



Original Article

Knowledge of primary school teachers on first aid management of minor accidents among children at Ambala

Abstract:

Introduction: Primary school is where a strong foundation of a child's education is set, a child's mind and body must be nurtured and prepared for the future. Primary school kids are also highly active physically and hence, more prone to injuries. That is why in addition to the academic education imparted here, their physical health also needs to be cared for meticulously.

Objectives: The study was conducted to assess the knowledge of primary school teachers regarding first aid management of minor accidents among children (5-10 Years) at selected primary schools of Ambala district and to find the association between knowledge and demographic variables.

Methods and Materials: Descriptive research design was used for the study and there were 40 sample primary school teachers chosen for the study from different primary schools. Both government and private primary schools were selected for the study and purposive technique was used to select the schools. Sample was taken by convenient sampling technique. The tool was structured questionnaire schedule which consisted of 27 items and demographic variables. The data was collected from schools over 5 days and informed consent was obtained from participants prior to the collection process.

Results: The results of this study show that most of the primary school teachers (52.5%) had good knowledge score (16-21), followed by 37.5 percent teachers who had excellent knowledge score (21-27), a small portion (7.5%) of school teachers had average knowledge score, and only 2.5 percent of school teachers had a low score Between (0-13). Mean knowledge score 19.17, median knowledge score was 19, mean percentage knowledge of primary school teachers was 71.01%, and standard deviation of knowledge score was 2.7. It was concluded that there was no significance association between knowledge score demographic variables.

Conclusion: The study shows that teachers had good knowledge of first aid management and that students of primary schools are at a great advantage of safety by this knowledge. The mean score of 19.17 indicates that the teachers were aware of most of the basic principles of first aid, irrespective of their background.

Key Words: Knowledge, First aid management, Primary school teachers, Minor accidents, Children aged 5-10 Years

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Introduction

The primary school is where a strong foundation of a child's education is set. This is where a child's mind and body must be nurtured and prepared for the future. Primary school kids are also highly active physically and hence, more prone to injuries. That is why in addition to the academic education imparted here, their physical health also needs to be cared for meticulously. Knowledge of first aid, which constitutes life saving treatment for injuries or unexpected illness is important for every individual at

any age. First aid and basic life support are so important that teaching basic first aid should be compulsory in all schools¹. School age children are at high risk of accidents that decreases their ability to attend school regularly and learn to their full potential². At present there are over 98% (50.4 million boys & 47.7 girls) enrolled in about 5.55 lakh primary schools in India. In rural areas, 96.6% of population is served by primary schools located within one kilometer¹. Preventing injuries by providing safe educational environment is one of the basic concerns of

primary school teachers³. School is an organized community and easy to reach for implementation of health and health related programmes. Therefore, school has both responsibility and opportunity to help, protect, maintain and improve the health of the students. There is an interrelation between the school and the homes of children and that greatly facilitates an organized approach to health promotion, health appraisal and health restoration. Thus it is apparent that an organized system of health care in schools provides a framework well suited to carry on any effective programme of health which can reach and influence large number of children³. A study conducted in an Iranian community shows that in 125 cases, given an overall one year incidence rate of 10.8%, overall incidence rate of injuries among boys was greater than the incidence rate among girls. Greater risk was among five year old children in both the genders, fall was most common cause followed by hit of objects.⁴ Another epidemiological study conducted in Poland showed that most frequently, accident took place at school yard (29.7%), accident during break (36.65%), physical education (33.2%) and in corridor and stairs (25.25%)⁵. The role of teachers is important and fundamental in school health services. Participation of teacher in child care is of great value and there is no substitute of health. Teachers are crucial in helping develop favorable attitudes and formulate desirable habits among young children to improve their own health as well as that of the community⁶. Thus researcher feels the need to conduct a study to assess the knowledge of primary school teachers regarding first aid management.

The present study was conducted to assess the level of knowledge of primary school teachers regarding first aid management of minor accidents and to determine association between the level of knowledge and selected demographic variables.

Hypothesis

H1 : There will be a significant association between knowledge score primary school teachers with the demographic variables.

Methodology

In order to assess the level of primary school teachers regarding first aid management a descriptive survey design was used. The study was conducted in the rural area of Ambala district and both Government and private primary schools namely Rajakiya Prathmik Pathshala, Nahoni, V.M. Public School, Kalpi and Rajkiya Prathmik Pathshala, Budhiya. Schools were chosen by

purposive sampling technique and Forty Primary School Teachers were taken for the study. Participants were taken by convenience sampling technique for the study. Data collection instruments were in the two parts. Part 1 was having demographic variables which was having five items namely age, religion, gender, educational status and teaching experience. Part 2 was having structured questionnaire schedule which consist of 27 items related to first aid kit, falls injuries, sport injuries, epistaxis, fracture, eye injuries, foreign body aspiration, burn, snake bite, drowning and dog bite. Tools were validated by six experts and there was 100% agreement regarding tool. Reliability of the tool was recorded as 0.86 which was reliable. Data was collected in five days from the different schools.

Result

Table 1: Frequency and percentage distribution of sample N=40

S. No.	VARIABLES	f	%
1	Age in years		
	21-30	14	35
	31-40	14	35
	41-50	10	25
	51 and above	2	5
2	Religion		
	Hindu	37	92.5
	Sikh	03	7.5
3	Gender		
	Male	15	37.5
	Female	25	62.5
4	Educational Status		
	Elementary teacher training	09	22.5
	B.Ed.	21	52.5
	M.A.	07	17.5
	Any Other	03	7.5
5	Teaching Experience		
	Up to 5 Years	19	47.5
	5-10 Years	06	15.5
	Above 10 Years	15	37.5

Table 1 shows that majority 14 (35%) of primary school teachers were from the age group 21-30 years, equally 35% teachers were in the age group 31-40, followed by 25% primary school teachers from the age group 41-50 years and only 5% from 51 years and above. Most of participants were from Hindu religion 92.5%, followed by 7.5% from the Sikh religion. 62.5% of primary school teachers were female whereas 37.5% were male.

Nearly half (52.5%) participants had completed their B.Ed. followed by 22.5% elementary teacher training, 17.5% M.A. and minor 7.5% teachers had completed courses like JBT and B.A. Less than half (47.5%) of the teachers had an experience of up to 5 years followed by 37.5% with an experience of above 10 years and only 15% teachers had 5-10 years experience.

Figure 1: Bar diagram showing the distribution of teachers according to knowledge scores

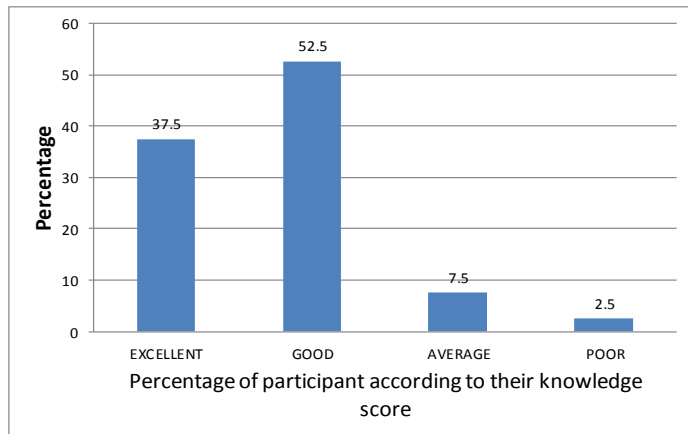


Figure 1 shows that most of the primary school teachers (52.5%) had good knowledge score (16-21), 37.5 percentage of teachers had excellent knowledge scored (21-27), small portion (7.5%) of school teachers were having average knowledge score, and only 2.5% of school teachers had score Between (0-13).

Table - 2: Mean, Median, Mode, Mean Percentage and standard deviation of knowledge score. N = 40

Content	Mean	Median	Mean percentage	SD
Level of knowledge score	19.17	19	71.01	±2.7

Table 2 shows that mean knowledge score of primary school teachers on first aid management was 19.17 (±2.7), median knowledge score was 19, mean percentage knowledge of primary school teachers was 71.01%, and standard deviation of knowledge score was 2.7.

Table 3: Chi-square test result showing association between knowledge score with demographic variables of primary school teachers.

S. No.	VARIABLES	< Median	>Median	df	Chi-Square
1	Age in years			1	3.8
	21-40	13	15		
	41 and above	06	06		
2	Religion			1	1.9
	Hindu	16	21		
	Sikh	03	00		
3	Gender			1	0.0066
	Male	07	08		
	Female	12	13		
4	Educational Status			1	0.93
	+ 2 diploma course	03	06		
	Graduation and above	16	15		
5	Teaching Experience			1	0.0066
	Up to 10 Years	12	13		
	> 10 Years	07	08		

$X^2(1) = 3.841, P < 0.5$

Table 3 shows that chi-square value computed between knowledge score and selected demographic variables with age was 3.8, with religion was 1.9, with education status was 0.9 and with gender & teaching experience was 0.0. Thus, it can be interpreted that there was no significance association between knowledge score demographic variables. Thus alternate hypothesis H1 was rejected.

Conclusion

The results indicated that most (70%) of the participants were in the age group of 21-40 years and largest percentage (92.5) were in the Hindu religion. Majority of teacher had B. Ed education which was a great thing. Nearly half (47.5%) of the participants had up to 5 years of teaching experience which means there were more young teachers. More than half of the teachers were having good knowledge score (16-21) and only 2.5 percentage of teachers had score 0-13. With a mean knowledge score of 19.17, this study shows that a majority of teachers had very good knowledge. The results of this study revealed that primary teachers were very much aware and well versed in first aid

management in the school and the health of young students was in good hands.

Recommendations

Authors recommends that:

- A similar study can be conducted in different community to find out the significant difference between rural and urban primary school teachers.
- A survey on knowledge of first aid management could be done among general public or on mothers.
- The same study can be conducted in the large sample size.

Legal issues

The permission was obtained from the principals of primary schools prior to conduct the study. Before collecting data, purpose of study was explained to the primary school teachers and consent was taken from each.

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