
Knowledge and Practices of Primary School Teachers Regarding first aid Management for Selected Minor Injuries

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INTRODUCTION:

Children spend a significant amount of time in school, where they are prone to various minor injuries that can impact their current and future health. First aid refers to the immediate care provided for injuries or illnesses before professional medical assistance becomes available. Teachers play a crucial role in addressing minor injuries in schools, as their comprehensive knowledge of first aid management can significantly benefit children.

First aid management knowledge of primary school teachers is often inadequate. This is due to a lack of training and educational resources.

KEY WORDS: *Educational package of first aid, first aid management, knowledge and practices of teachers, primary school teachers, selected minor injuries*

First aid management

- First aid is the initial care given to an injured or ill person.
- The goal of first aid is to save lives, prevent further injury, and promote recovery.
- First aid can help with common injuries like burns, choking, and unconsciousness.

First aid management for teachers

- The National Disaster Management Authority and the Red Cross Society have developed a First Aid Mobile App for teachers and students called FAST.
- Teachers can be trained in first aid using video-assisted teaching methods.

This study focused on primary school teachers to assess the effectiveness of a teaching program aimed at enhancing their knowledge and practices related to first aid management of selected minor injuries in children. The primary goal of first aid is to prevent the condition from worsening, facilitate faster recovery, and safeguard human life. Most minor injuries, such as bruises, sprains, strains, and small fractures, can be managed without professional medical intervention. When applied correctly, first aid knowledge serves as a critical link in preventing temporary injuries from becoming permanent, ensuring rapid recovery, and avoiding long-term disabilities.

Children spend a significant portion of their time in school under the direct supervision of teachers. In this environment, they are exposed to various epidemiological factors that can impact their current and future health. Therefore, it is essential for school teachers to have adequate knowledge of first aid to address the urgent needs of children during minor injuries.

Teachers play a vital role as first responders in schools, often being in a position to save lives. [2]

Creating a healthy and safe school environment is crucial to prevent such hazards, alongside having well-trained teachers capable of identifying health issues and providing first aid for common emergencies. [3]

During my clinical experience in community postings, I have encountered numerous instances of treating school children for minor injuries at our health center. Additionally, my visits to primary schools for health check-ups further highlighted the importance of equipping teachers with first aid skills to manage such situations effectively.

The presence of a school nurse or health worker is not guaranteed at all times when first aid treatment is required, nor are they always available when accidents happen outside the school premises. [4] Therefore, it is essential that teachers and other staff members are adequately trained to manage minor accidents occurring in and around the school. Providing first aid care to children on the school campus is a key responsibility of teachers. To fulfill this role effectively, they must be properly trained to deliver immediate care to injured children in emergencies.

Mamatha Hosapatna 1, Nandini Bhat (2021), Conducted the study related to Knowledge and Training of Primary School Teachers in First Aid - A Questionnaire Based Study. 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. Subjects were 150 primary school teachers from nine schools in the Udupi district of Karnataka. They were assessed by predesigned questionnaire proforma, after which each teacher was interviewed and responses were discussed separately in smaller groups. 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". First aid training should be included in the teacher training curriculum, and such training should be updated regularly[9]

Yossra Khalaf Hanoon Al-robaiaay(2019), Knowledge of Primary School Teachers Regarding First Aid In Baghdad Al-Rusafa, 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. Objectives: To estimate the adequacy of primary school teachers' knowledge of first aid concerning external bleeding and fractures and Whether there's a difference in knowledge in regard to years spent in teaching or the teaching subject and to decide whether primary school teachers need training or not. Methods: This study is a cross-sectional Study was done over 5 months (from 01/Dec/2010 to 01/May/ 2011) in five randomly chosen primary schools in

different regions in Baghdad/ Al-Rusafa, carried out on 100 primary school teachers without inclusion or exclusion criteria.[10]

The primary objective of this study was to enhance the competency of school teachers in providing first aid care for minor injuries in primary school children through a structured educational program. By applying the knowledge and skills acquired from this training, teachers can manage minor injuries more effectively, helping to prevent complications and escalation of the problem. Indirectly, this initiative also aims to reduce absenteeism among primary school children caused by minor injuries

PROBLEM STATEMENT:

“Knowledge and practices of primary school teachers regarding first aid management for selected minor injuries among children in specific schools of Chitradurga Karnataka.”

MATERIALS AND METHODS:

A Quasi-experimental study with one group pre- and post-test research design was conducted among the primary school teachers of Chitradurga Karnataka. 50 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).

After obtaining the permission from the Institutional Ethical Committee and District Education Officer and informed consent was obtained from all study subjects, data were collected by using the Knowledge Questionnaire and self-reporting practice checklist. A structured educational package was administered to improve the knowledge and practice of the primary schools teachers.

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 ± 4.35) than that of mean pretest knowledge score (27.32 ± 5.73) ($P < 0.005$); mean posttest practice score was significantly higher (18.52 ± 2.63) than mean pretest practice score (14.52 ± 2.39) ($P < 0.005$). Which has shown that structure educational teaching has improved the knowledge and practice of not only the nursery or primary school teachers, but also mothers of school going children.[7-8]

Study shows correlation coefficient relationship between the pretest knowledge and pretest practices had low correlation, the correlation coefficient relationship between the posttest knowledge and posttest practices were highly correlated it means that the correlation is in a positive direction and when knowledge increases practices also increases.

It will be more important that if first aid management for Minor and major injuries can be added to the syllabus of Bachelor of Education course. All primary schools also need to have first aid box in their premises and classrooms. School management can organize or send the teachers for first aid management training.

It shows that 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.

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