

ASSESSMENT OF KNOWLEDGE OF MOTHERS REGARDING HAND HYGIENE OF THEIR CHILDREN IN URBAN AND RURAL AREA

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ABSTRACT

Background: Knowledge, attitude and practice of mothers regarding the basic health care needs of their child is inevitable for maintaining good health to create a better future. The Knowledge regarding hand hygiene was found to be satisfactory in both urban mothers and rural mothers such as; importance of keeping proper hand hygiene, unwashed hands can spread Microbes and cause diarrhoea. But rural mothers were not very much familiar about the seven Steps of hand washing. Most of the urban mothers used soaps with germicidal activity to clean Their children's hands. This study aimed to determine the knowledge of mothers regarding hand hygiene and its various aspects in both urban and rural areas and to determine the impact of counselling.

Methodology: Our study was an observational cross-sectional study with 300 participants of which 150 were from rural and 150 from urban locations and the study was carried out in Eraviperoor Gramapanchayath and Thiruvalla Municipality from Pathanamthitta district.

Result: Compared to rural mother's urban mothers had satisfactory knowledge on various aspects of hand hygiene such as; communicable diseases, 7 steps of hand washing etc.

Conclusion: Mothers in urban areas have better knowledge regarding healthcare in terms of hand hygiene. But it was found with the selected group of respondents for the study that the intervention given in the form of counselling resulted in increasing the knowledge regarding the same among both groups. So proper counselling and a holistic level of support and guidance should be given to mothers, who is possible by strengthening and streamlining the existing programs designed for the same.

KEYWORDS: Children in Urban and Rural Area