

Abstract

Introduction

Emergence of Child Sexual Abuse of adolescents is one of the major issues encountered globally. Lack of knowledge of mothers and inadequacy of preventive and rehabilitative measures undertaken by them paves the way for the grave problem of sexual abuse. Therefore study of knowledge and practices of mothers of adolescents regarding sexual abuse is a timely initiative.

Objective

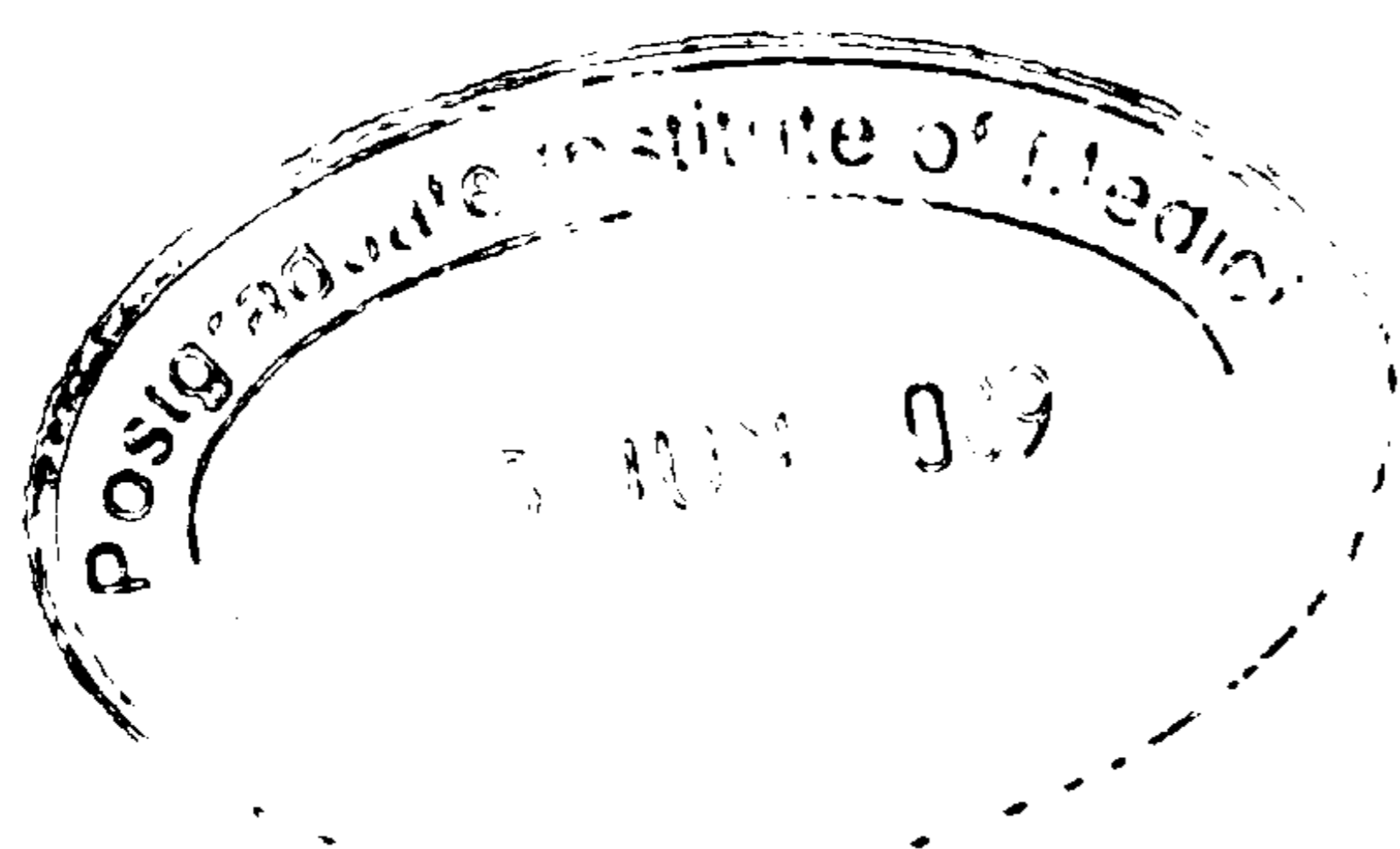
To determine the knowledge and practices of mothers of adolescent children regarding selected aspects of sexual abuse of adolescents in the MOH area, Udubaddawa.

Methods

A descriptive cross sectional study was conducted in all 13 PHM areas in the MOH area Udubaddawa. Seven hundred and fifteen mothers, 55 from each PHM area, having an adolescent child/children were subjected to a self administered questionnaire.

Result

It shows an overall knowledge and practices of 52.3% (n=374) and 39.2% (n=280) respectively of mothers at a satisfactory level of 50%. When comparing the overall knowledge with educational level, there was a significantly (p=0.00007) higher proportion (60.2%; n=206) of mothers who had an educational level of O/L and above. When comparing the overall knowledge with family income, there was a significantly (p=0.03) higher proportion (62.7%; n=64) of mothers who had a monthly income of Rs.15000 and above. When comparing the overall practice with educational level, there was a significantly (p=0.0003) higher proportion (46.2%; n=158) of mothers who had an educational level of O/L and above.



Conclusion

Overall knowledge of mothers regarding sexual abuse of adolescents was satisfactory (good) whereas the practices of mothers regarding preventive and rehabilitative measures of sexual abuse was unsatisfactory (poor). Availability of literature on mothers knowledge and practices of adolescent sexual abuse was limited. Further extensive studies should be carried out to assess knowledge and practices of mothers and also of adolescents. Awareness campaigns should be carried out to educate mothers as the response level of mothers on practices and on some key questions in assessing knowledge and practices had been poor.