



THE LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE ON INFANT FEEDING PRACTICE AND PARENTING SKILLS AMONG WORKING AND NON WORKING MOTHERS AT SELECTED RURAL COMMUNITY, NAMAKKAL

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ABSTRACT: The aim of study to assess the level of knowledge on infant feeding practice and parenting skills among working and non working mothers. A purposive sampling technique was used to select 60 sample. The demographic data and level of knowledge of infant feeding practice and parenting skills were collected by semistructured questionnaire to assess the level of knowledge .

Key words: level of knowledge, infant feeding practice, parenting skills.

INTRODUCTION:

Children are our future and most precious resources. After birth the health of the baby depends on the nurturing practices adopted by the families. Children always need special care to survive and thrive. Good health of these precious members of the society should be ensured as prime importance in all countries. Today's children are tomorrow citizens. Health children make a healthy nation hence the importance of feeding them right from the birth especially first year of life. Breast milk is uncontaminated food that protects infants from infection and has an effect on the long term consequences, especially during adulthood, to prevent obesity and cardiovascular diseases. Practice of giving pre-lacteal feeds was found also a key determinant of early cessation of full breastfeeding. It is also associated with infant illness.

World Health Organization (WHO) recommends exclusive breastfeeding for the first 6 months of life. UNICEF & WHO launched Baby Friendly

Hospital Initiative in 1992 as a part of global effort to protect, promote and support Breast feeding. Appropriate feeding is crucial for the healthy growth and development of an infant. Children are the wealth of tomorrow. Children always need special care to survive and thrive. Good health of these precious members of the society should be ensured as prime importance in all countries. The department of health and child welfare has recommended exclusive breast feeding for the first 6 months of life with the gradual introduction of solid foods with breastfeeding until 2 years of age and beyond. Solids should be introduced for the babies at around 6 months after birth.

Statement of the problem:

“A comparative study to assess the level of knowledge on infant feeding practice and parenting skills among working and non working mothers at selected rural community, namakkal (Dt).

Objectives of the study:

- (i) To assess the level of knowledge on infant feeding practice and parenting skills among working Mothers of infants.
- (ii) To assess the level of knowledge on infant feeding practice and parenting skills among non-working Mothers of infants.
- (iii) To compare the level of knowledge on infant feeding practice and parenting skills among working and non-working women of infants.
- (iv) To find out the correlation between the mean knowledge score of working mothers and non-working mothers of infants on infant feeding and parenting skills.
- (v) To find out the association between the level of knowledge on infant feeding practice and parenting skills with the selected demographic variables.

Hypothesis

H₀ : There is no significant difference between the mean knowledge score of working mothers and nonworking mothers of infants on infant feeding practice and parenting skills. **H₁** : There is significant correlation between the mean knowledge score of working mothers and non-working mothers of infants on infant feeding practice and parenting skills. **Research Methodology**

Quantitative descriptive approach, and Non experimental descriptive design, the sample for the study consists of 60 mothers of infants, 30 in working mothers and 30 in non-working mothers selected by nonprobability convenient sampling technique was used for this study.

Ethical Consideration

Formal permission was obtained from concerned authority, Panchayat president of the community areas. The nature, purpose of study was explained and obtained the verbal consent from the samples. Privacy and comfort of the samples was maintained throughout the study. The mothers were given their own preference in choosing the time, without forcing or compelling them and without interfering with their regular activities. Adequate explanation was given whenever they asked questions. Records were made for each sample.

Procedure of data collectio:The main study was conducted by non probability – convenient sampling method. in Pillanallur and Goundampalayam selected rural Investigator explain the nature of the study, community areas at namakkal Region. Prior permission was establish rapport, obtain willingness and time availability. The data was collected with the Structured questionnaire .Using the same approach the investigator interview all the working and non-working mothers. 60 samples was taken for the main data collection, 30 for working and 30 for non-working mothers (regarding Knowledge on infant feeding Practice and parenting skills) from Pillanallur and Koundampalayam on infant feeding Practice.

RESULTS

Assessment of level of knowledge on infant feeding practice among the working mothers

non working mothers of infant

S.No	Level of knowledge	Working mothers		Non-working mothers	
		F	%	F	%
1	Inadequate	8	27	13	43
2	Moderate	16	53	15	50
3	Adequate	6	20	2	7

Assessment of level of knowledge on parenting skills among the working mothers non working mothers of infant

S. No	Level of knowledge	Working mothers		Non-working mothers	
		F	%	F	%
1	Inadequate	6	20	11	37
2	Moderate	17	57	15	50
3	Adequate	7	23	4	13

Comparison of level of knowledge on infant feeding practice & parenting skills among the working mothers non working mothers of infant

S.No	Category	Working mothers		Non working mothers		t value
		Mean	SD	Mean	SD	
1	Infant feeding practice	14.56	2.81	10.46	3.79	6.56**
2	Parenting skills	15.2	2.23	10.96	2.97	8.42**

* Not significant , ** Significant at 0.05 level of significance

The correlation between the knowledge score of working mothers and non-working mothers of infants, infant feeding and parenting skills

S. No	Category	Infant feeding practice & Parenting skills (r value)
1	Working mothers	0.689**
2	Non working mothers	0.483**

Discussion

feeding practice & parenting skills among The purpose of the study was to working and non working mothers of infant. assess the knowledge regarding infant The data was collected with help semi

structured questionnaire. Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics like frequency, percentage, Mean, standard deviation were calculated to describe the data and inferential statistics to calculate and infer the data to describe a difference in the level of knowledge among working and non working mothers of infant.

It shows that association between level of knowledge with selected demographic variables, for considering the variables age, education status, income, occupation of mother, occupation husband, parity of mothers had association between level of knowledge religion, type of family had association with level of knowledge.

It shows that association between level of knowledge with selected demographic variables, for considering the variables age, education status, income, occupation of mother, occupation of husband, Location of home, parity of mothers had no association between level of knowledge & religion, type of family had association with level of knowledge.

Conclusion:

There was a significant between level of knowledge in working and non working mothers of infant regarding infant feeding practice and parenting skills

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