RESEARCH ARTICLE

“Assess the Knowledge and Attitude of Parents on needs of Play for Children with a View to Develop an Information Booklet.”

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Manuscript Info

Abstract

Play is a voluntary, intrinsically motivated activity normally associated with recreational pleasure and enjoyment. It is a serious business to children and a vehicle for development. Through the universal medium of play, children learn what no one can teach them. They learn about their world and how to deal with this environment of objects, time, space, structure, and people. As children grow and mature, play changes in form of type, to fit into the complex needs of the growing child. The purpose of the study was to develop an Information Booklet based on parental knowledge and attitude on needs of play for children thereby improving parental knowledge and attitude and to provide a favorable environment for their normal growth and development. The study was conducted to assess the knowledge and attitude of parents on needs of play for children in a selected hospital of Kolkata, West Bengal with a view to develop an Information Booklet. A non-experimental survey approach with descriptive research design was adopted for the study. The data were collected using convenience sampling technique among 80 parents whose children were admitted in the hospital for treatment. The collected data were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. Findings revealed that out of 80 parents more than half (58%) had good knowledge level on needs of play for children. Most of them (91%) had positive attitude where score range was from 41-60. There was no significant association of knowledge with selected variables. And also there was no significant association of attitude with selected variables and the computed ‘r’ value was -0.183 which revealed that there was a weak negative relationship between knowledge and attitude on needs of play for children.

Background Of The Study:

Play is a serious business to children as stated by Hockenberry JM¹ and Wilson D. It is a vehicle for development. It serves several specific functions. Play is social behavior which differs in various age groups and depends upon the

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level of development. Play, playtime and playmates decrease as the age increases. It allows children to explore new things at their own pace, master physical ability, learn new skills and figure things out in their own way.

Need Of The Study:-

“Children need the freedom and time to play. Play is not a luxury. Play is a necessity”-
Kay Redfield Jamison, (Contemporary American Professor of Psychiatry)

According to Centre for Health Education, Training and Nutrition Awareness, play has different connotation for children and adults. Adults are busy working all the time and they play for recreation to break the monotony of work. Children play all the time except when they are sleeping. Hence it can be said, “Play is to a child what work is to an adult”. In other words, “Play is child’s work.”

Beryl JS conducted a case study to assess the knowledge attitude and practice of the nursing personnel regarding importance of play needs in hospitalized children. He assessed that 86.11% of nursing personnel had adequate knowledge, 13.89% had moderate knowledge. But 94.44% of them shows favourable attitude towards the importance of play during hospitalization. This study showed that play for children during hospitalization is important for their development in all aspects as well as some benefits in meeting the health needs of children.

Objectives of the study:-

1. To assess the existing knowledge of parents on needs of play for children as measured by structured knowledge questionnaire.
2. To assess the attitude of parents on needs of play for children as measured by structured attitudes scales.
3. To find the association of the knowledge level with selected variables: age, gender, standard of educational, occupation, family income and exposure to health related information.
4. To find the association of attitude with selected variables: age, gender, marital status, type of family, occupation, number of children, education and family income.
5. To identify the relationship between knowledge and attitude of parents on needs of play for children.
6. To develop and validate an Information Booklet on Needs of Play for children.

Variables of the study:-

Research variables: □ Knowledge of parents on needs of play. □ Attitude of parents on needs of play.
Selected variables: age, gender, educational status, occupation of parents their family type and income, number of children and exposure to health related information.

Conceptual framework:-

Conceptual framework based on modified J.W. Kenny’s open system model [source J.W. Kenny system model, WHO SEAROS technical publication (1985)]

Methods and material:-

Research Approach: In this study, the researcher intends to assess the knowledge and attitude of parents on needs of play with a view to develop information booklet, therefore a survey approach was adopted for the study.

Research design: A descriptive design was found to be the most appropriate design for this study.

Research setting: The study was conducted in Dr. B.C. Roy Post-graduate Institute of Paediatric Science at Kolkata, West Bengal.

Population:-

Target population: The target population consists of parents whose children are admitted in the selected hospital of Kolkata, West Bengal and who can understand and speak Bengali.
Sample: The sample consists of parents whose children are admitted in the selected hospital of Kolkata, West Bengal.
Sample size: A sample size of 80 parents whose children are admitted in selected hospital and fulfil the inclusion and exclusion criteria were selected for the study.
**Sampling technique:** The sampling technique adopted for the study was non-probability convenient sampling technique.

**Inclusion criteria:** Parents whose children were hospitalized; Parents who could speak understand Bengali language; Parents who were available during data collection period.

**Method of data collection:**

**Data collection tools and technique**

| Sl No. | Variables To Be Measured | Tools | Techniques |
|--------|--------------------------|-------|------------|
| 1.     | Background information of parents -  
• age,  
• parents,  
• occupation,  
• educational status,  
• number of children,  
• type of family,  
• family income,  
• exposure to health related information. | Demographic proforma | Interview technique |
| 2.     | Knowledge on needs of play | Structured interview schedule on needs of play | Interview technique |
| 3.     | Attitude on needs of play | Attitude scale on needs of play | Interview technique |

**Development of the tool:** The tools were developed following the steps:
- extensive review of research and non research literature
- consultation with experts in the field and related fields
- establishing content validity by formally seeking the suggestions and recommendations of five experts in the field of child health nursing
- establishing reliability of the tool by applying suitable statistical procedure
- administering the tool for a try-out
- pilot study
- main study

**Reliability:** Reliability of structured knowledge questionnaire was calculated using Split Half technique followed by Spearman Brown prophecy formula and the reliability coefficient was found \( r = 0.86 \); so it can be interpreted that structured knowledge questionnaire was reliable and had internal consistency. To test the reliability for attitude scale; Cronbach’s alfa formula was used to check the internal consistency. The reliability was found to be \( r = 0.80 \), so attitude scale was also considered reliable.

**Data collection procedure:**

Data collection involved 80 parents using non-probability convenient sampling technique. Formal administrative permission was taken from the Principal and Ethics committee of B.M. Birla College of Nursing, Kolkata, DDHS, Kolkata, Dr. B.C. Roy Post-graduate Institute of Paediatric Science at Kolkata, West Bengal. An informed consent was obtained from each participant. Research was conducted for 5 days and each day interview was conducted for 16 participants. Data were collected in a separate room, interviewing the participants one after another. The researcher took help from a person who knows Bengali after giving orientation about the tool and data collection technique.

**Study findings:**

The data were presented under the following section:

**Section I:** Description of sample characteristics.

**Section II:** Knowledge score of parents on needs of play.
Section III: Attitude of parents on needs of play.
Section IV: Association of knowledge with selected demographic variables.
Section V: Association of attitude with selected demographic variables.
Section VI: Relationship between knowledge and attitude.

Section I: Description of sample characteristics: Data shows that out of 80 parents 53(66.25%) were within the age group of 21-30 years, whereas only 13(16%) were below 20 years. The data also showed that most of the parents 77 (96.25%) were mothers and only 3(13.75%) were fathers. The tabulated data indicated that out of 80 parents 37(46.25%) had one child, 41.25% had two children and 12.5% had more than two children. Data revealed that half of the parents 40(50%) educational standard was secondary and higher secondary, whereas only 8.75% were illiterate. Data also revealed that more than half of the parents 53(66.25%) were unemployed, few parents 18(22.5%) were self-employed and very few 9(11.25%) were employed in private sector. Majority of the parents 56(70%) had nuclear family, few of them 22(27.5%) had joint family and very few 2(2.5%) had extended family. Data also revealed that most parents 68(85%) had family income less than Rs 10,000 per month. Most of the parents 71(88.75%) had no exposure to health related information and only few parents 9(11.25%) had exposure to health related information.

Section II: Knowledge score of parents on needs of play:
Data presented in Figure represents knowledge level of parents on needs of play. Out of 80 parents more than half of them (58%) had good knowledge level and 36% of them had satisfactory knowledge level and very few of them (6%) had very good knowledge level.

Area of knowledge:
Knowledge on needs of play for children was organized under five sub headings and area that include: Meaning of Play, Types of Play, Selection of play and toy safety, Benefits of play, and Needs of play.

Above Figure represents: area wise mean percentage distribution of knowledge score of 80 parents. The figure indicated that mean percentage of knowledge score was more than 50% in the first three areas, area 1, area 2 and area 3 respectively. Data also revealed that mean percentage of knowledge score was less than 50% in area 4 and area 5 respectively.

SECTION–III Sample distribution based on attitude on needs of play
Data presented in the table- 5 showed the distribution of attitude score of 80 parents on needs of play for children. In the attitude score minimum possible score was 20 and maximum possible score was 80. The tabulated data indicated that parents attitude score was distributed from 39 - 65. It was also observed that out of 80 parents 12.5%, 20% and 30% of scored in the range 48-50, 51-53 and 54-56.
Further results in this section shows that parents had knowledge score range, mean, median and standard deviation was 64 - 41, 53.2, 54.06 and 5.3 respectively. Data indicated that mean and median was very close and attitude score was highly dispersed.
Results shows that out of 80 parents, most of them (91%) had positive attitude, very few (9%) had strong positive attitude and no one had negative or strong negative attitude.

SECTION-IV Association of knowledge level with selected demographic variables
Data showed the result of Chi square on the association of knowledge level with selected demographic variables- age, gender, educational status, occupation, family income and health related information. The obtained Chi value (0.93), (0.007), (1.47), (0.36), (0.379) and (0.076) is lesser than the table value for the variable- age, gender, educational status, occupation and health related information and are not significant at 0.05 level of significance.

The result shows that parents’ knowledge is independent of selected variables age, gender, educational status, occupation, family income and health related information.

SECTION-V Association of attitude with selected demographic variables
Data presented in table-8 showed the result of Chi square to find the association of attitude with selected demographic variables- age, gender, number of children, educational status, occupation, family income and type of family. The obtained chi value (1.27), (0.04), (3.10), (1.47), (2.08), (0.021) and (0.89) is lesser than the table value for the variable- age, gender, number of children, educational status, occupation, family income and type of family and are not significant at 0.05 level of significance.

The result shows that parents attitude on needs of play is independent of selected variables age, gender, number of children, educational status, occupation, family income and type of family.

SECTION-VI :-Relationship between knowledge and attitude of parents on needs of play
Data shows that the obtained ‘r’ value (-0.183) was significantly lower than the table value (t79=0.217 at 0.05 level of significance). Therefore, researcher fail to reject the null hypothesis and infer that there was a weak negative relationship between knowledge and attitude of parents on needs of play.

Limitations:-
- No attempt was made to do follow up to measure the retention of knowledge of parents on needs of play for children.
- Sample size was small which limits generalization to larger population with samples with similar characteristics.
- Extraneous variables were beyond the investigators control.
Recommendations:-
On the basis of findings, the following recommendations are offered for future research:
- A similar study can be done in community settings.
- A similar study can be repeated by using a larger sample to avoid type II error and for generalisation.
- A comparative study can be done in private and Govt. hospital settings.
- Experimental study can be done to find the effectiveness of Planned Teaching Programme on needs of play for children.
- An exploratory study can be done to identify parental perception on needs of play for children.

Conclusion:-
The following conclusion can be drawn based on the study that- Parents had more than 50% of knowledge level on needs of play of children. Most of them had positive attitude. There was no significant association of knowledge with selected variables. And also there was no significant association of attitude with selected variables and there was a weak negative relationship between knowledge and attitude on needs of play for children.

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