



A Study to Assess the Knowledge on Prevention and Management of Chicken Pox among the Children at Selected School, Chennai.

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ABSTRACT

Chicken pox or varicella is an acute and highly infectious disease caused by varicella zoster (v-z) virus. The incubation period is about 7-14 days. It is characterized by vesicular rash that may be accompanied by fever and Malaise. It is worldwide in distribution and occur in both epidemic and endemic form. Objective: To study the assess the knowledge on prevention and management of chicken pox among school children, An exploratory survey was conducted and non probability purposive sampling technique was used to select 30 samples. Structured questionnaire was used to collect the data from 30 school children in the age group of 6-12 years and the data was analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. The study findings revealed that 83.3% of the samples had inadequate knowledge on prevention and management of chicken pox among school children, 16.7% of the samples had moderate knowledge on prevention and management of chicken pox among school children. There is a significant association between level of knowledge regarding prevention and management of chicken pox among children with demographic variables such as age, gender, educational status, occupation, religion, monthly income of father, no of children, family history of chicken pox and source of health information at 5% level

Keywords: knowledge, prevention and management of chicken pox, children etc

Introduction

Chickenpox (varicella) is a highly contagious disease of childhood, but increasing reports of occurrence have also been reported amongst major chunks of adults. Chickenpox is a benign, self-limiting disease caused by the varicella-zoster virus (VZV) that is transmitted from person to person with direct contact or airborne spread, which usually lasts for five to seven days. Persons with herpes zoster have an itchy and blister-like rash, and rashes are infectious during the vesicular stages with secondary attack rates in susceptible contacts of greater than 8.5%. Chickenpox can also be serious and even life-threatening, especially in pregnant women and people with weak immune systems. Vaccination is the only way to prevent it and is available for children. Two doses of the chickenpox vaccine are given, and the vaccine is more than 90% effective in preventing chickenpox. The risk of getting chickenpox after completing two doses of chickenpox vaccine among the children is lower than after only one dose of chickenpox vaccine. A decreasing trend of chickenpox in developed countries is due to vaccination, but developing countries like us still pose risk to be suffered from such diseases, as it is an optional vaccine in India. In the absence of vaccination, a progressive increase in seroprevalence with age has been found maximum in adolescents and adults. Several outbreaks of chickenpox have been reported in different parts of the world and India from time to time. A similar outbreak was reported from remote villages of Chatra and Gumla district of Jharkhand state where there was a clustering of cases having a similar presentation. Primary care physicians and grassroots level workers might play a critical role in providing accurate and timely information to health authorities, allowing for early intervention and outbreak management. This epidemiological investigation was done to provide expert opinion by conducting an epidemiological study to determine the characteristics of the outbreak, describe its source, identify challenges in case management, and suggest further course of action with recommendations for avoiding such outbreaks in the future. The present study aimed to assess the knowledge on prevention and management of chicken pox among school children.

Statement of the problem

a study to assess the knowledge on Prevention and Management of Chicken Pox among the children at selected school, Chennai.

Objectives

- To assess the knowledge on Prevention and Management of Chicken Pox among school children
- To find out the association between the level of knowledge on Prevention and Management of Chicken Pox among school children with selected demographic variables

- To create awareness on Prevention and Management of Chicken Pox among school children

Methodology

An exploratory survey was conducted. Thirty samples in the age group of 6 to 12 years of Government School, Thoraipakkam, Chennai, were selected as samples using non probability purposive sampling technique. The tool consisted of demographic variables and a structured questionnaire was used to collect data. Data analysis and interpretation was done using inferential statistics. Informed consent was obtained from the study samples

Result :

The study findings revealed that 83.3% of the samples had inadequate knowledge on Prevention and Management of Chicken Pox among children, 16.7% of the samples had moderate knowledge on Prevention and Management of Chicken Pox among children. There is a significant association between level of knowledge regarding prevention and management of chicken pox among children with demographic variables such as age, gender, educational status, occupation, religion, monthly income of father, no of children, family history of chicken pox and source of health information at 5% level and the study findings was supported by Subarna Neogi et al., 2022 conducted a study to assess the effectiveness of structured teaching program on knowledge and belief regarding prevention and home management of chicken pox infection and the study findings showed that majority of the adult people were having moderate knowledge (66%) regarding prevention and home management of chicken pox infection in pre-test. After the STP program, the majority of the adult people are able to gain adequate knowledge (60%) regarding prevention and home management of chicken pox infection.

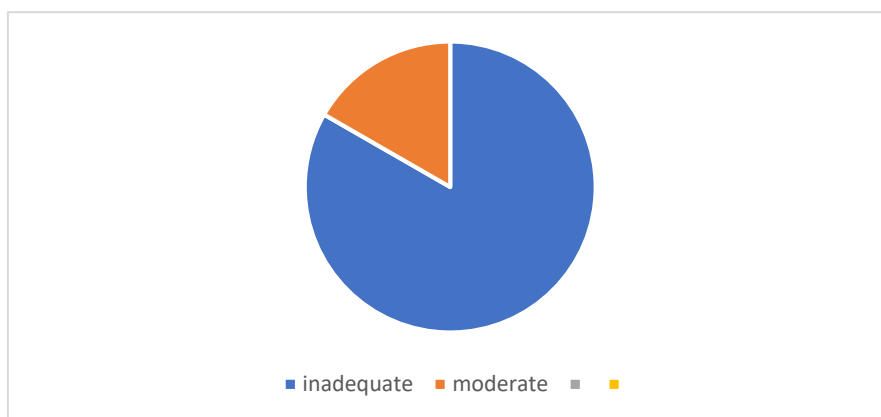


Fig-I Overall frequency and percentage distribution of level of knowledge on prevention and management of chicken pox among school children.

NURSING IMPLICATIONS :

- Nurses in all setting should provide the basic health education programme on prevention and management of chicken pox.
- It helps the health care professionals to gain awareness into the problems faced by teachers knowledge regarding disease
- Nursing professionals may arrange regular awareness campaigns in schools to spread the awareness regarding prevention and management of chicken pox
- Nursing professionals give guidance and counselling on prevention and management of chicken pox to the teachers and students.
- Nursing professionals may motivate the teachers to educate their students during school health programmes.

NURSING EDUCATION:

- For nurse educator, there are abundant opportunities to educate the teachers and general public regarding disease transmission and its prevention.
- This study stresses the need for in-service education for the teachers in order to provide education on prevention and management of chicken pox to their students.
- The nurse educator should take initiation in conducting community based education programme on prevention and management of chicken pox.

NURSING ADMINISTRATION:

- i) The nursing administrator may take part in developing protocols, preparing posters and flash cards on hygienic practices in designing the health education programmes and strategies for teachers and students at schools.
- ii) The nursing administrator may arrange awareness programme by nursing professionals who have obtained in-service education especially in the hygiene and infection control at schools.
- iii) The nurse administrators should explore and encourage innovative ideas in the preparation of an appropriate teaching material.
- iv) The nurse administrator should organize sufficient manpower and material for disseminating information regarding hygiene during community visits.
- v) The nurse administrator should take initiation in organizing and conducting classes for teachers on prevention and management of chicken pox.

NURSING RESEARCH:

- i) This study helps nurse researchers to conduct researches on other aspects of disease transmission.
- ii) Nurses should come forward to take up unsolved questions in the field of hygiene and prevention and management of chicken pox to carry out studies and publish them for the benefit of public and nursing fraternity. The public and private agencies should also encourage research in this field through materials and funds.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

On the basis of the findings of the study following recommendations have been made:

- A similar study may be replicated on a large sample to generalize the findings.
- An experimental study may be undertaken with a control group for effective comparison of the result.
- A study may be conducted by including additional demographic variables.
- A comparative study may be conducted between rural and urban settings
- Manuals, information booklets and self-instruction module may be developed in areas of food hygiene and food safety.
- A study may be carried out to evaluate the efficiency of various teaching strategies like pamphlets, leaflets and computer-assisted instruction on prevention and management of chicken pox

Ethical considerations

- Ethical committee approval was obtained
- Informed consent was obtained from study participants in language known to them after explaining the purpose of the study.
- Confidentiality was maintained

Conflict of interest: The authors have no conflict of interest

to declare

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CONCLUSION

The present study on prevention and management of chickenpox among school children concludes that implementing vaccination programs, promoting hygiene practices, and educating both parents and children about the importance of early detection and appropriate management strategies are crucial in reducing the incidence and severity of chickenpox outbreaks in school settings. Additionally, fostering collaboration between healthcare providers, schools, and public health authorities is essential for effective prevention and control efforts. Further research and continuous monitoring of vaccination coverage and disease trends are recommended to assess the long-term effectiveness of these interventions.

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