

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

A Study to Assess the Effectiveness of Planned Teaching Programme Regarding Nail Clipping and Hand Washing for Prevention of Intestinal Parasites among School Children (6-12yrs) in Selected Schools of Kota Village, Udupi District

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Abstract

Parasitic infections especially intestinal parasites are considered as a common disease in developing countries and in resource limited regions of the world. Globally about 3.5 billion people are affected and 450 million complain as a result of those infects. Most commonly pre-schoolers, school aged children are affected with these infections. So it is extremely important to make aware about the nail clipping and hand washing for the prevention of intestinal parasites among school going children aged 6-12 years. The study aimed to assess the knowledge and provide planned teaching programme regarding hand washing and nail clipping for prevention of intestinal parasites among school going children. Evaluative approach, pre-experimental one group-pre-test and post-test design was used. Data was collected from 40 school going children selected by using non-probability purposive convenient sampling technique. During pre-test, self-administered knowledge questionnaire was given to children and knowledge was assessed. A planned teaching programme was then carried out by the researcher and a self-administered knowledge questionnaire again was administered to assess the post-test knowledge. The present study results showed that an overall increase in the knowledge score was observed after planned teaching programme, with mean knowledge score of 17.6. The Paired 't' test showed that there was a significant overall increase in knowledge scores which was tested at 5% level ($p < 0.05$). Chi Square analysis showed that there was a statistically significant association between knowledge scores and socio-demographic variables such as gender ($\chi^2=10.03$, $p > 0.05$), education ($\chi^2=13.35$, $p > 0.05$).

Keywords: Knowledge, Prevention of intestinal parasite, Planned teaching programme, Effectiveness, School going children (6-12 years)

Introduction

Intestinal parasitic infections are highly prevalent in the resource limited regions of the world. School aged children are particularly susceptible to parasitic infections. Both protozoan and helminthic infections correlate with unrecognized morbidities including

growth deficits, malnutrition and poor performance.^[10] Furthermore, intestinal parasitic infections are reported to be substantially linked with anaemia in children. Intestinal parasitic infections can decrease the food and nutrient intake due to intestinal blood losses and induce RBC destruction by the spleen.^[10] The current

strategy to control intestinal worm infections is periodic treatment of people who are at risk. However, providing anti-helminthic drugs systematically is difficult because which may increase potential drug resistance. Considering that, re-infection occurs frequently in areas where intestinal parasitic infections are highly endemic.^[9]

Objectives

- To assess pre-test knowledge scores regarding hand washing and nail clipping for prevention of intestinal parasites among school going children.
- To evaluate the effectiveness of planned teaching programme regarding hand washing and nail clipping for prevention of intestinal parasites among school going children.
- To find out the association between knowledge scores and socio demographic variables.

Hypothesis (Tested at 005 Level of Significance)

H_0 - There is no significant difference between pre-test scores on nail clipping and hand washing for prevention of intestinal parasites and socio-demographic variables.

H_1 : There will be significant difference between pre-test and post-test knowledge scores on nail clipping and hand washing for prevention of intestinal parasites.

H_2 : The post-test knowledge scores will be significantly higher than pre-test knowledge scores.

Material and Methods

Evaluative approach, pre-experimental one group-pre-test and post-test design was used. The main study was conducted in school of Kota village, Udupi District. Non-Probability purposive convenient sampling technique was used. Data was collected among 40 school going children. Researcher developed socio-demographic data and self-administered knowledge questionnaire and those tools were given to six valuator belonging to different departments. Ethical permission was taken from ethical committee of college and different schools. The reliability was estimated by using test-retest method; it was 0.70 which meant tool was reliable. Pre-test was carried out using self-administered knowledge questionnaire and knowledge was assessed. Planned teaching programme was conducted by the researcher and then after seven days, post- test was conducted using pre-test self-administered knowledge questionnaire. Data was analysed using descriptive and inferential statistics.

Results

The present study results show that majority of the participants 39 (97.5%) belonged to age group of 10-12 years, 26 (65%) were males, 40 (100%) were Kannada speaking, 70% belonged to 6th standard, 40 (100%) were Hindus and 26 (65%) belonged to nuclear families.

Table 1: Frequency and percentage distribution of subjects according to level of knowledge regarding nail clipping and hand washing for prevention of intestinal parasites

Knowledge Level	Pre-test		Post-Test	
Poor (0-6)	1	2.5%	0	0%
Average (7-13)	27	67.5%	0	0%
Good (14-19)	12	30%	40	100%

The data presented in table 1 indicates that in pre-test, most of the participants 1 (2.5%) had poor knowledge level and 27 (67.5%) had average level of knowledge and 12 (30%) had good level of knowledge. However in post-test, 40 (100%) demonstrated good knowledge.

Table 2: Mean, mean difference, standard deviation, SD difference and 't' value of pre and post-test knowledge levels

Knowledge Level	Mean	Mean Difference	SD	SD Diff.	Calculated 't' value	Table value
Pre-test	11.87	5.73	2.39	5.73	2.101	3.18
Post-Test	17.6			8.12		

Table 2 demonstrates that the mean percentage of post-test knowledge score (17.6) was higher than the mean pre-test knowledge score (11.87). The 't' value computed between pre-test and post-test knowledge scores was $t=2.101$, table value was 2.78. $p < 0.05$ was statistically significant. Hence hypothesis (H_1) was accepted. It indicates the effectiveness of planned teaching programme on knowledge regarding nail clipping and hand washing for prevention of intestinal parasites. The Chi square analysis showed that there was statistically significant association between knowledge scores and socio-demographic variables such as gender ($\chi^2=10.03$, $p>0.05$), education ($\chi^2=13.35$, $p>0.05$) and rest of the variables were not significant. Hence the stated Hypothesis (H_2) was accepted.

Discussion

The present study revealed that 97.3% of participants belonged to age group of 10-12 years, 100% were Kannada speaking, 67% of school children had average knowledge regarding nail clipping and hand hygiene.

After the planned teaching programme, 100% of school children demonstrated good knowledge regarding nail clipping and hand hygiene. During post-test, the mean knowledge had increased and t value was 2.101.

Conclusion

Parasitic intestinal infections are particularly more prevalent in the school aged children of resource limited regions of the world. Most of students in the present study showed average knowledge regarding nail clipping and hand washing. So it is better to educate the students and bring awareness regarding nail clipping and handwashing which could lead to better practices and reduce incidence of parasitic infections.

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Conflict of Interest

None.

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