Study to Assess the Knowledge of Mothers and Guardians Regarding Early Signs of Girl Child Abuse in Selected Area of Selected City

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Introduction

In ancient times, general opinion accepted that children could be beaten and abused. The industrial exploitation of children after the middle ages was common place; with no widespread protest. Children are the most important age group in all societies. Health status and health behavior later life are laid down at this stage. Child health care should include specific biological and psychological needs that must be met to ensure the survival and healthy development of the child, the future adult. Early signs of girl child abuse have a lengthy history. In 16th and 17th centuries, American colonists carried the tradition of children being property of mothers in United States. Therefore, children have been subjected to abuse by their mothers since presumably the beginning of time.

Word abuse is derived from French word 'abuse' means "improper practice'' and Latin word 'abuses' which means "a using up". Early signs of girl child abuse are defined as any act of omission or commission that end anger or impairs a child's physical or emotional health and development. Abuse refers to an act of commission by a parent of care taken resulting in harm to the child, and neglect refers to an act of omission by a parent or caretaker that produces harm. Early signs of girl child abuse is also known as battered child syndrome. The term battered child syndrome was coined by C. Henry Kempe in his landmark paper published in 1962 by the Journal of the American Medical Association. It refers to "a clinical condition in young children who have received serious physical abuse, generally from a parent or foster parent."

Research Statement: A study to assess the knowledge of mothers and guardians regarding early signs of girl child abuse in selected area of selected city.

Research Objectives:
1. to assess the level of knowledge of mothers and guardians regarding meaning of early signs of girl child abuse .
2. to assess the knowledge of mothers and guardians regarding different types of early signs of girl child abuse .
3. to assess the knowledge of mothers and guardians regarding causes of early signs of girl child abuse .

4. to assess the knowledge of mothers and guardians regarding risk factors of early signs of girl child abuse .

5. to assess the knowledge of mothers and guardians regarding features of early signs of girl child abuse .

6. to assess the knowledge of mothers guardians regarding prevention of early signs of girl child abuse .

Assumptions

1. Common mothers and guardians may have less knowledge regarding early signs of girl child abuse

2. Knowledge level may vary as per the education status of mothers and guardians.

Operational Definitions

1. Assess:

*   according to oxford dictionary (2008), to measure, evaluate or judge the worth of something

*   with the context of propose study assess refers to evaluate the knowledge level of common mothers and guardians residing at selected areas in selected city regarding mental illness and its prevention.

2. Knowledge :

*   according to oxford dictionary knowledge or perception of a situation or facts.

*   according to Cambridge dictionary, knowledge that something exits, or understanding of a situation or subject at the present time based on the information or experience.

*   knowledge is the ability to directly known and perceive, to feel, or to be cognizant of events. more broadly, it is the state or quality of being conscious of something.

3. Mothers and Guardians:

*   according to oxford dictionary, the citizen of a country

*   with the context of proposed study the mothers and guardians refers to citizens residing at selected areas in selected city which are taken as a sample for study.

4. Early Signs Of Girl Child Abuse :

*   According to oxford dictionary, early signs of girl child abuse is a physical maltreatment or sexual molestation of a child.

*   Maltreatment of a child by a parent or guardian, including neglect, beating, and sexual molestation

Delimitation of research study

The study was limited to mothers and Guardians of both genders, who were,

*   Residing at research site

*   Above the age group of 21 years.

*   Able to understand and reply in Marathi.

- Available during data collection period.

- Wasing to participate and co-operate in the study.

Criteria for the selection of sample

Inclusion criteria:
1. Age group of 20-50 yrs.
2. Mothers and guardians who were wasing to participation in research study.
3. those who were residing at selected area of research study
4. mothers and guardians were available during data collection period.
5. Mothers and guardians can read write and understand Marathi language

Exclusion criteria:
1. Not wasing to participate
2. Unavailable during data collection period
3. Unable to read and write Marathi
4. Age below 20years of age

Conceptual frame work

i. Input: Research study was conducted in selected areas of selected citytehsil, district ahilyanagar, among 30 randomly selected community mothers and guardians for the present study. research participants had been explained well the aim and process of research. written consent had been taken. input phase of research mainly consist of two sections-

a)Assessment of demographic variables: Investigators have selected demographic variables following independent variables such as age, gender, marital status, religion, education status of mothers, family type, occupation of mothers, source of information, number children in the family etc.

b)Research tool development: Structured questionnaire was developed to a study to assess the knowledge of mothers and guardians regarding early signs of girl child abuse in a selected area of shrirampur tehsil. Structured questionnaire mainly consist following headings such as meaning, causes, warning signs, prevention and management of early signs of girl child abuse. Each question of questionnaire has two options and participants were asked to choose one option as answer and the response of samples was measured as per scoring system of tool.

ii. Throughput: It implication of post test. Investigator has explained in detail the concept of early signs of girl child abuse as per pre planned schedule health education. Feedback was taken carefully and in depth discussion was emphasized after health education. All participants were explained in detail about the procedure of data collection. each sample was interviewed by investigators and data was obtained and kept confidential.

iii. Output: Data obtained from selected samples was analyzed by descriptive inferential statistical method. Average and percentage of each category of questionnaire was calculated and presented in diagrammatic format and tables. Based on the obtained information from samples investigators

interpreted the information and measured level of knowledge. Based on the collected data made final conclusion were made. Investigators noticed remarkable improvement in the level of knowledge among community mothers and guardians after health education. Findings of obtained data explained in detail in data interpretation chapter of research.

Summary: With the available sound background of literature and key concepts of health belief model were followed. Frame-work shows plan of assessment of knowledge regarding early signs of girl child abuse.

Review of literature

Child maltreatment deaths due to abuse represented slightly over one-third of all child maltreatment deaths between 2011 and 2013. National reports state that for 2011 and 2012, abuse was a primary component in 48% and 44% of U.S. child maltreatment deaths respectively.

According to data from the national early signs of girl child abuse and neglect data system, 50 states reported a total of 1,546 fatalities. based on these data, a nationally estimated 1,580 children died from abuse and neglect in 2014. this translates to a rate of 2.13 children per 100,000 children in the general population and an average of 4 children dying every day from abuse or neglect. this rate increased slightly from 2013 and showed a 1.3 percent increased from 2010.

American children are suffering from hidden epidemics of early signs of girl child abuse and neglect. National early signs of girl child abuse estimates are well known for being under –reported. the latest 2015 child maltreatment report from the children bureau was published in January 2017. the report shows an increased in early signs of girl child abuse referrals from 3.6 million to 4 million. the number of children involved subsequently increased to 7.2 million from 6.6 million. the report also indicates an increasing child death from abuse and neglect to 1,670 in 2015, up from 1,580 in 2014.

Morbidity data from newzeal and computerized files of all intentional injury fatalities among children 16 years of age and under for 1978- 1987, and all hospital discharges for intentionally injured children 16 an under for 1988, were analyze for evidence of physical and sexual abuse. among the 92 fatalities, only 21 of 68 deaths due to physical and /or sexual abuse were so coded.

Descriptive study was done to explore the knowledge of early signs of girl child abuse among the mothers of under-five children in urban setting of kathmandu district of nepal. out of the total 95 participants, 50.53% had good knowledge and 48.4 % had average knowledge on overall early signs of girl child abuse . none of the mothers had poor knowledge in terms early signs of girl child abuse .

Descriptive study was done to explore the knowledge of early signs of girl child abuse among the mothers of in rural setting of kherikalan village, faridabad. out of the total 100 participants, 8 % had good knowledge and 92 % had average knowledge on overall early signs of girl child abuse . None of the mothers had poor knowledge in terms early signs of girl child abuse .

Qualitative study was done to assess the knowledge of health care professional and primary school teacher regarding early signs of girl child abusein Netherlands 16 primary school teachers and 17 public health nurses and physicians were involved in the study. Findings showed that although both groups of professionals are aware of early signs of girl child abusesigns and risks, they are also lacking specific knowledge. The most salient differences between the two professional groups are related to attitude and communication skills.

Considering the great responsibility placed upon teachers to involve themselves in early signs of girl child abuseprevention, education and detection, the national committee for prevention of early signs of girl child abuse (NCPCA) conducted a nationwide survey of teachers from 40 schools districts in 29 randomly selected countries. The survey explores teacher's knowledge, attitudes and beliefs about early signs of girl child abuse and its prevention.568 teachers responded, revealing that while the majority of teachers confront early signs of girl child abuse among their students.

Professional practitioners, nurses can promote prevention by becoming knowledgeable about all aspects of the phenomenon of early signs of girl child abuse , by carefully scrutinizing their own beliefs and values, and by monitoring their own behavior. by careful use of the problem-solving approach in their practices they can effectively intervene in potentially problematic situations. as citizens who have more complete and accurate information than their lay counterparts, they can be vital resources. they can support movements and legislation that seek to establish methods for preventing child neglect and abuse, and where neither movements nor legislation exits, they can promote both. Finally, nurses can promote and participate in relevant research that was continue to identify causes and seek solutions.

Mothers are the most important adult in child's life and to whom child looks up. Mothers are always concerned about their children and their safety. Unfortunately cannot always ensure it but they can equip their children with information and skills to build self-protective behavior.

Most important factor for your children protection is a strong self –esteem. let children know how important they are to you. be available when they need to talk. be honest and open with them when they ask difficult questions. and always believe what your child tells you, no matter how unbelievable or difficult to believe it is.

Children depend on their mothers to love, nurture and protect them. Mothers have a duty to provide for the emotional and physical well-being of their children. they are also responsible for controlling and supervising their children.

Role of mothers in prevention of early signs of girl child abuse are participate in child's activity and get to know child's friends. never leave child unattended. teach the child to use their voice to allow them to prevent abuse in their own life. listen to them and what they say.be aware of changes in the child's behavior or attitude and inquire in to it. teach the child what to do when they are separated from mothers for a while away from home.be alert for any talk that reveals premature sexual understanding. pay attention when someone shows greater than normal interest in the child and make certain the child's school or day

care center was release him or her only when their mothers or someone officially designated comes to receive them.

Methodology

Methodology of the study includes the description of research approach, setting of the study, sample and sampling techniques. Developing and testing of the tool, methods of data collection and plan for data analysis based on study objectives.

Research design and approach: research aimed at assessing the knowledge of mothers and guardians residing in manik nagar, selected city regarding early signs of girl child abuse ,the research design which was be used for the present study is non experimental descriptive study design with exploratory survey approach.

Setting of the study: study was be conducted in Manik nagar, Selected city which is slum area and located approximately 1km away from selected private hospital and 9km from Haregaon.

Population: population for the present study was be mothers and Guardians residing in the Manik nagar area of selected city Tehsil.

Sample: sample for the present study was with Manik nagar mothers and Guardians present during data collection period.

Sample size: 30 samples undergone the research

Sampling technique: Non probability, purposive sampling technique was used for selecting samples which meets the purpose of the study.

Criteria for selection of sample

The study was be limited to mothers and guardians of both sexes, who were :

1. Residing in Manik nagar area of Shirampur.
2. Age group between 20-50 years.
3. Able to understand and reply in Marathi.
4. Available during data collection period.
5. Willing to participate and co-operate in the study.

Method of data collection

Structured interview schedule wad used to collect data from mothers and Guardians residing in Manik nagar.

Development of tool: Tool was prepared under the following steps

Section A: It consists of aspects pertaining to the various Socio-demographic variables of mothers and Guardians residing in Manik nagar like age, gender, occupation, religion, educational status, marital status, type of family, residence and personal habits, residential status, source of information, educational level, personal habits & environment in the family.

Section B: It consists of items pertaining to the various aspects of early signs of girl child abuse. As questionnaire is of dichotomous type each item has two alternatives. It consisted the items pertaining to the various aspects of quality of life. Each item has two alternatives.

Table No. 1.1: Description of structured questionnaire on knowledge of mothers and guardians residing at manik nagar selected city regarding early signs of girl child abuse

SN	Sections of questionnaire
1	Meaning of early signs of girl child abuse
2	Abusers and victims of early signs of girl child abuse
3	Causative factors of early signs of girl child abuse
4	Warning signs of early signs of girl child abuse
5	Role of care givers in prevention of early signs of girl child abuse
6	Emergency care after early signs of girl child abuse
7	Effects of early signs of girl child abuse
8	Legal process for early signs of girl child abuse
9	Health education about early signs of girl child abuse

Scoring key: To assess the level of knowledge of community mothers and guardians regarding early signs of girl child abuse, a structured questionnaire is formulated with two alternatives to answer the question and it was grouped into levels like poor, average and good level of knowledge.

Table No. 1.2: Tables shows the grading system of score of research tool

Sr. No	Level of knowledge	Actual score	Percentage
1)	Poor	1-10	1% to 33.33%
2)	Average	11-20	33.34% to 66.66%
3)	Good	21-30	66.67% to 100%

Translation of tool: After validation of structured interview schedule it was be structured in English as translated into Marathi and appropriateness of research tool was be checked.

Validity : Content validity of the tools was be established in consultation with guide and experts like the department of psychiatric nursing, community health nursing, and PediatricNursing and medical surgical nursing. Tool was be modified according to their suggestions and recommendations.

Translation of tool: After validation of tool, it was translate in Marathi to check its correctness.

Preparation of the draft: Final draft was be prepared after testing the validity and consultation with guide for collecting the data from mothers and guardians residing in manik nagar.

Data collection procedure:

Ethical consideration: Prior to collection of data, written permission letter was be obtained from the principal of Seva Nursing College, Shrirampur and the informed consent from mothers and Guardians residing in Manik nagar.
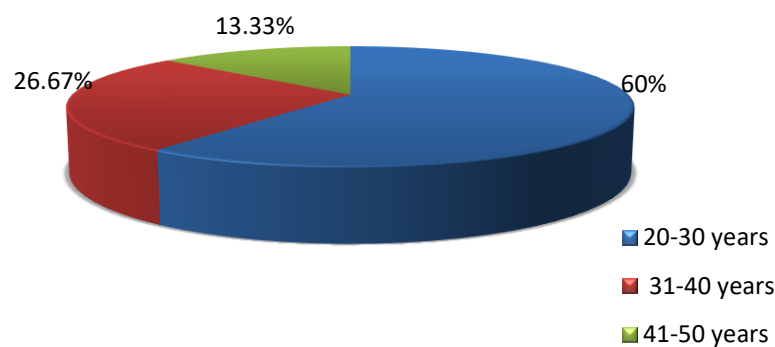
Planned for data analysis: Descriptive and inferential statistics planned for data analysis; the collected data was be organized, tabulated and analyzed by using descriptive statistics i.e. percentages to assess the knowledge of mothers and guardians regarding early signs of girl child abuse .the data was planned to be presented in the form of tables and figures.

Summary: Non experimental, descriptive study design with exploratory approach was used on 30 purposefully selected mothers and guardians at manik nagar to assess the knowledgeregarding early signs of girl child abuse, dichotomous questionnaire is planned; validity was be established. the data was be analyzed by using descriptive and inferential statistics.

Data Interpretation

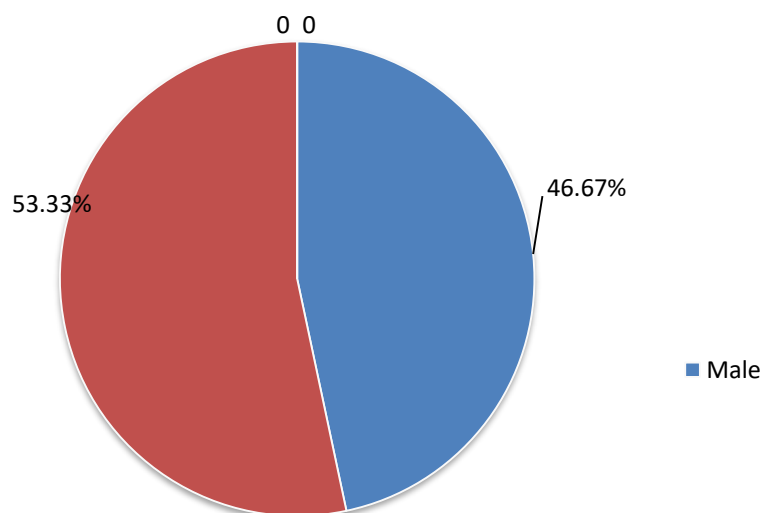### I). Diagrammatic presentation of Analyzed data

1) **Age:**

Figure1.2 Distribution of mothers and Guardians according to their age:-

Percentage wise distribution of samples as per the age shows that highest percentage 60% was 20-30 years and only 13.33% of mothers and Guardians were 41-50 years.
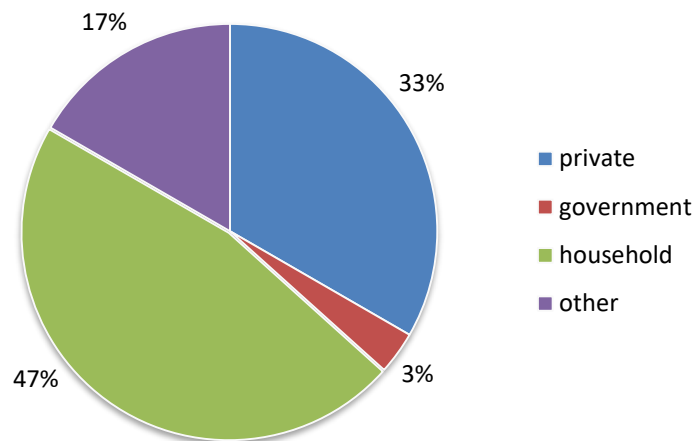
2) Gender: -

Figure1.3 Distribution of mothers and Guardians according to their gender: -

Percentage wise distribution of samples as per gender shows that highest percentage 53.33% was in female and 46.67% was in male.
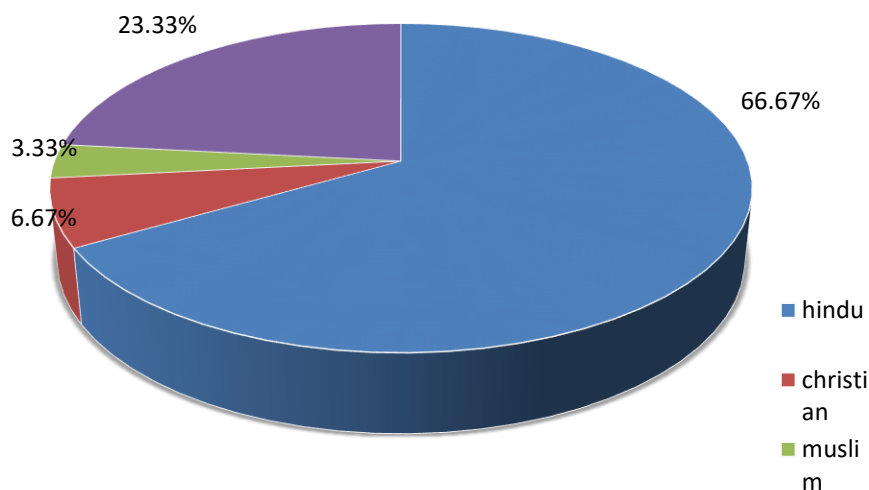
3) Occupation:

Figure No1.4 Distribution of mothers and Guardians according to their occupation:

Percentage wise distribution of samples as per occupation shows that highest percentage 47% were belongs to household work and 3% were government job.
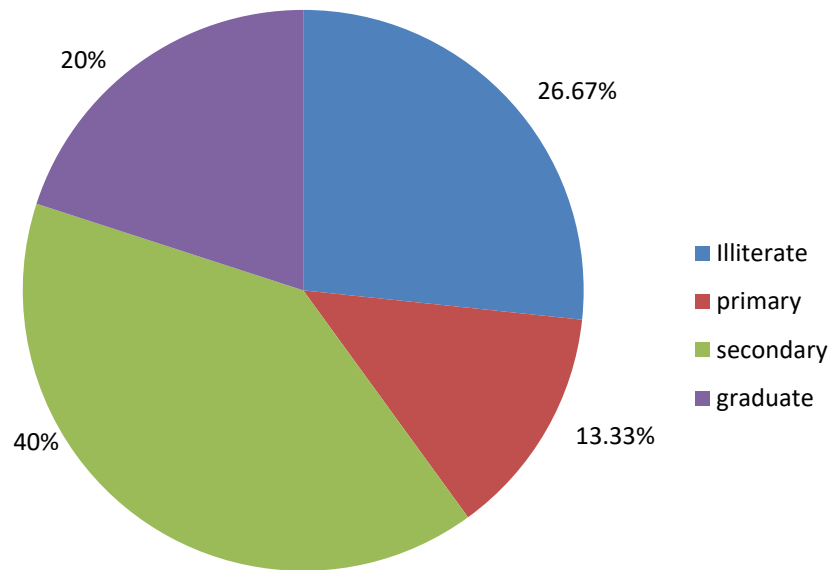
4) Religion: -

Figure 1.5 Distribution of mothers and Guardians according to their religion:-

Percentage wise distribution of samples as per religion shows that highest percentage 66.67% was belongs to Hindu religion and only 3.33% was belongs to Muslim religion.
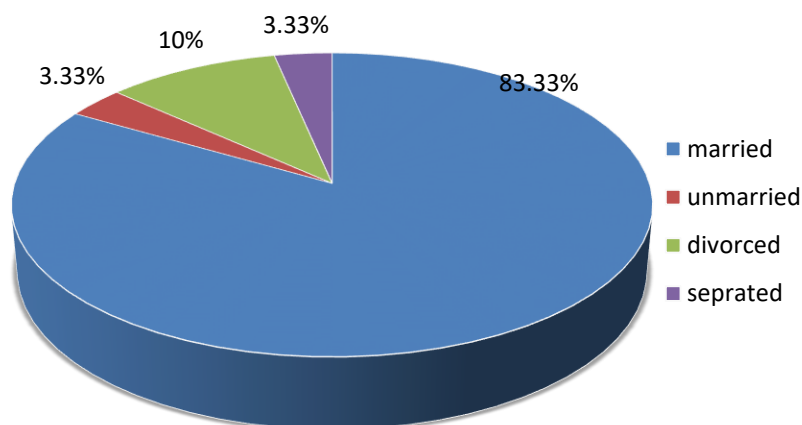
5) Education:-

Figure 1.6 Distribution of mothers and Guardians according to their education:-

Percentage wise distribution of samples as per mothers and Guardians education shows that highest percentage 40% was belongs to secondary education and only 13.33% was belongs to primary education
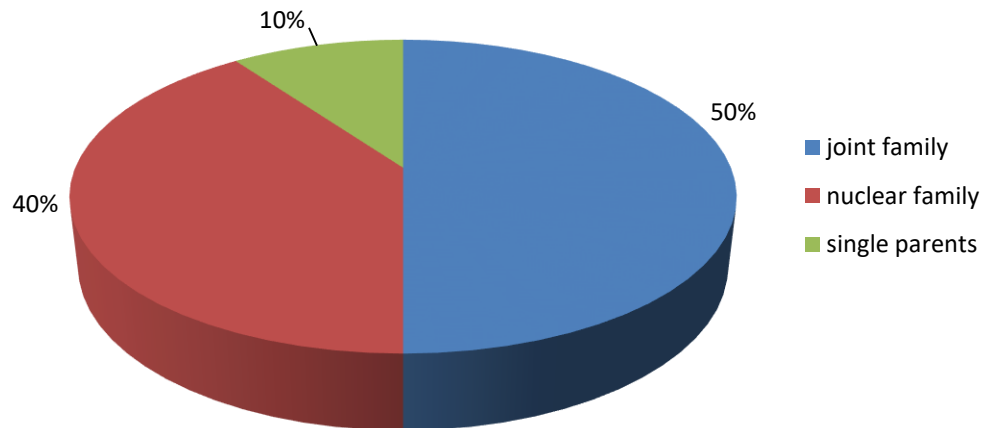
.6) Marital Status:

Figure 1.7 Distribution of mothers and Guardians according to their marital status:

Percentage wise distribution of samples as per marital status shows that highest percentage 83.33% was married and 3.33% was unmarried.
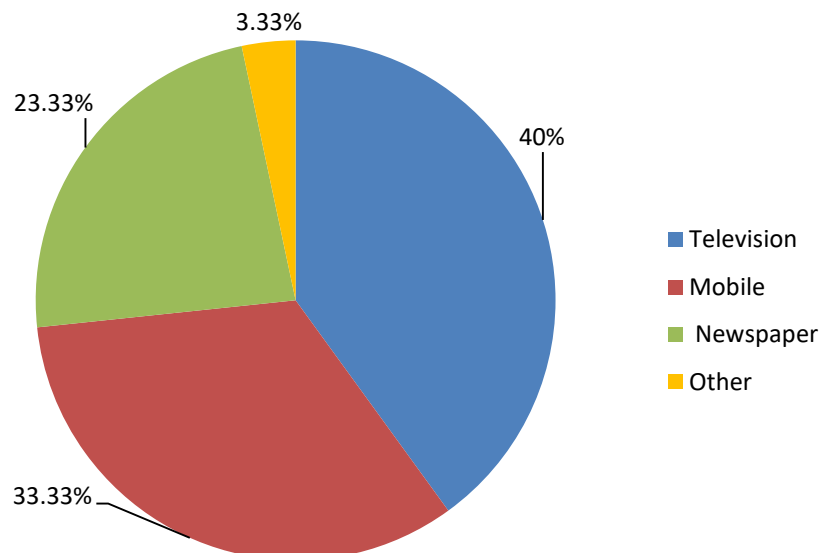
7) Family Type:

Figure 1.8 Distribution of mothers and Guardians according to their family type:

Percentage wise distribution of samples as per family type shows that highest percentage 50% was joint family and 10% were single mothers.
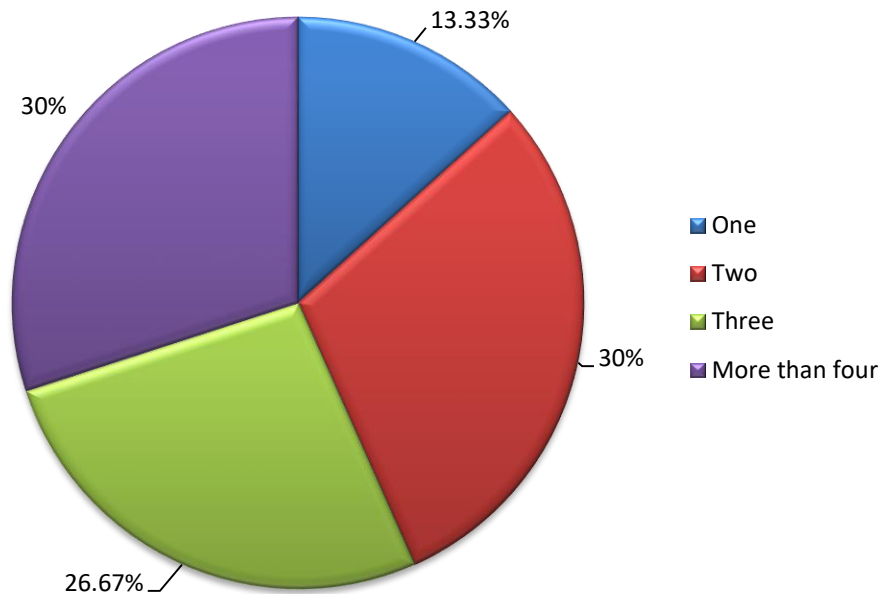
8) Source of information:-

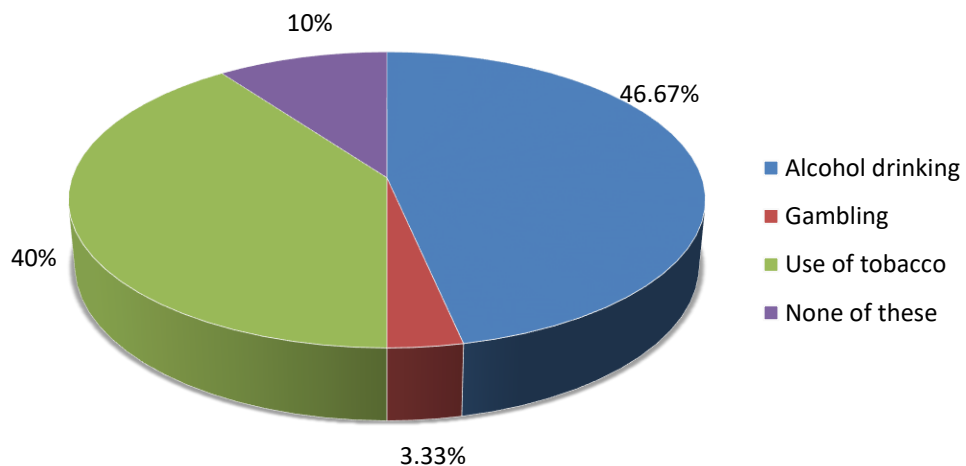**Figure 1.9 Distribution of mothers and Guardians according to their source of information:-** Percentage wise distribution of samples as per mothers and Guardians source of information shows that40% was having television and 3.33% was having other sources of information.

9) Number of children in family:

Figure 2.1Distribution of mothers and Guardians according to number of children in the family: Percentage wise distribution of samples as per number of children in the family shows that highest percentage 30% have more than 4 children and 13.33% have only one child in the family.
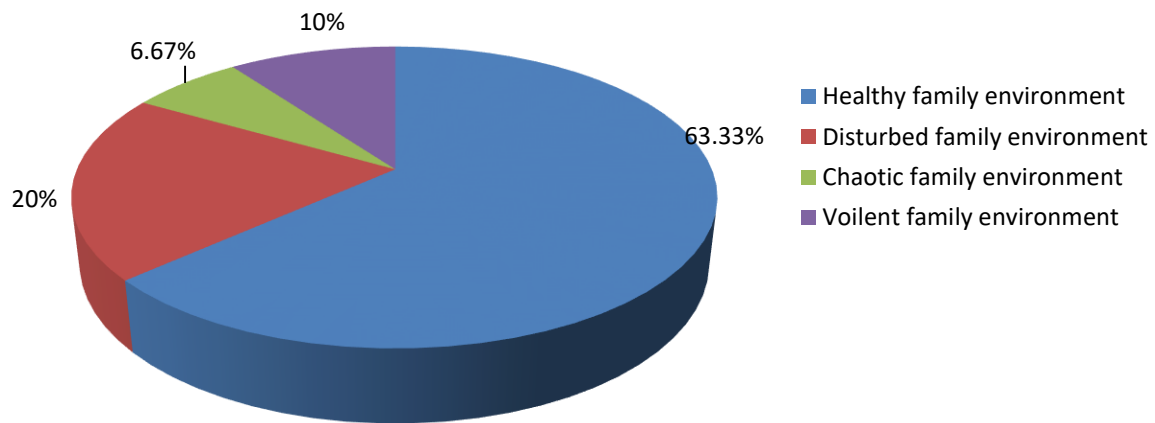
11) Personal habits:

Figure 2.2 Distribution of mothers and Guardians according to their personal habits:-

Percentage wise distribution of samples as per personal habits shows that highest percentage 46.67% are alcohol drinking and 3,33%are gambling.

12) Environment in family:

Figure 2.3 Distribution of mothers and Guardians according to their environment in family:-

Percentage wise distribution of samples as per environment in family shows that highest percentage 63.33% have healthy family environment and 6.67% have chaotic family environment.

II) Data interpretation in tables

1. Meaning of early signs of girl child abuse

Sr. No.	Items	Sample numbers	Percentage
1	What is early signs of girl child abuse	12	40%
2	What is physical abuse	25	83,33%
3	What is mental abuse	19	63.33%
4	What is sexual abuse	21	70%
5	What is child neglect	19	63.33%

Item wise distribution of common mothers and guardians residing at selected areas of Selected city regarding knowledge about early signs of girl child abuse shows that the highest percentage (83.33%) of samples were well aware about the term physical abuse and lowest percentage (40%) of samples were aware about the term early signs of girl child abuse. Also (70%) of samples were aware about the term sexual abuse, (63.33%) of samples were aware about the term mental abuse & (63.33%) of samples were aware about the term child neglect.

2. Abusers and victims of early signs of girl child abuse

Sr. No	Items	Sample Numbers	Percentage
1	Who typically abuses the child	25	83.33%
2	Who typically being abused	28	93.33%
3	What age group of child is typically abused	5	16.67%

Item wise distribution of common mothers and guardians residing at selected areas of Selected city regarding knowledge about early signs of girl child abuse shows that the highest percentage (93.33%) of samples were well aware about the victims of early signs of girl child abuse and lowest percentage (16.67%) of samples were aware about the typical age group of early signs of girl child abuse also (83.33%) of samples were aware about early signs of girl child abusers.

3. Causative factors of early signs of girl child abuse

Sr. No.	Items	Sample numbers	Percentage
1	what is common purpose of abusing the child	9	30%
2	what family factor may cause early signs of girl child abuse	22	73.33%
3	what social factor may cause early signs of girl child abuse	19	63.33%
4	what personality factor may cause early signs of girl child abuse	15	50%
5	what occupational factor may cause early signs of girl child abuse	17	56.67%
6	what psychological factor may cause early signs of girl child abuse	16	53.33%
7	what physical factor may cause early signs of girl child abuse	22	73.33%

item wise distribution of common mothers and guardians residing at selected areas of Selected city regarding knowledge about early signs of girl child abuse shows that highest percentage (73.33%) of samples were well aware about causative factors i.e. family factor & physical factorand lowest percentage (30%) of samples were aware about the common purposes of early signs of girl child abuse. also (63.33%) of samples were aware about social factor, (56.67%) of samples were aware about occupational factor, (53.33%) of samples were aware aboutpsychological factor& (50%) of samples were aware about personality factor causing early signs of girl child abuse.

4. Warning signs of early signs of girl child abuse

Sr. No.	Items	Sample Numbers	Percentage
1	What are the warning signs of physically abused child	23	76.67%
2	What are the warning signs of emotionally abused child	25	83.33%
3	What are the warning signs of sexually abused child	21	70%

Item wise distribution of common mothers and guardians residing at selected areas of Selected city regarding knowledge about early signs of girl child abuse shows that highest percentage (83.33%) of samples were well aware about warning signs of emotionally abused child and lowest percentage (70%) of samples were aware about warning signs of sexually abused child. also (76.67%) of samples were aware about warning signs of physically abused child.

5. Role of care givers in prevention of early signs of girl child abuse

Sr. No.	Items	Sample Numbers	Percentage
1	what is role of mothers in preventing early signs of girl child abuse	25	83.33%
2	what is the role of teacher in preventing early signs of girl child abuse	16	53.33%
3	which of the following is the role of family in preventing early signs of girl child abuse	18	60%
4	what is role of family to counsel the child	30	100%

Item wise distribution of common mothers and guardians residing at selected areas of Selected city regarding knowledge about early signs of girl child abuse shows that highest percentage (100%) of samples were well aware aboutrole of family to counsel the child and lowest percentage (53.33%) of samples were aware aboutrole of teacher in preventing early signs of girl child abuse . also (83.33%) of samples were aware about role of mothers in preventing early signs of girl child abuse and (60%) of samples were aware about role of family in preventing early signs of girl child abuse .

6. Emergency care after early signs of girl child abuse

Sr. No.	Items	Sample Numbers	Percentage
1	What would you do if you see child is being abused	25	83.33%
2	What emergency care child requires after the incidence	26	86.67%

Item wise distribution of common mothers and guardians residing at selected areas of Selected city regarding knowledge about early signs of girl child abuse shows that highest percentage (86.67%) of samples were well aware about emergency care child requires after the incidenceand lowest percentage (83.33%) of samples were aware about emergency care when they see child is being abused.

7. Effects of early signs of girl child abuse

Sr. No	Items	Sample Numbers	Percentage
1	What psychological issues child develop after being abused	15	50%
2	What are the ways to deal with PTSD	18	60%

Item wise distribution of common mothers and guardians residing at selected areas of Selected city regarding knowledge about early signs of girl child abuse shows that highest percentage (60%) of samples were well aware aboutways to deal with PTSD of early signs of girl child abuse & lowest percentage (50%) of samples were aware aboutpsychological issues child may develop after being abused.

8. Legal process for early signs of girl child abuse

Sr. No	Items	Sample Numbers	Percentage
1	whom to approach to lodge the complaint regarding the incidence	24	80%
2	what is legal process to action against early signs of girl child abuse	27	90%
3	what are the NGOS may help to abused child	15	50%

Item wise distribution of common mothers and guardians residing at selected areas of Selected city regarding knowledge about early signs of girl child abuse shows that highest percentage (90%) of samples were well aware aboutlegal process to action against early signs of girl child abuse & lowest percent (50%) of samples were aware about NGOS helps to abused child. also (80%) of sample were aware about whom to approach to lodge the complaint regarding the incidence.

9. Health education about early signs of girl child abuse

Sr. No.	Items	Sample Numbers	Percentage
1	what early signs of girl child abuse related health education should be given to child	28	93.33%

Item wise distribution of common mothers and guardians residing at selected areas of selected city regarding knowledge about early signs of girl child abuse shows that highest percentage (93.33%) of samples were well aware about early signs of girl child abuse related health education to the child.

Discussion, summary, conclusion, implications and recommendation
Descriptive design with exploratory survey was undertaken in selected areas of selected city tehsil. data was collected from 30 samples to assess the knowledge regarding early signs of girl child abuse.Collected data were analyzed by using descriptive and inferential statistics.

Findings are summarized as follows.
- majority of (53.33%) of mothers and guardians were females.
- highest percentages (60%) of mothers and guardians were in the age group of 20-30 years.
- highest percentage (66.67%) of mothers and guardians were Christian by religion.
- majority of (83.33%) of samples were married.
- highest percentage (40%) of mothers and guardians were studied up to secondary school.
- highest percentage (46.67%) of samples were doing household work by occupation.
- highest majority (100%) of samples were residence of urban areas.
- highest percentages (50%) of samples were from joint family.
- highest percentage (40%) of samples were having television as source of information.
- highest percentage (30%) of samples have more than four children in the family.
- majority of (46.67%) of samples has alcoholism as personal habits.
- highest percentage (63.33%) of samples has healthy family environment.

Description of level of knowledge of mothers and guardians residing at selected areas of selected city regarding early signs of girl child abuse

- item wise reply of mothers and guardians residing at selected areas of Selected city regarding knowledge of early signs of girl child abuse shows that
- highest percentage (83.33%) of samples were well aware about the term physical abuse.
- majority of (93.33%) of samples were well aware about the victims.
- highest percentage (73.33%) of samples were well aware about causative factors i.e. family factor & physical factor.
- highest percentage (83.33%) of samples were well aware about warning signs of emotionally abused child.
- highest percentage (100%) of samples were well aware about role of family to counsel the child.
- Majority of (86.67%) of samples were well aware about emergency care child requires after the incidence.
- majority of (60%) of samples were well aware about ways to deal with PTSD of early signs of girl child abuse .
- highest percentage (90%) of samples were well aware about legal process to action against early signs of girl child abuse .
- highest percentage (93.33%) of samples were well aware about early signs of girl child abuse related health education to the child.

Recommendation

The researcher recommended that

1. a similar study can be replicated with large population.
2. a similar study can be conducted by comparing rural and urban population.
3. a study may be conducted to various age groups.
4. a longitudinal study may be carried out to determine the level of retention of knowledge on early signs of girl child abuse .

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