



A descriptive study to assess the knowledge on impact of cell phone hazards among school going children in selected school of selected city

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Abstract

Statement: A Descriptive study to assess the knowledge on impact of cell phone hazards among school going children in selected school of selected city.

Objectives: To assess the knowledge on impact of cell phone hazards among hazards school going children and to find out the association between knowledge score with their selected demographic variables.

Methodology: descriptive approach was used with survey design Population was 100 school going children, purposive sampling technique was used for data collection.

Result: in the present study 4% people had average knowledge and 96% had good knowledge about impact of cell phone hazards.

Keywords: descriptive study, knowledge, impact of cell phone hazards, school going children

Introduction

"Technology offers us a unique opportunity; though rarely welcome, to practice patience."^[1]

Mobile phones have become a widespread phenomenon in the present time. These pocket-sized tools are no less than a mini computer. They can do anything from a standard phone call to surf the internet^[2]. Not just the adults, this technology is affecting the kids as well. Today's children are growing up in a radio-frequency environment that never existed in human history before. The radiation emitted by mobile phones and mobile phone masts can have adverse effects on children^[3]. The WHO has classified cell phone radiation as 'possibly carcinogenic to humans'. Children absorb more than 60 percent of the radiation into the brain than adults. Their brain's thinner skin, tissues, and bones allow them to absorb the radiation twice than the grown-ups. Their developing nervous system makes them more vulnerable to this 'carcinogen'. Scientists have discovered that just 2 minutes of the phone call can alter the electrical activity of the kid's brain for up to an hour. The radio waves from the mobile penetrate deep into the brain, not just around the ear^[4]. The disturbed brain activity could impair children's learning ability and other behavioral problems. It could even affect their mood and ability to learn in the classroom if they have used the phone during the break time^[5].

Children, just like the teens, are addicted to mobile phones. They play games, chat and talk to their friends on their mobile phone all the time. Along with the school supplies, many students make their daily trips to their school with their mobile phones. They talk on the phone during the free time and send messages during the classes. Thus, they miss the lesson taught and fall behind the other students. Use of cell phones can lead children to engage in inappropriate behaviors. Texting and sending inappropriate pictures is a growing problem with children. The images go in the wrong hands, giving others access to the private photos. Children can also access pornographic sites from their multimedia

devices. Most of the students indulge in exam malpractices and cheating during the internal and external examinations. Some make use of calculator while other store information in it. Some also use it to send objective answers to those in the examination hall. It can end the student's career if caught. The negative effects of mobile phones on family life can be quite severe. The worst case is that children stop communicating with the family all together. Children can feel the need to constantly check for messages and can become irritable when away from their smart phone for any period of time. In South Korea there have been extreme cases where kids threatened their parents with self-harm or violence when their smart phones were taken away.

Problem Statement

A Descriptive study to assess the knowledge on impact of cell phone hazards among school going children in selected school of selected city

Objectives

1. To assess the knowledge on impact of cell phone hazards among hazards school going children.
2. To find out the association between knowledge score with their selected demographic variables.

Inclusion criteria

- School going children from 5 to 8 standards
- Who all are willing to participate
- Who all are will be present during data collection

Exclusion criteria

School going children who has received previous training regarding cell phone impact.

Description of the Tool

Tool was divided into two parts, parts A and parts B

Parts A: demographic data of school going children which consisted of 12 questions.

Parts B: semi-structured questionnaire consists of 30 questions related to knowledge regarding impact of cell phone hazards among school going children.

Results

Part A: demographic data of school going children

Section 1: Frequency and Percentages of Socio- Demographic Variables of School going children

Table 1

Characteristics	Frequency	Percentage	
Age	11-12 years	86	86%
	13-14 years	14	14%
	15-16 years	0	0%
	Above 16 years	0	0%
Gender	Male	62	62%
	Female	38	38%
Religion	Hindu	79	79%
	Christian	0	0%
	Islam	2	2%
	Others	19	19%
Father education	Illiterate	3	3%
	Primary and secondary	29	29%
	Secondary and above	40	40%
	Graduation above	28	28%
Mother education	Illiterate	8	8%
	Primary and secondary	35	35%
	Secondary and above	35	35%
	Graduation above	22	22%
Father occupation	Business	61	61%
	Farmer	16	16%
	Govt. Service	23	23%
	Coli	0	0%
Mother occupation	Home maker	81	81%
	Service	14	14%
	Govt. job	5	5%
	Labor	0	0%
Use mobile	Yes	100	100%
	No	0	0%
Years	1-2 years	64	64%
	3-4 years	28	28%
	5-6 years	7	7%
	Above 6	1	1%
Own study room	Yes	72	72%
	No	28	28%
Parents supervision	Yes	84	84%
	No	16	16%

Section II: Frequency & Percentage Distribution of Knowledge on Impact of Cell Phone Hazards among School Going Children

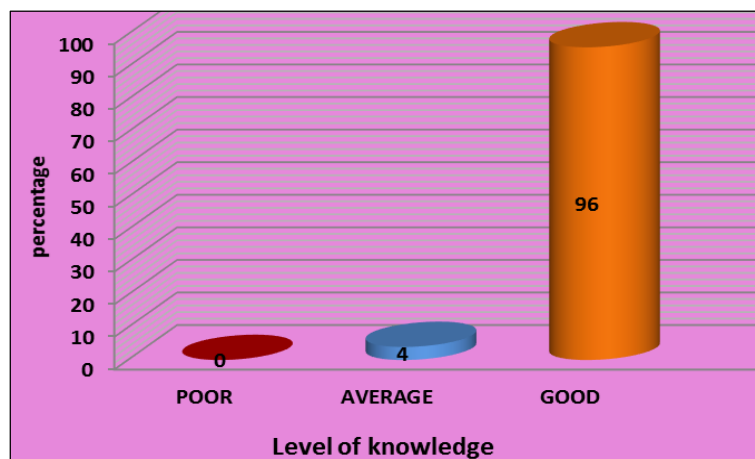


Fig 1

Above mentioned 4% people had average knowledge and 96% had good knowledge about impact of cell phone hazards.

Section III: Mean and Standards Deviation of Knowledge Level for Cell Phone Hazards among school going children

Table 2

Sr. No	Level	Maximum statement	Maximum score	Mean	S.D
1	knowledge	28	30	24.21	2.1

Section IV: Association between knowledge on impact of cell phone hazards among school going children with their selected demographic variables

Table 2: Association between knowledge on impact of cell phone hazards among school going children with their selected demographic variable

Demographic Data		Poor (0-10)		Average (11-20)		Good(21-30)		Chi-square
		F	%	F	%	F	%	
Age	11-12	00	00%	04	04%	82	82%	11939.69
	13-14	00	00%	00	00%	14	14%	
	15-16	00	00%	00	00%	00	00%	
	Above 16	00	00%	00	00%	00	00%	
Gender	Male	00	00%	04	04%	58	58%	2159.18
	Female	00	00%	00	00%	38	38%	
Religion	Hindu	00	00%	03	03%	76	76%	80.74
	Christian	00	00%	00	00%	00	00%	
	Islam	00	00%	00	00%	06	06%	
	Others	00	00%	01	01%	14	14%	
Types of family	Nuclear	00	00%	02	02%	57	57%	2476.27
	Joint	00	00%	02	02%	30	30%	
	Extended	00	00%	00	00%	09	09%	
Father education	Illiterate	00	00%	00	00%	01	01%	834.458
	Primary & secondary	00	00%	00	00%	31	31%	
	Secondary & above	00	00%	01	01%	39	39%	
	Graduation above	00	00%	03	03%	25	25%	
Mother education	Illiterate	00	00%	00	00%	08	08%	1313.6737
	Primary & secondary	00	00%	01	01%	34	34%	
	Secondary & above	00	00%	01	01%	34	34%	
	Graduation above	00	00%	02	02%	20	20%	
Father Occupation	Business	00	00%	04	04%	57	57%	5049.53
	Farmer	00	00%	00	00%	16	16%	
	Govt. Servant	00	00%	00	00%	23	23%	
	Coli	00	00%	00	00%	00	00%	
Mother occupation	Home maker	00	00%	04	04%	77	77%	10522.29
	Service	00	00%	00	00%	14	14%	
	Govt. Job	00	00%	00	00%	05	05%	
	labor	00	00%	00	00%	00	00%	
Use mobile	Yes	00	00%	04	04%	96	96%	96
	No	00	00%	00	00%	00	00%	
Duration of years.	1-2 years	00	00%	01	01%	63	63%	5754.101
	3-4 years	00	00%	03	03%	25	25%	
	5-6 years	00	00%	00	00%	07	07%	
	Above 6 years	00	00%	00	00%	01	01%	
own study Room	Yes	00	00%	04	04%	68	68%	4063.286
	No	00	00%	00	00%	28	28%	
parents supervise	Yes	00	00%	02	02%	82	82%	10420.24
	No	00	00%	02	02%	14	14%	

Above mentioned table revealed that all the demographic variables are found significant with level of knowledge of school going children.

Implications

The finding of the study has implication not only related to the field of nursing but also other allied areas. In pediatric team nurse plays a vital role in the knowledge of cell phone hazards. The researcher knows the knowledge about impact of cell phone hazards.

Therefore this study has an important implication in:

1. Nursing education
2. Nursing administration
3. Nursing research

1. Nursing education

Nursing education is developing rapidly in India and the researcher is providing information through base of scientific nursing education. The finding of the study can be used to bring about awareness among the school going children regarding need for impact of cell phone hazards. cell phone hazards information can be impaired through various methods like lecture cum demonstration, mass media, pamphlets, PTP and displays etc., Hence, the researcher should take keep interest in preparing different teaching

strategies suitable for the school. School teacher should organize school based awareness program regarding prevention of cell phone hazards. This research study, methodology, analysis will be a guideline for school going children in their future.

2. Nursing administration

Nurse administration and school teacher can develop their school for school children. Nurse administrator can guide the school children about impact of cell phone hazards and how to prevent the hazards. Nurse administrator would help the school teacher to update their knowledge about cell phone hazards among school going children. Can arrange in-service education, conference, workshop and seminar on cell phone hazards.

3. Nursing Practice

The finding of the study will help investigator to know the level of knowledge related to impact of cell phone hazards. The school going children will apply this knowledge during impact of cell phone hazards. This study hopes to assess the knowledge of school going children regarding impact of cell phone hazards.

4. Nursing research

This research study as covered knowledge aspect on impact of cell phone hazards. This study finding can be used as reviews of literature for future research study and also used as sources of information of nursing research. The same study can be performed on a large number of samples. To assess the knowledge regarding impact of cell phone hazards among school going children would be done.

Recommendations

1. Replication of the study could be done with a larger sample to validate and generalize the findings.
2. The study can be conducted to determine the effectiveness of structured teaching programme on impact of cell phone hazards.
3. The study can be carried out in a different setting with a different school.

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