



## Childhood Mishaps and Its Cognizance among Nepalese Mothers of Parsa District for Its Prevention, Small Cross-sectional Study

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### ABSTRACT

**Introduction:** Several studies have shown that there several unintentional causes for the unwanted childhood accidents. In addition, Nepal demographic health survey via West University of England revealed at 2006 A.D, 11% death casualties of under- five aged children are due to unintentional injuries<sup>1</sup>. This particular study is extremely useful to health care planner, provider and researcher to have grand design to be produced by government of Nepal, such that; there shall be minimal rate of casualties of deceased children due to accidents.

**Methods:** This study is descriptive cross sectional study carried out in Parsa district of Nepal where the respondents were mother to assess their awareness of cause of childhood accidents and its prevention. Computer software SPSS is use to scrupulous analysis of study where the chi-square test is used with 95% level of confidence ( $p=0.05$ ).

**Results:** Poisoning 96% cases is the cause of childhood accident unintentionally, followed by 94% foreign body aspiration, 85% flame burn. Unsupervised children are more prone to injury than supervised children. Finally and foremost the crucial correlation of parents level of awareness with childhood are as follows; inadequate level of knowledge have higher percentage of accident (58%), followed by moderately adequate (32%) and adequate (10%).

**Conclusion:** This study though done on small scale on small part of Parsa district can play key role to the policy to have vigilante and supervision power to see the loopholes that need to be detected and dealing in curative manner.

**Keywords:** *accident ; childhood ; injuries ;Nepal.*

### INTRODUCTION

Mishaps during childhood are sometimes the causes of death. Scrupulous alertness, awareness is extremely important toward child as they become very curious of everything on their surrounding and scientifically there is increment of locomotor and manipulative skills<sup>1</sup> on their part. An accident always does not occur intentionally, though if seen casually, majority of times it occur due to unintentional act. In addition, it is very difficult to have unnecessary overprotecting and confinement toward child, for their freedom to pursue is their fundamental right. Furthermore, it is the parent duty to understand and act as sentry toward kids as they cannot foresee the danger when they are playing and it the parent who

have to wipe out such situation<sup>2</sup> which is causative factor childhood accident.

According to the study carried out by , WHO 2011, 57% children were affected from unintentional injuries where male (73.7%) are more prone to than female(40%), and the causes of injuries seems to be falls(6%), drowning(6%), poisoning(6%), burn(5%).<sup>3</sup> Several studies add the information that more death and

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disabilities in children are due to childhood accident of which the main causes may be falls, burns, drowning, road side accident, unintentional other injuries, poisoning, etc.<sup>3,4,5</sup> If there is cognizance of the parent regarding prevention of casualties, and understand their duty by acting as kind of sentry toward the kids while playing, happen to be playing crucial role in reduction of unwanted mishaps of the kids. To certify this, several studies revealed that, ignorance and negligence of parents are the fundamental cause, thus, improvement on awareness for prevention of childhood accident have vital role and despite this majority of mother are unsure of the role and inadequately prepare for it and recognizes the constraints on their accident preventing activity.<sup>2,6,7</sup>

The current study is thus fruitful to several government health care planner, provider and researcher to make policy which can enhance the awareness among parent to participate actively in the reduction unwanted childhood mishaps.

**Table 1. Cognizance of mothers regarding different types of childhood accident.(N = 274).**

Types of cause for childhood accident as aware by mothers	No. of observation(f)	Percentage
Unexpected event that lead to childhood accident	222	81
Home accident	53	19
Road side accident	82	30
Sport injury	49	18
Fall injury	186	68
Drowning	49	18
Flame burn	232	85
Ingestion of kerosene, insecticides, excessive medicines(Poisoning)	263	96
Foreign body aspiration	257	94

## METHODS

This study is descriptive cross sectional study carried out in Pidariguthi V.D.C of Parsa district of Nepal during Baisakh 2072 for one month, where the respondents(N=274) were mother to assess their awareness of cause of childhood accidents and its prevention. Old age mothers were excluded from the study and mother having small kids were considered in the sample. Sampling for this study is via simple random method (lottery method) and data collection procedure is carried with the consent of research department committee of NMC and even the respondents (mothers). In addition, the data were collected by using structured questionnaire with the use of simple Nepali language,

if the language not understood then the local language is even used to make them understand fully. Computer software SPSS is use to scrupulous analysis of study where the chi-square test is used with 95% level of confidence ( $p=0.05$ ).

## RESULTS

Poisoning seems to have 96% case of childhood accident which is done unintentionally by ingestion of kerosene, insecticides, and excessive medicines. In addition, foreign body aspiration by curious nature of kids leads into such mishaps as shown in above table by stating of 257(94%) accidents. Sports injury 18%, home accident 19%, roadside accident 30%, fall injury 68%, flame burn 85%, have shown successive percentage increase to yield into childhood mishaps.

**Table 2. Cognizance of mothers regarding different habits of children prone to accident.(N = 274).**

Types of habits of children prone to accident as aware by mothers	No. of observation(f)	Percentage
Unsupervised children	263	96
Supervised children	11	4

Here it is revealed that the unsupervised children are more(96%) prone to injury than supervised children(4%).

**Table 2. Cognizance of mothers regarding different preventive measures for different types of childhood accident.(N = 274).**

Awareness of mothers on different types of preventive measures in different types of accidents	No. of observation(f)	%
Keeping the burning candle, hot object out of the reach of the child	266	97
Measure to prevent drowning is to closing the unused well or ponds	266	97
Measure to prevent foreign body aspiration is removing all small objects which the child can reach	232	85
After fall applying pressure over the affected side	241	88
To prevent the fall there should be constant supervision of the child	211	77

Supervision, not allowing child to play along roadside and keeping child restrained in the vehicles are preventing method to reduce risk	186	68
After ingestion of poisonous thing prevention via induction of vomiting by putting finger in throat	255	93
Prevention of home accident via supervision, locking windows, closing kitchen doors, removing hazardous things	184	67

If we see the awareness of mothers on prevention of childhood accident then, the prevention of drowning (97%) and burn(97%) seems to have more response as compared to others. Preventive measure for poisoning also comes to high level of 97% awareness by mothers. Furthermore, prevention of fall (88%), foreign body aspiration(85%), roadside accident (68%), home accident(67%), have had successive descending order of awareness in parents as shown in above table.

**Table 3. Cognizance levels of mothers and its relation childhood accident prevention.(N = 274).**

Cognizance levels of mothers	Childhood accident	Chi-square test	P-value
Inadequate	159(58)	12.634	0.013*
Moderately adequate	87(32)		
Adequate	28(10)		

\*significant level at 0.05

Finally and foremost the crucial correlation of parents level of awareness with childhood as shown in table have statistically significant(0.05) by using chi-square test, such that; inadequate level of knowledge have higher percentage of accident(58%), followed by moderately adequate (32%) and adequate (10%). Thus, less knowledge of awareness have direct impact on unwanted mishaps of kids as shown in above table.

## DISCUSSION

Mishaps of children have very less attention 8 and the awareness of parents regarding the childhood accident in the civil society of our country is nonetheless not known. This particular article want to shrine the data on small scale whether the awareness is there or not and does it matter? In this study the inadequate knowledge level of mothers(159 out of 274) have direct correlation with increment of childhood accident(58%) as carried out by unsupervised kids 96%.Most of accident are

preventable via awareness and improvements in home, however the fact, more than one million children in united kingdom are taken into emergency units 3. The study carried out at Taddah also have supported the current research statement that majority of mothers (29%) were uneducated have more child mishaps<sup>8</sup>. The intention of this article is to provide short simple scenario of small community to health policy maker of Nepal that some sort of first aid training program and fundamental awareness are vehemently needed in this country which is supported by the several studies abroad as education <sup>9</sup>, basic knowledge of first aid<sup>10</sup>, prevention and safety<sup>11</sup> are the needful act to be promoted to reduce the accidents. However, our study revealed that the parents are quite aware of some sort of prevention and method to be done to halt some sort of further unwanted condition after several childhood accidents. The parent shows clear higher percentage of awareness on prevention of drowning (97%) and burn (97%) seems to have more response as compared to others. Preventive measure for poisoning also comes to high level of 97% awareness by mothers. Furthermore, prevention of fall (88%), foreign body aspiration (85%), roadside accident (68%), home accident (67%), have had successive descending order of awareness in parents. The studies carried out by several authors have had to some extent same view as ours <sup>11, 12, 13</sup>; but study in New York shows ignorance of mother in keeping the items properly in kitchen have sole role in home-made accident via haphazard placement of sharp kitchen instrument be 74%, as in this article the percentage of accident found to be little though 19% but awareness found to be 67% quite contrast to it. As we read several articles, accident seems to be the major cause of death during infancy. Nepal in one of the under-developing countries with unique set of geography of Himalayan, hill and terai, and terai having eccentric poses of health services challenges. However, the safety is the fundamental rights and it is the moral and ethical responsibility of policy maker to produce the programme that create awareness among parents, thus society to reduce the mortality due to unwanted childhood accident.

## CONCLUSIONS

Prevention is better than cure. This slogan has deep meaning in a sense, that awareness of parents toward childhood accidents and their scrupulous prevention is mandatory on the right of children. This study though done on small scale on small part of Parsa district can play key role to the policy to have vigilative and supervision power to see the loopholes that need to be detected and dealing in curative manner.

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