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**“Study to assess the Knowledge of Primary School teachers on  
first Aid management in selected School”**

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**KEY WORDS:** *first aid, medical emergencies, primary school teachers, accidents and injuries, medical facility*

**Background:** Students at schools may need first aid due to illness or accident. Therefore, teachers at school should know first aid measures and be able to put them into practice. The aim of this study is to assess awareness regarding first aid training among primary school teachers.

First aid is providing preliminary care to a person with sickness or injury. It can be performed by anyone until definitive medical treatment can be obtained. Certain self-limiting illnesses or minor injuries do not require medical care or transport to a medical facility and can be addressed by first aid. First aid largely consists of a succession of uncomplicated and in some cases possibly life-saving procedures that an individual can be taught to perform with simple day to day practical equipment. [1]

Understanding first aid gives you the advantage of helping those in need. At any moment, you or someone else could get ill or experience an injury. With basic first aid knowledge, you can prevent a minor mishap, so it does not get worse. In some cases, first aid can save a life.

Due to immaturity and playfulness children are susceptible to inadvertent injuries [3] and are at a greater risk of harm than adults. Children pass a substantial quantity of their time at day care centers or schools. Hence timely administration of first aid to children after an accident is of utmost importance and can be lifesaving. [4, 5] Studies report that school based emergency medical service (EMS) incidents are more common than non-school-based EMS incidents. This is regularly credited to physical harm linked to a sports activity and usually results in transportation to a medical facility. [6] Most injuries in schools can be well managed with first aid, without requiring additional medical attention. [7] First aid is best given by individuals who are trained in first aid and closest to the scene of injury. [8] Therefore, it is important for schools to focus on management of injury before transfer to a medical facility. Care, treatment and management of medical emergencies is most effective when the caregiver has background knowledge of first aid. [9] In schools, teachers are often called upon and are required to handle crises. They are the only adults who are available to act responsibly in any given situation and make decisions. This shows the importance of first aid training among teachers. Teachers are required to take appropriate action and decide when a child has to be taken to a medical facility and implement the necessary steps to be taken to ensure a fast recovery with minimal discomfort and disturbance to student and school.

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A basic knowledge and understanding of first aid can be invaluable for individuals to be able to provide emergency care in the event of an accident, possibly saving lives and minimizing injury. Since injury is the fifth leading cause of death and children at the age of primary school are liable for accidents and lack of knowledge and good judgment of their teachers may lead to dangerous consequences when emergencies occur. Training teachers how to deal with accidents is of obvious importance.

**PROBLEM STATEMENT:**

“An Experimental Study to Assess the Knowledge of Primary School Teachers Regarding First Aid Management in Selected Schools of Chitradurga Karnataka”

The **objective** of this study is:

1. To assess the level of knowledge of first aid among primary school teachers and evaluate the effectiveness of first aid training for school staff as first responders.
2. Teachers and students with a strong understanding of first aid are likely to be more alert and proactive, taking steps to minimize the risk of accidents or injuries. First aid training fosters a sense of safety and preparedness.

Muruvvt Baser conducted a study to assess the knowledge of first aid among primary school teachers in a Turkish population and found that 45.5% of teachers had prior knowledge of first aid. The teachers had learned about first aid from various sources, including driving test training, physicians, and nurses. The teachers expressed a desire to gain more knowledge on how to handle situations such as accidental poisoning, joint dislocations, sprains, hemorrhages, and injuries. Baser concluded that, as teachers are in constant contact with children, ensuring they are proficient in first aid should be a priority. The study recommended that teachers receive training in first aid and pediatric basic life support. [8]

**Yossra K** conducted training for 100 Bangladeshi primary school teachers on first aid. He reported that 77% had poor knowledge, 19% had fair knowledge, and 4% had good knowledge of the subject. He concluded that it would be beneficial if first aid techniques were included in the teachers training curricula. The teachers' lack of knowledge was attributed to the absence of first aid training in the educational curriculum. [1]

**Devashish AR** measured practice of first aid among school teachers, and discovered that 2.96% had experienced first-aid training. Some 14.83% scored less than 70%. He reported that age, sex, teaching experience, medium and level of school first aid training had a significant association with knowledge score. [11]

Bildik et al assessed the awareness of first aid among teachers in Turkey. Of the participants in the training programme, 51.1% were females and 48.9%

were males. Pretest score was  $47.89 \pm 11.29$  whereas the posttest score was  $75.28 \pm 12.62$ . This result shows the important of first aid training. Hence he decided that it was essential to include first aid training in the curriculum. [12]

**Shobha masih and Rajesh Kumar at al(2016)**, Knowledge and practice of primary school teachers about first aid management of selected minor injuries among children, This study

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was done among primary school teachers to evaluate the effectiveness of teaching program on knowledge and practice regarding first aid management of selected minor injuries in children. Materials and Methods: A Quasi-experimental study with one group pre- and post-test research design was conducted among the primary school teachers of Dehradun district of Uttarakhand. Fifty primary school teachers were selected by nonprobability convenient sampling. Data were collected by knowledge questionnaire (maximum possible score 42) and self-reporting checklist (maximum possible score 23). Result: Majority (94%) of the teachers were female. Paired sample t-test revealed that the mean posttest knowledge score regarding first aid management of selected minor injuries was significantly higher ( $34.76 \pm 4.35$ ) than that of mean pretest knowledge score ( $27.32 \pm 5.73$ ) ( $P < 0.005$ ); mean posttest practice score was significantly higher ( $18.52 \pm 2.63$ ) than mean pretest practice score ( $14.52 \pm 2.39$ ) ( $P < 0.005$ ). There was a significant positive correlation between knowledge score and practice score of participants ( $r = 0.9$ ;  $P < 0.001$ ). Conclusion: This concludes that the training program was effective in significant improvement of knowledge and practice score regarding first aid management of selected minor injuries among study participants. Findings stress the need for such training programs, which in turn may enhance the overall health standard of the children.[13]

**S. Saranya\*, Lalhruaitluangi and Premika Prathan(2023)**, The study's objective was to reveal primary school teachers' knowledge regarding first aid in selected Bangalore schools and determine the efficiency of a structured teaching program on knowledge regarding first aid. A pre-experimental pre–post-test design was preferred for this study. The sample consisted of 52 primary school teachers selected using purposive sampling. The score was acquired through self-administered questionnaires using baseline Performa and questionnaires to measure the primary school teachers' knowledge in selected schools in Bangalore, India. Among the 52 participants, 48.1% have poor knowledge, and 51.9% have moderate knowledge. All 100% of the subjects were female teachers, with a pre-test mean knowledge score of 14.52% and a post-test score of 22.63%. The obtained p-value of the mean difference between the pre and post-test is less than 0.001. It is concluded that there is a high relationship between primary and post-test knowledge scores of primary school teachers concerning first aid. The teacher's negligence of the students and their failure to look after the child during school hours is the main reason for the cause of accidents at school. Proper first aid knowledge is important for those teachers to prevent further complications of accidents. It is concluded that a structured teaching programme among those school teachers will help improve their awareness and competency in the prevention and management of First aid.[14]

Primary school teachers need regular training for first aid of external bleeding and Fractures. Add first aid training to the curriculum of the teaching institutes.

#### **LIMITATION OF THE STUDY:**

1. First aid knowledge would be more accurately assessed by practical means rather than a theoretical one.
2. Uncooperativeness of some teachers.

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## **METHODS:**

Subjects were 150 primary school teachers from 8 schools in the Chitradurga Karnataka. They were assessed by predesigned questionnaire proforma, after which each teacher was interviewed and responses were discussed separately in smaller groups.

## **RESULTS:**

In the present study about 150 teachers from 8 different schools were assessed; Of the subjects, 11.3% felt that first aid is important and 87.7% said that it is very important and wanted to learn first aid. About a third (30.2%) of the teachers knew some basic treatments for minor emergencies but they didn't recognize such treatments were called first aid. Most of the subjects (69.8%) were unfamiliar with the expression "first aid". There was no positive correlation between male and female or private or government college. Posttest was given to analyze the gain in knowledge regarding first aid. Significant improvement in knowledge was seen among participants after analyzing the answers to the questionnaire (p value <0.05).

## **CONCLUSION:**

The present study suggests that the teachers have the time, aptitude and inclination to undergo training in first aid, but they don't have access to a training facility or resource persons. The schools which were visited during the time of study were not equipped with any first aid facility or sick room to take care of students during medical emergencies. It is also important to have first-aid kits in vehicles, offices, schools and trained personnel who can provide first aid in case of an accident. Empowered teachers can teach students, parents and other members of society, making our communities safer places for all.

First aid training should be included in the teacher training curriculum, and such training should be updated regularly.

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