

ABSTRACT

A descriptive study of scabies was carried out in the M.O.H. area Katana, during the period June to August 1992.

The Objectives were:

- a) To find out the prevalance of scabies among primary school children.
- b) To determine the knowledge, attitudes, beliefs and practices among mothers regarding scabies.

The study comprised of:

- a) An examination of all primary school children, attending schools within the area.
- b) Assesment of the knowledge, attitudes, beliefs and practices of the mothers of those children who were found to be suffering from scabies.

The prevalance of scabies was 2.52% among primary school children.

It was found that there was widespread awareness of the disease among mothers in this area. The educational level of the mothers was found to be significantly associated with their level of knowledge and attitudes.

But their beliefs and practices during episodes of illness was found to have no association with level of education.

This study highlights the need for school medical inspections, proper guidance, advice, direction and education regarding treatment and prevention of the disease by the field staff, which would contribute to alteration of beliefs and adoption of desirable practices.