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KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDE ON ELDER MALTREATMENT DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC AMONG ELDERS AT SELECTED SETTING, CHENNAI.

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ABSTRACT

The aim of the study was to assess the knowledge and attitude on elder maltreatment during Covid-19 pandemic. A quantitative approach with descriptive research design was used and non-probability purposive sampling technique was adopted to collect 30 samples. Structured questionnaire was used to collect the data from 30 elders in the age group of above 60years. The study findings revealed that majority (53.3%) of the samples have moderate level of knowledge on elder maltreatment. (46.6%) of the samples have inadequate knowledge and none of the samples were having adequate knowledge and regarding the attitude majority 8(26.66%) of the samples had favorable attitude and 12(40%) of the samples had moderate attitude whereas 10(33%) of the samples had unfavorable attitude towards elder maltreatment among elders and there was a statistically significant association between level of knowledge with demographic variables such us Age ,Gender, Education and Occupation at $p<0.05$ level of significance.

KEYSWORDS: Elder maltreatment, Covid-19, Pandemic etc.

INTRODUCTION

Elder mistreatment is a recognized social problem of uncertain, though probably increasing magnitude. Based on the best available estimates, between 1 and 2 million Americans 65 or older have been injured, exploited, or otherwise mistreated by someone on whom they depended for care or protection (Pillemer and Finkel or, 1988; Pavlik et al., 2001). The number of cases of elder mistreatment will undoubtedly increase over the next several decades, as the population ages. Yet little is known about its characteristics, causes, or consequences or about effective means of prevention or management. This report is meant to point the way toward better understanding of the nature and scope of the problem, a necessary condition for the development of informed policies and programs. After summarizing the social context within which the field has developed, this chapter assesses the present state of knowledge, identifies some of the problems that must be addressed if the field is to move forward, and locates the problem of elder mistreatment in a larger set of challenges confronting an aging society.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

A study to assess the Knowledge and attitude on Elder maltreatment during COVID 19 Pandemic among elders at selected setting, Chennai.

OBJECTIVES

* To assess the knowledge on Elder maltreatment during COVID 19 Pandemic among elders.
* To assess the attitude on Elder maltreatment during COVID 19 Pandemic among elders.
* To compare the knowledge and attitude on Elder maltreatment during COVID 19 Pandemic among elders.
* To associate the knowledge on Elder maltreatment during COVID 19 Pandemic among elders with demographic variable.

HYPOTHESIS

There will be significant association between knowledge with selected demographic variables on Elder maltreatment among elders.

METHODOLOGY

The Study was quantitative approach in nature. Thirty samples in the age group of above 60 years residing at Kottivakkam Urban community area were selected as samples using non-probability purposive sampling technique. A self report was obtained and a structured questionnaire was used to collect data.

Tools of the study

Part -I Deals with socio demographic data. It includes age, Gender, Religion, Education, Occupation, Marital

status, Type of family, No of family members and Source of Health Information.

Part – II Consists of structured questionnaire to assess the knowledge on elder maltreatment during covid-19 pandemic among elders. This questionnaire consists of 25 questions. The collected data was transferred to a coding sheet. The correct answer carry 1 mark and 0 for wrong answer.

Part – III Consists of structured questionnaire to assess the attitude on elder maltreatment during covid-19 pandemic among elders. This questionnaire consists of 15 questions. 7 positive statement and 8 negative statement. The collected data was transferred to a coding sheet and the scoring was graded as Agree (3),Uncertain(2) and Disagree(1).

Part -IV Association between level of knowledge with selected demographic variables was done.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION
Figure 1: Data Pertaining to Frequency and Percentage Distribution of Level of Overall Level Of Knowledge on Elder Maltreatment During Covid-19 Pandemic Among Elders.

LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Inadequate	14	46.6%
Moderate	16	53.3%
Adequate	0	0

Figure 1 Shows that out of 30 samples, majority (53.3%) of the samples have moderate level of knowledge on elder maltreatment. (46.6%) of the samples have inadequate knowledge and none of the samples were having adequate knowledge.

The result was supported by ZAHRA E ALMAKKI et al.,(2020) conducted a study on Knowledge and attitude elder abuse among elders and the result shows that The results showed that most participants (90.5%) considered manhandling of older parents/in-laws to be violence/abuse, and (87.7%) considered touching intimate body areas of the older people without their consent to be sexual abuse.
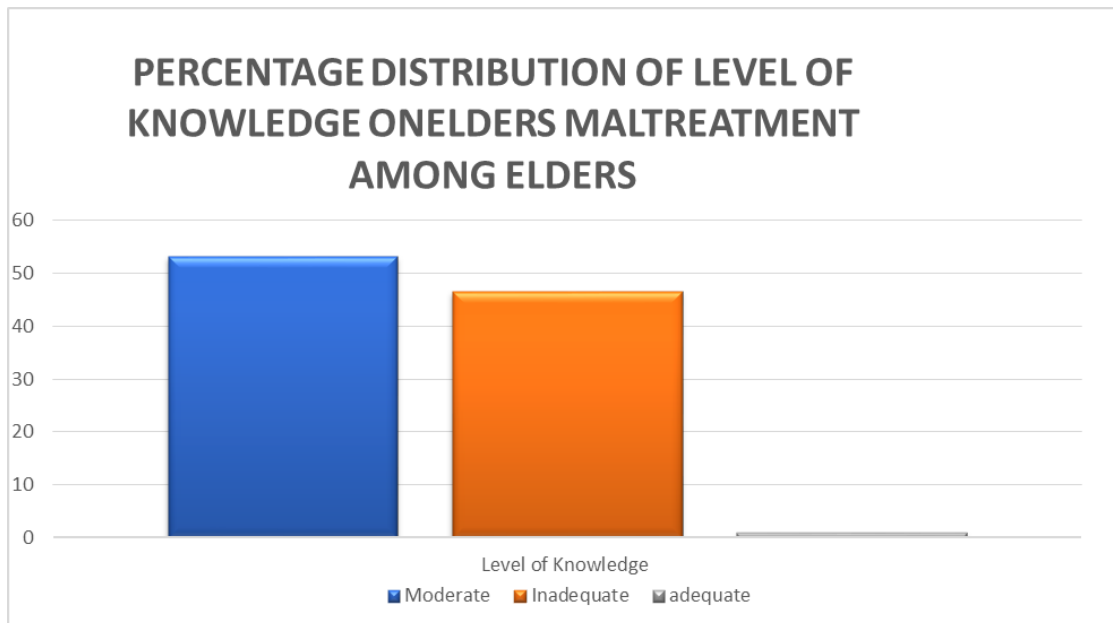

Figure 2: Data Pertaining To Frequency And Percentage Distribution Of Level Of Attitude On Elder Maltreatment During Covid-19 Pandemic Among Elders.
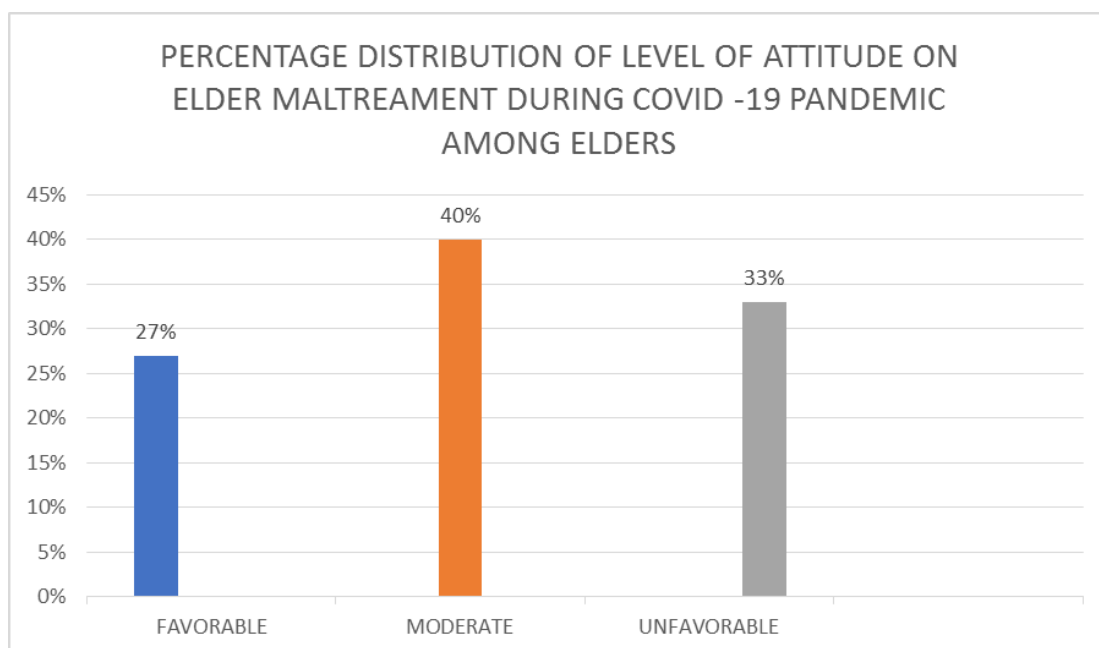
LEVEL OF ATTITUDE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Favorable (31-45)	8	26.66%
Moderate (16-30)	12	40%
Unfavorable (0-15)	10	33.33%

Figure 2: Shows that out of 30 samples ,majority 8(26.66%) of the samples had favorable attitude and 12(40%) of the samples had moderate attitude whereas 10(33.35) of the samples had unfavorable attitude towards elder maltreatment among elders.

The result was supported by ZAHRA E ALMAKKI et al.,(2020) conducted a study on Knowledge and attitude elder abuse among elders and the result shows that There was nearly unanimous (99%) agreement that violence such as beating, slapping, kicking, biting or throwing objects is abuse. This agrees with the American Psychological Association consideration of physical abuse as one of the types of elder abuse.

Level of attitude

Figure 3: Comparison of Knowledge And Attitude On Elder Maltreatment During Covid-19 Pandemic Among Elders.

Variables	Elders		T value
	Mean	**S. D**	
Knowledge	**8.49**	**60.1**	**0.001**
Attitude	**1.2**	**38.1**	**3.182**

*p<0.05,S- Significant, N.S- Significant

Figure 3: shows that, out of 30 samples, the mean score of Knowledge of elders was 8.49 with standard deviation of 60.1.The calculated t test value was 0.001 which is found to be statistically non significant at p<0.05 level .Regarding attitude the mean score of elders was 1.2 with a standard deviation of 38.1.The calculated t test value was 3.182which is found to be statistically significant at p<0.05 level.

The above findings indicated that there was no significant difference in the level of knowledge and there was a significant difference in level of attitude on elder maltreatment among elders.

Figure 4: Association Between Level Of Knowledge Onelder Maltreatment Among Elders With Selected Demographic Variables. N=30.

S.NO	DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES	LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE		CHI-SQUARE VALUE	P-VALUE
		INADEQUATE	**MODERATE**		
1	**AGE IN YEARS**				
	A. Above 60	7	9		
	B. 70-80	5	5	0.09	0.755
	C. 85-100	0	1		(S)
2	**GENDER**				
	A. MALE	5	3		
	B. FEMALE	10	12	0.08	0.40
3	**EDUCATION**				
	A. No formal	7	6		
	education	7	6		
	B. Primary	1	2	0.45	

4	education	0	0		(S)
	C. Secondary education	0	0		
	D. Graduate	6	4		
	E. Postgraduate	3	3		
	OCCUPATION	1	3		
	A. Daily wages	4	1		
	B. Government				
	C. Private				
	D. Coolio				(S)

*p<0.05,S=Significant , N.S= Non-Significant

Figure 4 shows that there was a statistically significant association between level of knowledge and the demographic variables such as Age ,Gender, Education and Occupation at p<0.05 level.

The result was supported **by NIRMAL KUMAR MOSES, (2016)** conducted a study to assess the knowledge and attitude on psychosocial problem among elderly people and the result findings shows that there is association between level of education and psycho social problem. There was no association between the psycho social problem with selected demographical variables such as Age ($x2$ =2.34), Sex ($x2$ =1.907), religion($x2$ =5.21), marital status ($x2$ =0.546), Previous occupation($x2$ =0.524), Family type ($x2$ =0.024), Living with ($x2$ =1.33), the source of income($x2$ =3.39), type of income ($x2$ =0.55), adequacy of money($x2$ =0.108), years since stopped working($x2$ =3.03), engaged in any 72 activities at present($x2$ =3.55), role in the family at present($x2$ =0.412), participation in house hold activities($x2$ =0.071) and religious activities($x2$ =0.16), number of friends($x2$ =2.31), visit of friends and relatives($x2$ =2.26), participation in social activities($x2$ =2.63), physical problem($x2$ =6.11), the person who takes care during illness($x2$ =5.17)

CONCLUSION
any health and social service staff who work with older people need greater skills and knowledge on managing abuse of vulnerable adults. Suitably targeted educational seminars can improve knowledge and management in this field. Printed educational material is ineffective. The content of courses needs to be tailored according to the participants pre-existing knowledge. We are undertaking a qualitative analysis of the answers in this study with a view to designing an educational intervention in which the content is specifically targeted at gaps in knowledge.

Elders are vulnerable to elder maltreatment as most are dependent on others for their care. As this current study on "Knowledge and Attitude on elder maltreatment during covid -19 pandemic among elders, the findings implied that knowledge and attitude towards elder maltreatment contributes to the abusive behavior among the respondents. Almost more than two third of the caregivers had lower positive attitude against elder maltreatment. Unfortunately ,The most common abusive acts committed were physical maltreatment followed by psychological maltreatment. The research result findings would facilitate in planning strategies and measures to identify and prevent elder maltreatment To ensure that the incidences of abuse in the aged care centers is minimized, all those working with the elderly should have positive attitude towards the older persons, and this can be achieved through the use of education program training (in house and core training) for the caregivers. This indirectly will make them aware on the issues of elder abuse and at the same time can create interest in the care of older people. Similarly, training about elderly abuse also will increase the workers (care givers) knowledge and level of confident in handling abuse cases when it happens.

RECOMMENDATIONS
1. The study can be replicated on larger samples thereby findings can be generalized for a larger population.
2. A comparative study can be conducted to find the impact of elder maltreatment among rural and urban elder population.
3. Focused group discussion with elders in relation to difficulties in adhering to elder maltreatment practice can be conducted.

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