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RESEARCH ARTICLE

COMPARATIVE STUDY TO ASSESS THE KNOWLEDGE REGARDING BEHAVIOURAL PROBLEMS OF UNDERFIVE CHILDREN AMONG EMPLOYED AND UNEMPLOYED MOTHERS

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: In the studies conducted over the last fifty years, prevalence rate of behavior problems among children varied from 5% - 51%. In the Indian studies prevalence rate varied from 13 per thousand to 431 per thousand. Hence an attempt is being made to find the knowledge regarding behavioral problems of under five children among employed and unemployed mothers at Nellore, Andhrapradesh.

Objective: -To assess the level of knowledge on selected behavioral problems among employed and unemployed mothers of under five children.

-To compare the level of knowledge on behavioral problems among employed and unemployed mothers of under five children.

Material and methods: The present community based cross-sectional study was conducted in Saraswathi Nagar at Nellore, Andhrapradesh state (India). The study sample included 60 mothers in that 30 are employed mothers and 30 are unemployed mothers Selected by Purposive sampling technique.

Results and discussion: In the present study, with regard to level of knowledge among employed mothers on behavioral problems, 7[23.3%] are having inadequate, 8 [26.7%] are having moderately adequate, and 15[50%] are having adequate knowledge. Among unemployed mothers 16[53.3%] are having inadequate knowledge, 8[26.6%] are having moderate knowledge, and 6[20%] are having adequate knowledge.

Conclusion: The findings of study revealed that 15[50%] employed mothers are having adequate knowledge and only 6[20%] unemployed mothers are having adequate knowledge regarding behavioral problems. Educational programme needs to be organized to improve the knowledge of mothers.

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INTRODUCTION

Children are considered as the most potential unit of our future human resources in a country like ours, which relies great deal on its human resource strength. Therefore, it is necessary in the interest of our country to look after the health and welfare as they form the most vulnerable segment of the population. A better tomorrow depend much on the well being, safety and development of children today.¹

Research suggests that parenting has an important role to play in helping children to become adjusted and that the 1st few months and years of a child's life are especially important in establishing patterns of emotional, cognitive and social functioning which will in turn influence the child's future development and in particular, their mental health. Parenting programmes may therefore have a role to play in improving the emotional and behavioral adjustment of infants and toddlers.²

Behavior problems in children are an important social, educational, and health issue. The prevalence of these problems, their stability over time, their poor prognosis, and their costs to both individuals and the society, all point to the need for primary prevention and early effective interventions.³

Need For Study

Mental Health of a child is of basic importance to gain the ability to live harmoniously in this changing environment. Child's health is the corner stone of national progress. The community which neglects its children retards its future progress. United Nations international emergency fund has given great attention to the concept of the whole child which means it is essential to promote their health, as they are the vulnerable segment of the society.⁴

Early childhood regulatory disorders account for the most common behavioral abnormalities of the infant and young child

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that result from regulatory problems associated with age specific adaptation and developmental tasks. Increasing empirical evidence indicates that these problems need to receive full attention. If left to themselves, such disorders impair the early parent-child relationship, and increase the risk of disturbances later on in life.⁵

In the studies conducted over the last fifty years, prevalence rate of behavior problems varied from 5% - 51%. In the Indian studies prevalence rate varied from 13 per thousand to 431 per thousand. Analysis at pediatric out patients department revealed behavior problems in the range of 3.36% to 50%. Single parenting and violence have been associated with increased behavioral problems in children.⁶ *the prevalence of kleptomania in the United States general population is unknown but has been estimated at 6 per 1000 people, that approximately 1.2 million of the 200 million American children.*¹⁰

According to Indian Council of Medical Research 2009, overall prevalence of mental and behavioral disorder in Indian children to be 12.5%. Studies conducted in rural and urban areas of different parts of India suggest prevalence of behavior disorder ranges from 1.6%-41.3%.⁸

Mothers have a vital role in moulding the behavior of the children. Homes are one of the first places where kid's behavior and future educational success is shaped. A mother can imply positive attitude to the children by identifying negativism and behavioral problems. The positive reinforcement will eliminate the behavioral problems like kleptomania. Overall Child's self-esteem could be lift up because it could create ambitions in their minds for future academic success.⁹

The investigator in her own life experience has witnessed and experienced the behavioral problem of children. Investigator felt that behavioral problems among children of employed mothers is more than the children of unemployed mothers, this has motivated the investigator to take up this study.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

RESEARCH APPROACH

A quantitative research approach was utilized.

Research design

The descriptive research design was adapted to assess the knowledge regarding behavioral problems among mothers.

Setting

The study was conducted in Saraswathi Nagar at Nellore.

Population

The population consists of employed and unemployed mothers having minimum one child below 5 years of age.

Sample

Mothers of under five children who fulfill the inclusion criteria.

sampling technique

Purposive sampling technique was used for selection of subjects.

Sample Size

The sample size consists of 60 mothers in Nellore district. Among 60, 30 are employed mothers and 30 are unemployed mothers.

Sampling criteria

Inclusion criteria

- Mothers who are willing to participate in the study.
- Mothers who are available during the time of the study.
- Mothers who know English and Telugu.

Exclusion criteria

- Mothers who is not having under-five children.

Description Of Tool

With the help of extensive review of literature from various text books, journals and website the tool was developed.

The tool was divided in to two parts

- **Section:1**
- **Section:2**

Section: 1

It deals with demographic data including age, sex, religion, marital status, education, occupation, monthly income, nature of the work, type of family, diet and habits.

Section: 2

Structured questionnaires to assess the behavioral problems of children.

Content Validity

The content validity of the tool obtained from the three experts in the related field and modified based on their suggestions and opinions.

Reliability

In order to establish reliability of the tool, it was administered to 2 under five children who are residing at Saraswathi Nagar.

Reliability of the tool was established through split half method. The reliability score is $r = 0.89$

Pilot Study

After getting permission from the concerned authority of medical officer in Saraswathi Nagar Nellore, the pilot study was started. The pilot study was conducted on 3 persons to see feasibility and reliability. The sample selected by means of purposive sampling method who met the inclusion criteria.

Data Collection Procedure

After getting permission from the institutional ethical committee and medical officer, PHC of Saraswathi Nagar, the data collection was started. Written consent was obtained from the sample. The study was conducted among mothers residing in Saraswathi Nagar. 60 samples were selected by using purposive sampling method who met the inclusion criteria. Structured questionnaires were used to assess the level of knowledge among employed and unemployed mothers of under five children.

Data Analysis

Table No 1 Plan for data analysis

S.NO	Data Analysis	Method	Remarks
1	Descriptive	Frequency and percentage	To describe the distribution of demographic variables
		Mean ,Median and Standard deviation	To determine the knowledge of employed and unemployed mothers.
2	Inferential	t-test	To compare the level of knowledge on behavioral problems among employed and unemployed mothers of under five children.
		Chi Square	To find out the association between the level of knowledge on behavioral problems of under five children

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The data was organized, tabulated, analyzed and interpreted by using descriptive and inferential statistics based on the objectives of the study. The findings were presented in the following sections.

The analysis of the data was mainly classified as:-

Section I

Frequency and percentage distribution of demographic variables among employed and unemployed mothers among under five children.

Section – II

Frequency and percentage distribution of employed and unemployed mothers knowledge scores.

Section –III

Mean and standard deviation of employed and unemployed mother knowledge scores.

Section-IV

Comparison between the both employed and unemployed mothers among under five children with their selected socio demographic variable.

Section: V

Association between the post test knowledge scores with socio demographic data among Employed mother.

Section: VI

Association between the post test knowledge scores with socio demographic data among Un-employed mother.

Section I

Frequency and percentage distribution of demographic variables among employed and unemployed mothers among under five children.

Table 2 Frequency And Percentage Distribution Of Mother Based On Age N=60

Mother based on age	Employed (n=30)		unemployed (n=30)	
	Freq	%	Freq	%
a.18-24 yrs	9	30%	3	10
b.25-28yrs	7	23.3%	11	36.6%
c. 29-32yrs	4	13.3%	13	43.3%
d.>32 yrs	10	33.3%	3	10%
Total	30	100	30	100

Regarding the age among employed mothers 9[30%] are between 18-24 years, 7[23.4%] are between 25-28 yr, 4[13.3%] are between 29-32yrs, 10[33.3%] are >32yrs. In case of unemployed 3[10] are between 18-24yrs, 11[36.6 %] are between the 29-32yrs , 13[43.3%] are between 25-28yrs, , 3[10%] are >32yrs.

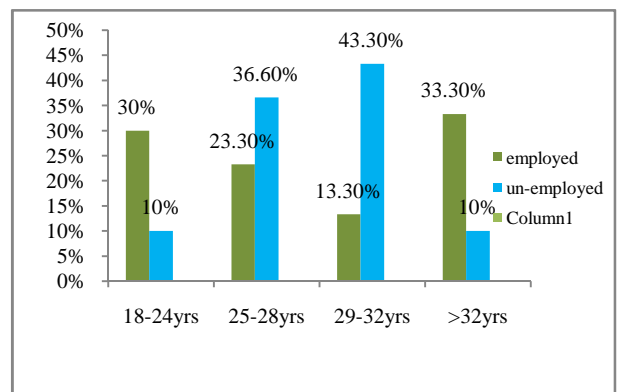


Fig 1 percentage distribution of age

Table 3 frequency and percentage distribution of educational status. Among mothers n=60

Educational status	Employed (n=30)		Unemployed (n=30)	
	Freq	%	Freq	%
A. Illiterate	4	13.3%	13	43.3%
B. Primary school	7	23.3%	7	23.3%
C. Secondary school	12	40%	5	16.6%
D. Intermediate	7	23.3%	5	16.6%
Total	30	100	30	100

Regarding education among employed, 4[13.3%] are illiterates, 7[23.3%] are primary school, 12[40%] had secondary school, and 7[23.4%] were intermediate. In unemployed, 13[43.3%] are illiterates, 7[23.3%] were primary school, 5[16.6%] had secondary school and 5[16.6%] were intermediate.

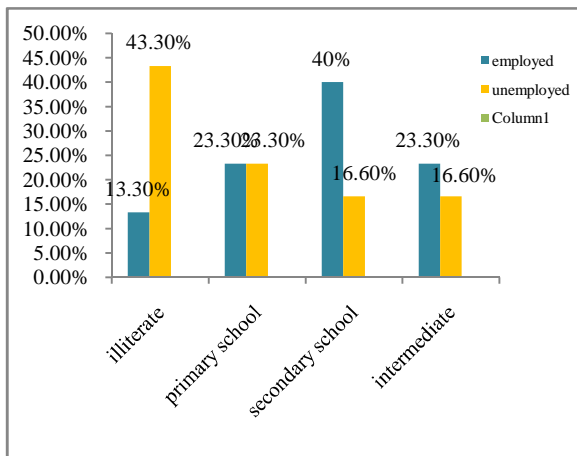


Fig 2 Percentage distribution of education

Section-II

Table4 Frequency and percentage distribution employed and unemployed mother knowledge scores.

Knowledge score	Behavioral problems			
	Employed		Un-employed	
	Freq	%	Freq	%
Inadequate knowledge [0-8]	7	23.3%	16	53.4%
Moderate adequate knowledge [9-16]	8	26.7%	8	26.6%
Adequate knowledge [17-24]	15	50%	6	20%

Table 7 Represents, the frequency and percentage distribution of knowledge on behavioral problems among employed mothers Out of 30, 7[23.3%] are having inadequate , 8[26.7%] are having moderate adequate ,15[50%] are having adequate knowledge. In Unemployed mothers Out of 30, 16[53.3%] are having inadequate knowledge. 8[26.6%] are having moderate knowledge, and 6[20%] are having adequate knowledge.

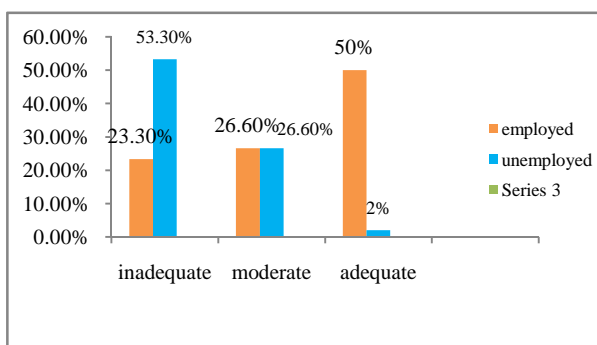


Fig 3 percentage distribution of comparison of employed and unemployed mothers

Section-III

Table5 comparison of mean standard deviation of employed and unemployed mother knowledge scores.

S.no	Knowledge	Mean	Standard deviation	Independent 't' Value
1	employed	11.1	5.4	7.83
2	unemployed	5.47	4.19	Tab.2.57*

S*** P<0.005

Table 8 represents the comparison of mean and standard deviation of knowledge employed and un-employed mothers. in employed mothers mean is (11.1) with Standard deviation of [5.4].and in unemployed mothers mean is (5.47) with standard deviation of (4.19).

Section-IV: Association Between The Post Test Knowledge Scores With Socio Demographic Data Among Employed Mothers: The Chi-square analysis indicates that there is significant association between the post test knowledge scores with place of residence, type of family, education status, occupation, and no significant association was found between the post test knowledge score with dietary pattern, socio economic status, religion and age.

Section-V: association between the post test knowledge scores with socio demographic data. [un employed mother]: The Chi-square analysis indicates that there is significant association between the post test knowledge scores with age of the mother, occupation, type of family. No significant association between the post test knowledge score with religion, educational status, socio-economic status, place of residence and dietary pattern.

CONCLUSION

The findings of study revealed that 15[50%] employed mothers are having adequate knowledge and only 6[20%] unemployed mothers are having adequate knowledge regarding behavioral problems. Educational programme needs to be organized to improve the knowledge of mothers.

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