

## A COMPARATIVE STUDY TO ASSESS THE KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDE REGARDING PREVENTION OF COMMON CHILDHOOD ACCIDENTS AMONG MOTHERS OF UNDER-FIVE CHILDREN IN SELECTED URBAN AND RURAL AREAS OF KHAMMAM IN TELANGANA.

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### ABSTRACT

**Introduction:** The growth of child is always a matter of great concern to the parents. Children are at windows of vulnerability for childhood accidents, because of ignorance of child care, inadequate knowledge about prevention of accidents. **Aim:** To assess the knowledge and attitude regarding prevention of common childhood accidents among mothers of under-five children in selected urban and rural areas of Khammam in Telangana. **METHODOLOGY:** Adopting a research approach, the sample consisting of 80 mothers of under-five children was selected by Non probability convenience sampling technique. The study was conducted at the urban area of Srinivas Nagar and the rural area of Raghunadha palem in Khammam district of Telangana. The data was collected by interview and by using a structured interview schedule on knowledge and attitude scores on prevention of common childhood accidents among urban and rural mothers of under-five children. Descriptive and inferential statistics were used for analysis such as unpaired 't' test. **FINDINGS:** The study revealed that in urban area, majority 22 (55%) of the mothers of under-five children had moderately adequate knowledge, 14 (35%) had adequate knowledge and 4 (10%) had inadequate knowledge. In rural area, majority 28 (70%) of the mothers of under-five children had inadequate knowledge, 12 (30%) had moderately adequate knowledge. In urban area majority 23 (57.5%) of mothers of under-five children had favourable attitude and 17 (42.5%) had moderately favourable attitude. In rural area majority 30 (75%) of mothers of under five children had favourable attitude and 10 (25%) had moderately favourable attitude. The comparison of level of knowledge shows that there was no significant difference between urban and rural mothers of under-five children, while regarding attitude it shows that there was a significant difference between urban and rural mothers of under-five children. **CONCLUSION:** The study concludes that more number of urban mothers of under-five children had moderately adequate knowledge than rural mothers of under-five children. As regards attitude scores more number of rural mothers had favourable attitude than urban mothers of under-five children. It indicates that there is a need to improve the knowledge levels and attitude scores of mothers of under-five children regarding prevention of common childhood accidents in both urban and rural areas.

**Keywords:** Prevention, Common Childhood Accidents, Urban and Rural Areas.

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## INTRODUCTION

***"CHILDREN ARE THE WEALTH OF TOMORROW TAKE CARE OF THEM"*****- Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru**

The growth of child is always a matter of great concern to the parents. Children are at windows of vulnerability for childhood accidents, because of ignorance of child care, inadequate knowledge about prevention of accidents. Under-five children are suffering a lot due to environmental hazards causing unintentional injuries like road traffic accidents, burns, poisoning, falls, drowning and also foreign bodies in nose, mouth, and ears.

Accidents are one of the five leading causes of death in industrialised and developing countries. Injuries arising from accidents are an increasing public health problem. Yearly, 10% of children suffer an accident for which necessitates contacting the health services. Children, being less aware of danger, are one of the most vulnerable groups. Younger children are more vulnerable indoors, while older ones are more at risk outdoors. There seem to be "gender types" of accidents; males tend to have more accidents outdoors while females tend to have accidents indoors. Accidents are also related to the prevailing socio-economic and cultural conditions.

**NEED FOR THE STUDY**

The incidence rate of accidents in the children was found to be 3.13 per 100 child months or 0.35 per child per year. The sum total of injuries recorded was 135. The greatest number of accidents, 51 (38.93%) occurred in the age group of 49-60 months, followed by 28 (21.37%) of episodes in the age group of 37-48 months ( $P < 0.001$ ). The incidence rate in the age group of 49-60 months was 5.87 per 100 child months. A majority (70.3%) of the accident episodes occurred among the males ( $P < 0.001$ ). Overall, abrasions accounted for the majority (72.6%) of the injury types, followed by cuts and lacerated wounds at 11.8%, avulsion (6.6%), contusions 4.4%, burns (3.8%), and bite wounds at (0.8%). In some episodes of accidents, more than one type of the injury was observed in the injured child. In the state of Uttar Pradesh, some 2610 children died in 2015 due to road accidents. Of these, 1102 children were between the ages of 0 to 14 years, amounting to over 1/5th of the total number of children killed in road accidents.

**STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

A comparative study to assess the knowledge and attitude regarding prevention of common childhood accidents among mothers of under-five children in selected rural and urban areas of Khammam in Telangana

**OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

- To assess the levels of knowledge and attitude scores on prevention of common childhood accidents.
- To compare the levels of knowledge and attitude scores on prevention of common childhood accidents between urban and rural mothers of under-five children.
- To find out the association between the levels of knowledge and attitude scores and their selected socio-demographic variables.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

**Research Approach:** A survey approach

**Research Design:** A comparative descriptive design

**Setting of the Study:-**The study was conducted in urban area of Srinivas Nagar and rural area of Raghunadha Palem of Khammam district of Telangana.

**Sample:** Mothers of under-five children who are in the age group between 21-40 years and those who fulfilled the inclusive criteria at the selected urban and rural areas in Khammam, Telangana.

**Sampling Technique:** Non-probability convenience sampling technique

**Sample Size:** The sample size of the study is 80. (40 mothers of under-five children from urban area and 40 mothers of under-five children from rural area)

**Method of Data Collection:** Interview technique.

**Tools used for Data Collection:** Structured interview schedule.

**Criteria for Sample Selection:**

**Inclusive criteria** - The study includes the mothers of under-five children, those —

- who are in the age group between 21-40 years.
- who can speak and understand Telugu and English language.
- who are residing in selected rural and urban areas of Khammam.

**Exclusive criteria** - The study excludes the mothers —

- who are residing other than in selected urban and rural areas.

**Development and description of the Tool:** The research tool was developed after doing extensive literature reviews, and incorporating suggestions from experts. The research tool was organised into three sections —

**SECTION A:** Deals with socio-demographic data.

**SECTION B:** Deals with knowledge questions regarding prevention of common childhood accidents.

**SECTION C:** Deals with attitude rating scale regarding prevention of common childhood accidents.

**Score interpretation for knowledge and attitude:**

$$\text{Formula used for score Interpretation} = \frac{\text{Obtained Score}}{\text{Total Score}} \times 100$$

**Scoring Key:**

**Score interpretation for knowledge:** For each correct answer 1 mark will be assigned and for wrong answer 0 will be given —

Inadequate knowledge	: 0 — 33.3%
Moderately adequate knowledge	: 33.4% — 66.6%
Adequate knowledge	: 66.7% — 100%

**Score interpretation for attitude:**

Unfavourable attitude	: 0 — 33.3%
Moderately favourable attitude	: 33.4% — 66.6%
Favourable attitude	: 66.7% — 100%

**Content Validity:**

The content validity of the tool was established on the basis of opinions of experts from nursing departments. Suggestions from experts were incorporated in the tool and the approved tool was used for data collection.

**Data Collection Procedure:**

The formal written permission was obtained from the Corporator of urban and rural areas of Khammam, Telangana. Written consent was obtained from mothers of under-five children and confidentiality of the response was assured. The investigator had given a brief introduction about self and study was explained. Data was collected using the structured interview schedule by employing non-probability convenience sampling technique. The mothers of under-five children answered the questions which were provided in the structured interview schedule. After collecting data the investigator had given information booklet regarding prevention of common childhood accidents to urban and rural mothers of under-five children.

## DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

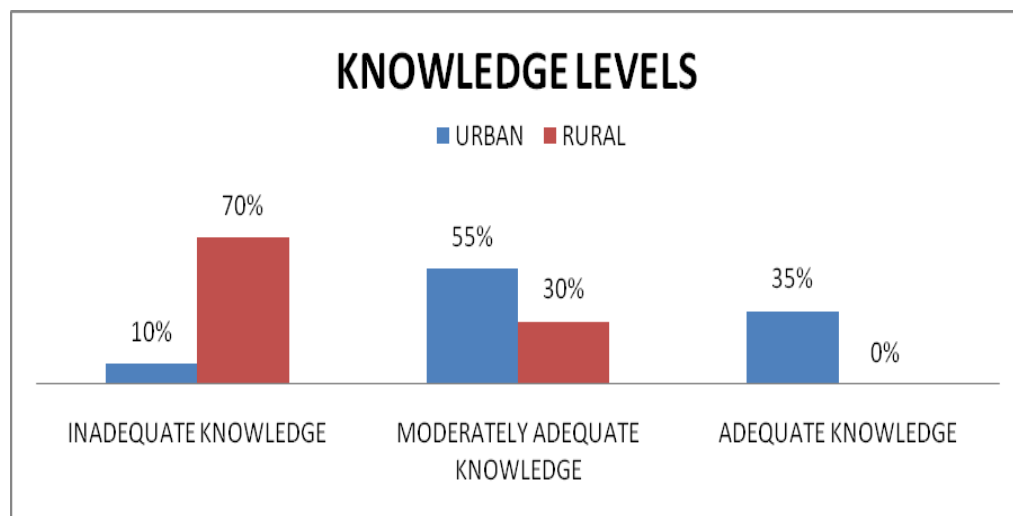
Frequency and Percentage distribution of Urban and Rural Mothers of Under-Five Children according to Levels of Knowledge regarding Prevention of Common Childhood Accidents

(n=80)

Sl. No.	Levels of knowledge	Urban mothers of Under-five children (n=40)		Rural mothers of under-five children (n=40)	
		Frequency	Percentage (%)	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1.	Inadequate knowledge	04	10	28	70
2.	Moderately adequate knowledge	22	55	12	30
3.	Adequate knowledge	14	35	00	00
	<b>Total</b>	40	100	40	100

The above table shows that in urban mothers of under-five children, majority mothers 22 (52%) had moderately adequate knowledge, 14 (35%) of mothers had adequate knowledge and 4 (10%) mothers had inadequate knowledge.

Among rural mothers of under-five children 28 (70%) had inadequate knowledge, 12 (30%) had moderately adequate knowledge and none, 0 (0%) of the mothers had adequate knowledge.



Distribution of Urban and Rural Mothers of Under-Five Children according to Levels of Knowledge regarding Prevention of Childhood Accidents

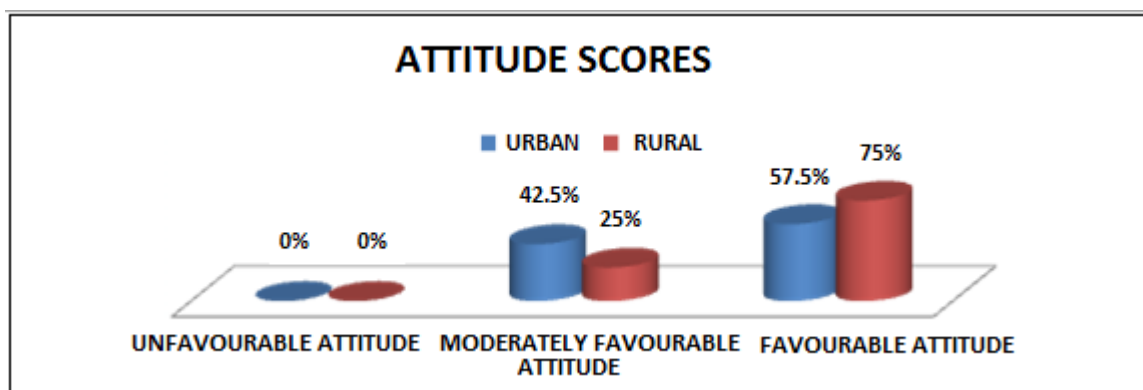
### Frequency and Percentage Distribution of Urban and Rural Mothers of Under-five Children in accordance with Attitude Scores regarding Prevention of Common Childhood Accidents

(n=80)

Sl. No.	Levels of knowledge	Urban mothers of Under-five children (n=40)		Rural mothers of under-five children (n=40)	
		Frequency	Percentage (%)	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1.	Unfavourable attitude	00	00	00	00
2.	Moderately favourable attitude	17	42.5	10	25
3.	Favourable attitude	23	57.5	30	75
	<b>Total</b>	40	100	40	100

The above table shows the situation in urban and rural areas. Majority 23 (57.5%) of urban mothers had favourable attitude, 17 (42.5%) had moderately favourable attitude and none of them had unfavourable attitude.

In the rural area majority 30 (75%) of mothers of under-five children had favourable attitude, 10 (25%) had moderately favourable attitude and none of them had unfavourable attitude.



### Distribution of Urban and Rural Mothers of Under-five Children in accordance with Attitude Scores regarding Prevention of Childhood Accidents

#### Comparison of Knowledge Levels regarding Prevention of Common Childhood Accidents between Urban and Rural Mothers of Under-five Children

(n=80)

Levels of Knowledge	Number of samples	Mean	Standard deviation	Calculated unpaired "t" value	Table "t" value	Level of Significance
Urban	40	14.10	0.440	0.02	1.98	N S
Rural	40	22.05	1.250			

Df = 78

N S = Non significant

The table shows the comparison of knowledge levels between urban and rural mothers of under-five children. It shows that there was no significant difference between knowledge levels between urban and rural mothers of under-five children.

### Comparison of Attitude Scores regarding Prevention of Common Childhood Accidents between Urban and Rural Mothers of Under-five Children

(n=80)

Levels of Attitude	Number of samples	Mean	Standard deviation	Calculated unpaired "t" value	Table "t" value	Level of Significance
Urban	40	19.27	1.12	19.08	1.98	S*
Rural	40	89.50	1.22			

Df = 78

S\* = Significant

Significant p&lt;0.01 level

The table shows that in comparison of attitude scores, the mean value of urban is 19.27 and in rural area it is 89.5. It shows that there was significant difference between urban and rural mothers' association of knowledge levels and attitude scores with their socio-demographic variables regarding prevention of common childhood accidents among urban mothers of under-five children.

It was not possible to compute chi square test to find out the association between knowledge and attitude scores of mothers of under-five children regarding prevention of common childhood accidents and their socio-demographic variables, as the expected values are less than 5.

#### MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

##### Urban Mothers of Under-five Children

- The majority (55%) of urban mothers of under-five children had moderately adequate knowledge about prevention of childhood accidents.
- The majority 57.5% of the sample of urban mothers of under-five children had favourable attitude about prevention of childhood accidents

##### Rural Mothers of Under-five Children

- The majority 70% of rural mothers of under-five children had inadequate knowledge about prevention of childhood accidents.
- The majority 75% of the sample of rural mothers of under-five children had favourable attitude.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

On the basis of the study findings, it is recommended that —

1. A descriptive study to assess the knowledge and attitude regarding prevention of common childhood accidents is undertaken.
2. A similar study can be conducted in different community areas.
3. A similar study can be conducted on a large sample to generalise the findings at urban and rural levels.
4. A similar comparative study can be conducted to find out the prevalence of common childhood accidents in rural and urban mothers of under-five children.

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