

Variable	Mean	SD	r value
Knowledge and beliefs about teething	7.62 ±	2.12	0.207
	41.64 ±	4.59	

Data in table 7 shows the weak positive correlation between knowledge and beliefs about teething among mothers r= 0.207. There is weak positive correlation between knowledge and beliefs about teething among mothers.

**SECTION V:** Association of knowledge about teething among mothers with selected baseline variables.

This section deals with the findings of the association between knowledge about teething among mothers with selected baseline variables.

To test the association between knowledge about teething among mothers with selected baseline variables, following null hypothesis was formulated.

**H<sub>02</sub>:** There is no significant association of knowledge regarding teething among mothers with selected baseline variables. Chi square values were computed to test the hypothesis and data is presented in table.

**Table 8** Association between knowledge and selected baseline variables.  
N=113

Sl.No	Variable	Knowledge on teething		X2 value	P Value	Df
		<Median (8)	≥Median (8)			
1	<b>Age of Mother</b>			1.067	.302	1
	a)<25 years	38	48			
	b)>26years	15	12			
2	<b>Number of Children</b>			.209	.648	1
	a)< 2	40	43			
	b)>2	13	17			
3	<b>Education of Mother</b>			4.331	.115	2
	a)Primary	10	21			
	b)High School	28	22			
	c)P.U.C/diploma/graduation	15	17			
4	<b>Occupation of Mother</b>			1.736	.188	1
	a)Home maker	42	53			
	b)Daily Wages /Salaried Private /Salaried Government	11	7			
5	<b>Type of family</b>			2.513	.113	1
	a)joint family	30	25			
	b)nuclear family	23	35			
7	<b>Place of living</b>			.140	.709	1
	a)rural	31	33			
	b)urban	22	27			
8	<b>Pre information about teething</b>			1.704	.192	1
	a)yes	15	24			
	b)no	38	36			

**\*Significant**

The data presented in table 7 shows p value computed between knowledge level and selected baseline variables is above 0.05 level of significant. Hence the research hypothesis is rejected and null hypothesis is accepted. So there is no significant association between knowledge about teething and selected baseline variables.

**SECTION VI:** Association between beliefs about teething among mothers with selected baseline variables

To test Association between beliefs about teething among mothers with selected baseline variables the following hypothesis was formulated.

**H<sub>03</sub>:** There is no significant association between beliefs of mothers on teething with selected baseline variables.

**Table 9** Association between beliefs about teething among mothers with selected baseline variables

Sl. No	Variable	Beliefs about Teething		X2 value	P Value	Df
		<41 Median	≥41 Median			
1	<b>Age of Mother</b>					
	a)<25 years b)>26years	45 13	41 14	.144	.705	1
2	<b>Number of Children</b>					
	a)<2 b)≥2	44 14	39 16	.355	.551	1
3	<b>Education of Mother</b>					
	a)Primary b)High School	17 25	14 14			
	c)P.U.C/Diploma /Graduation and above	16 16	25 16	.211	.900	2
4	<b>Occupation of Mother</b>					
	a)Home maker b)Daily Wages /Salaried Private /Salaried Government	50 8	45 10	.406	.524	1
5	<b>Type of family</b>					
	a)joint family b)nuclear family	25 33	30 25	1.479	.224	1
6	<b>Place of living</b>					
	a)rural b)urban	30 28	34 21	1.171	.279	1
7	<b>Pre information about teething</b>					
	a)yes b)no	19 39	20 35	.162	.687	1

The data presented in table 8 reveals that the p value computed between beliefs about teething among mothers and selected baseline variables is above 0.05 level of significant. Hence the research hypothesis is rejected and null hypothesis is accepted. So there is no significant association between beliefs about teething and selected baseline variables.

**DISCUSSION**

This chapter presents the major findings of the study and compares the same with other related studies.

The aim of the study was conducted to assess the knowledge and beliefs about teething among mothers in selected hospital at Mangalore. The findings of this study are discussed here in comparison with the objectives and findings of other studies along similar concerns.

**Baseline Variables**

The present study shows that 34.5%of the mothers were 20-25 yrs old,38.9% were 26-30 yrs old, 19.5% were 31-35 years and 7.1%were above 35yrs old. About 44.2% had two children,

remaining 28.3% had one child, 19.5% had three children and 8% had four and above children. This study shows that majority of mothers44.2% had high school education, 27.4% had primary education,19.5% had P.U.C education,7.1% were graduates and the remaining 1.8% had diploma education .

Present study findings are congruent with another study to assess parents knowledge and beliefs about teething the parents in Udaipur, India .A total of 550 parents participated in the study .Among them majority of the respondents (26.7%)of the mothers were 20-24 yrs old,(43.1%) were 25-30 yrs old, (19.8%) were 31-34 old and (10.4%)were above 35yrs old.This study shows that majority of mothers( 40.7%)had high school education .About (47.3.2%) had 2-4children.and ( 51.1%)had one child (Kakatkar G et al 2012).

**Knowledge Regarding Teething among Mothers**

In the present study shows that (43.7%) of the mothers had average knowledge about primary teething and (65%) of the mothers had average knowledge regarding permanent teething. Present study findings are congruent with another study conducted on Perception about teething among the nursing mothers of Mysore .Findings of the study was 54.6%of the mothers knowledge regarding primary teething (Indira MD et al 2016).

**Beliefs of Mothers Regarding Teething**

In the present study majority had true beliefs about drooling of saliva (76.63%) and bite objects (70.4%).False beliefs about vomiting (42.4%) and diarrhoea (44.9%).

Present study findings are congruent with another study to assess the mothers teething beliefs about signs and symptoms associated with teething in Manasoura, Egypt .In this study majority had true beliefs related to bite objects (70.5%) and drooling (60.0%). False beliefs about diarrhoea (51.0%) and fever (83.2%) (Gilani AH and Abusaadse 2017).

**CONCLUSION**

The result of the study showed that the most 77% of the mothers had average knowledge about teething, 15.9% had poor knowledge and 7.1% had good knowledge regarding teething and most 78.8% of the mothers had false beliefs about teething and 21.2% had true beliefs. This study supports the need of health education for mothers of under five children. This will increase mothers knowledge and correct the false beliefs about teething.

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