
A study to assess the Knowledge and Practice of primary school teachers about first aid management of selected minor injuries, among selected school children in Ambikapur (C.G).

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INTRODUCTION:

Children spend most of the time in school where they are exposed to various types of minor injuries, which influence their present and future state of health. First aid is the treatment of any injury or illness before availability of professional medical aid. Teacher is the key person who can attend the children for minor injuries in school through complete knowledge regarding first aid management. This study 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.

First aid is the treatment of any injury or sudden illness before professional medical help can be provided. The aim is to prevent the condition getting worse, ensuring fast recovery and preserving the precious human life. Most injuries are minor and can be treated without medical attention such as bruises, minor fractures, sprains, and strain. The knowledge of first aid, when properly applied, can bridge the gap between temporary or permanent injury, rapid recovery, or long-term disability.

Children spend most of the time in school under the direct supervision of teachers. They are also exposed to various types of epidemiological factors in the school, which influence their present and future state of health.[2] Hence, first aid should be known by school teachers to meet the urgent needs of these school children during minor injuries. Teacher is the key person in school who attend such type of victims and always in a position to save the life. Healthy safe environment is very important to avoid these hazards beside qualified teachers who can detect any health problem and can give first aid for commonly occurring emergencies in schools.[3]

During my clinical experience posting in the community, I have treated many school children for minor injuries in our health center and during the visit to many primary schools for health checkup

The school nurse or any other health worker would not always be at the school when first aid treatment is needed, and also when children have accidents away from the school; consequently it is desirable that teachers and other staff should be properly taught to take care of the minor accidents that occur in and around the school.[4] The responsibility of school teacher is also to provide a first aid care to children at school campus. Hence, they should be

trained adequately to deliver health care to injured children in emergency. The primary purpose of the study was to make school teachers more competent in providing first aid care for minor injured children in primary school through structured educational package. This may apply their knowledge and practice regarding the first aid management of selected minor injuries to encounter the children at primary school, which would further help in reducing the complications and advancement of the problem. Indirectly, it would also help in reducing absenteeism rate of primary school children due to minor injuries.

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

PROBLEM STATEMENT:

Knowledge and practice of primary school teachers about first aid management of selected minor injuries among children in selected school of Ambikapur (C.G).

Materials and Methods: A Quasi-experimental study with one group pre- and post-test research design was conducted among the primary school teachers of Ambikapur (C.G.) 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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