



Research Article

ISSN 2320-4818

JSIR 2016; 5(4): 122-124

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Received: 13-07-2016

Accepted: 25-08-2016

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A study on knowledge regarding sibling rivalry in children among mothers in selected hospital at Mangaluru

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Abstract

Introduction: Sibling rivalry is a common problem faced by the parents in rearing their children. It usually starts after the birth of a second child. Sibling rivalry affects both children and parents. Parents play an important role in managing sibling rivalry in children. Therefore it is essential for the parents to have knowledge regarding sibling rivalry. **Objectives:** A study was carried out to determine the knowledge regarding sibling rivalry in children among mothers and to find the association between the knowledge scores with the selected demographic variables of mothers. **Materials and method:** A descriptive survey approach was used to assess the knowledge of mothers regarding sibling rivalry in a selected hospital of Mangaluru. Non probability purposive sampling technique was used to select 100 mothers. Data was gathered using the structured knowledge questionnaire on sibling rivalry. Data was analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. **Results:** The study result showed that 50% of mothers had inadequate knowledge and remaining 50% had moderately adequate knowledge regarding sibling rivalry. There was no significant association found between the knowledge scores and the selected demographic variables of the mothers. **Conclusion:** The study concluded that half of the study sample had inadequate knowledge and the other half had moderately adequate knowledge on sibling rivalry.

Keywords: Knowledge, Sibling rivalry in children, Mothers.

INTRODUCTION

A child is the most precious gift to mankind who is most loved and perfect in its innocence. Parents and children are affected by many problems and sibling rivalry is one among them. Sibling rivalry is defined as the competition between siblings for the love, approval and attention from one or both parents, which is usually present among siblings to some extent. According to a survey conducted in India, as long as there is more than one child in the house, sibling rivalry is unavoidable. Sibling rivalry has seen to be affecting about 30-60 % of children worldwide [1]. It is estimated 4 million children aged between 0-5 years suffer from competition from the siblings, neglect rivalry and sibling abuse [2]. The behaviours such as jealousy, fighting, teasing, kicking, hitting, biting, meanness and competitiveness is seen among brothers and sisters [3]. Children compete with each other for their parent's attention and affection. The symptoms and signs typically start early in the life and 20-30% of these children may continue to have such symptoms into adulthood [4]. Sibling rivalry is particularly heightened when children are very close in age and of the same gender or where one child is intellectually possessed [5].

The risk factors for development of sibling rivalry in children are – competition between children to show off their talent, when they try to prove themselves as unique individuals in their activities and interest, when they feel that they are separate from their siblings, when they feel that are getting unequal amount of parent's attention, discipline and responsiveness, when they feel that their relationship with their parents are threatened by the arrival of a new baby, which results in jealousy, when the amount of time and attention that the parents can give the child becomes less [6]. Parents can reduce the opportunity for rivalry by refusing to compare, teaching the children positive ways to get attention from each other and from the parent. Planning fun and family activities together and making sure each child has enough time and space of their own, encouraging team works, avoiding favouritism and comparisons, giving freedom to handle problem and taking away the child out of the situation which literally helps the child to calm down and sets off his thinking process [7].

It is essential to help children to overcome sibling rivalry. The parents, especially the mother plays a key role in bringing up the child. If they have the adequate knowledge, they will be able to manage the sibling rivalry in children effectively, thereby bring their children up with a healthy sibling relationship. Thus the investigators conducted a study to assess the knowledge regarding sibling rivalry in children among mothers.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Descriptive survey design was used for this study. The sample consisted of 100 mothers who were visiting a selected hospital of Mangaluru along with their child. Ethical clearance was obtained from the institutional ethics committee. Formal permission was taken from the authorities. Sample was selected by non probability purposive techniques. The variables under study were knowledge on sibling rivalry among mothers. The demographic variables were Age, type of family, religion, number of children, education qualification, occupation, family income, area of resident, received information regarding sibling rivalry and source of information. With the informed consent to participate in the study the data was collected using structured knowledge questionnaire on sibling rivalry. Then the data was analyzed by using descriptive and inferential statistics.

RESULT

The study revealed that majority (40%) of mothers were in the age group of 32-40 years, majority (43%) were Muslim, majority (43%) belonged to nuclear family, majority (51%) of mothers had two children, majority (79%) were home maker, majority (56%) had income less than Rs.10, 000/ per month, majority (50%) had primary education, majority (58%) were residing in urban area, majority (64%) of mothers have received some information regarding sibling rivalry and it was from family and friends.

It was seen that 50% of the study sample had inadequate knowledge and other 50% had moderately adequate knowledge on sibling rivalry. The mean knowledge score of mothers was 10.74 ± 3.034 . The area wise mean% for the knowledge score regarding general question about sibling rivalry was 21%, meaning of sibling rivalry was 48%, identification of sibling rivalry was 37.5%, signs and symptoms of sibling rivalry was 30.8%, management of sibling rivalry was 32.6% and prevention of sibling rivalry and role of parents was 40% respectively.

In the study there was no significant association between knowledge scores and the selected demographic variables ($p > 0.05$).

Table 1: Overall mean, median, standard deviation, mean percentage of knowledge score

Max. Possible Score	Range	Mean	Median	S.D.	Mean %
30	14	10.74	10.56	3.034	35.8

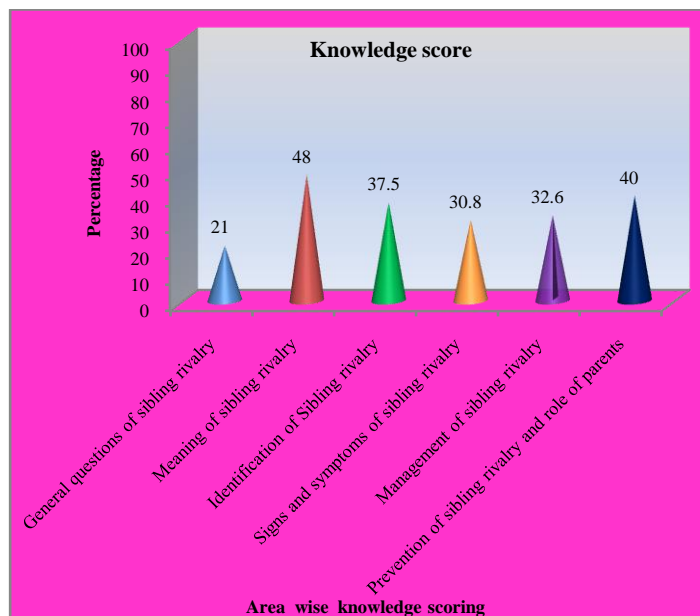


Figure 1: Cone diagram showing area-wise mean% of knowledge score of mothers

DISCUSSION

The current study findings are supported by a study^[8] conducted to assess the effectiveness of structured teaching programme on management of sibling rivalry among mothers of under-five children in a selected area where among the study sample majority had two children, majority belonged to nuclear family and majority had primary education. The study also showed the mean knowledge score of mother was 11.5 ± 1.7 . The current study findings are also consistent with another study^[9] conducted to assess the knowledge and attitude of mothers regarding sibling rivalry in a selected hospital and primary health center¹⁷ which showed that majority (87%) were home makers; majority (58%) belongs to nuclear family. The study also showed that majority (90.30%) of mothers had average knowledge regarding sibling rivalry.

CONCLUSION

The knowledge of mothers regarding sibling rivalry is very important to bring the positive changes in the parent-child relationship. Parents can reduce the opportunity for rivalry by refusing to compare, teaching the child positive ways to get attention from each other and from the parent. Educational programs can be given to the mothers by the health care professional so that they will be able to manage sibling rivalry in their children.

Acknowledgement

The authors wish to thank the authorities for permitting to conduct the study and the study participants for their whole hearted support.

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