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Mothers' knowledge about child development

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Statement of the Problem: Mothers' knowledge about child development is assumed to play a key role in motivating how mothers behave with respect to their children. Mother child interactions involve several domains of development. Awareness of mothers, support a broad scope of positive developmental effects. Still a very little is realized about Pakistani Mothers' knowledge of child development and key matters of parenting and their state of mind about being a mother.

Aim: The first objective of this study was to assess mother's knowledge about child development and the second objective was to identify their sources of knowledge.

Methodology: This study was based on cross sectional research design. The study was conducted among the urban community of Faisalabad and Jaranwala during the month of January 2016. A sample of 392 mothers was taken by convenient sampling technique among the urban community of Faisalabad and Jaranwala. The Caregiver Knowledge of Child Development Inventory with the addition of five questions taken from Developmental Milestones; Pediatric Orthopedic Society of North America about child development was used to assess the mothers' knowledge about child cognitive, sensory, motor and language developmental milestones.

Findings: It was observed that mothers have inadequate knowledge about child development. It was observed that knowledge of majority of the mothers is based on informal experiences only. Only 3.57% mothers claimed that their source of knowledge about child development was formal education/experiences and 9.44% mothers told that their source of knowledge about child development was television, radio, magazines and discussing with a pediatrician.

Conclusion & Significance: It was concluded that mothers' knowledge about sensory and motor development was better than language and cognitive development. Knowledge of majority of the mothers is only based on informal experiences. Mothers' proper knowledge of a child's development, may be helpful for early screening of developmental delays of their children.

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