

# Educational Program for Mothers Regarding Protection of their Children from Sexual Abuse in Early Childhood

Sara Mohamed Mahmoud Ibrahim<sup>1</sup>, Aliaa Mohamed Othman, El Afandy<sup>2</sup>, Aziza Mahmoud abozied<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Bachelor of nursing science, Faculty of Nursing- Ain-shams university

<sup>2</sup>Assist. Professor of community health nursing, Faculty of Nursing – Helwan University

<sup>3</sup>Assist. Professor of community health nursing, Faculty of Nursing – Beni-Suef university

## Abstract

**Background:** child Sexual abuse is a serious problem that can affect any child regardless of gender, race, or age. Young children are ideal victims; who could not protect themselves because of limited mental and physical development. **Aim:** evaluate the effect of educational program for mothers regarding protection of their children from sexual abuse in early childhood. **Design:** A quasi-experimental design was utilized. **Setting:** The study was conducted at (MCH) in 15 may city ,Cairo governorate **Subjects:** a convenient sample to select 235 mothers who attend to the (MCH) **Tools:** Data were collected through: An interviewing questionnaire to assess mothers' and child demographic characteristics, child sexual history, and assessment questionnaire to assess mothers' knowledge, attitude, and reported practice. **Results:** The results of the current study showed that,7.2% of mothers had satisfactory level of knowledge pre-program that improved to 93.2% post program, also 54.5% of mothers had positive attitude pre-program that improved to 94% post program. In addition, 3.8% of mothers had adequate practice pre-program that improved to 86% post program. Also, there was highly statistically significant difference in correlation between total score knowledge, attitude and reported practice, pre and post educational program. **Conclusion:** The educational program was effective in improving the mother's knowledge, attitude and reported practice regarding protection of their children from sexual abuse in early childhood. **Recommendation:** This study recommend the need for continues of educational program for mothers regarding protection of their children from sexual abuse in early childhood.

**Keywords:** Children, Early Childhood, Educational program, Mothers protection, Sexual abuse.

## Introduction:

United Nations mentioned that global population in year 2021 approximately 7.9 billion people, about 2.4 billion children are on earth, more than 600 million children under the age of ten , that is known as early childhood phase which is the biological time of growth. It considered to be most critical phase during child life, the child early years affect the whole future, health and social outcome. Children require opportunities for playing, exploration of the world, and learning how to communicate with others with in caring, receptive, and protective secure environments from any bad or inappropriate experiences (Horen, et al., 2024)

Children in early years are physically and mentally weak, suffering from immaturity, and the incapacity to make judgments or expressing what's happening, which make children largely defenseless and in need of more supervision and protection and particularly vulnerable to injury. For instance, are more vulnerable than adults to many problems like burn, fractures exploitation and many

forms of abuse including maltreatment, physical abuse punishment, neglect and the most horrible one which is sexual abuse (Thurtle 2022).

Child sexual abuse is the engagement of a child in sexual activity that does not fully comprehend, cannot consent to voluntarily, is illegal, or is socially unacceptable. It is violation of child rights with serious ramifications for child development and total health. According to data from UNICEF for year 2020 about 275 million children globally are thought to be victims of domestic violence including sexual abuse as (1 in every 20 children) or about 13 million will have been forced to have sexual abuse at some point in their live. CDC (2024)

WHO mentioned that about 40 million children are victims of child sexual abuse globally, were African nations has increased rates of CSA 56% for boys and 53% for girls, these rates are highly significance if compared with western countries rates which 45% for girls and 19% in boy, taking into account that results may not reflecting the complete truth due to fear of disclosure, which don't negate the existence of CSA in the Arab society. For

example, the number of reports increased in Bahrain from 33 cases to 77 in the period from 2000 to 2009, while 16.1% of the child abuse reports in Lebanon were for child sexual abuse. In Indonesia Child Protection Commission reports about 12,855 cases from year 2015 to 2020 (Ilyasa, 2021)

Educational programs have been launched in many communities over many countries, in the US, and Canada, to prevent child sexual abuse because of its horrible consequences on children's health and well-being. Such programs call for adequate training, especially among mothers who play an important role in child growth and development, mothers' knowledge about child sexual abuse prevention strategies hardly needed and also can directly affect the children's understanding of child sexual abuse prevention. (Elsiddig, S., & Sabir, M. 2022)

Therefore mother play very important role to protect and decrease the prevalence of children sexual abuse, and lowering the risk of exposing the children to emotional and psychiatric issues in the future, Through increasing the mother's awareness about the phenomena of CSA, the preventive strategies and empowering techniques like respecting the child body, and differentiating between accepted and non-accepting touches, sexual predators who frequently are non-strangers and known to the child, whom in turn will pass the information to the child so all that preventative initiatives are proper for every mother in all ages. (Aiffah 2020)

Community health nurse is the link between the knowledge and mothers, through the nurse unique communication skills and creative approaches mothers awareness, knowledge, attitude about sexual abuse could be enhanced, the nurse provide mothers with the protective strategies that help to protect their children from the risk from being sexually abused, nurse and mothers work in collaboration for shielding the child from such danger through the nurse role in changing some common concepts about secrets and the shame of answering all the child questions appropriately which in turn help empower the mothers reported practice in order to secure the child in all daily situation. (McCartan et al., 2021)

### Significance of the study

Sexual abuse always associated with societal shame and delayed disclosure this leads to unreported incidents, so there is no accurate epidemiologic study in Egypt determining the scope of the problem. Egypt has 38.8 million children, or 33.29% of the country's total population who are under the age of fourteen. Studies showed that more than 20% of children experience sexual abuse before the age of eight, with females accounting for 62.6% of cases. The majority of offenders were non-relatives (89.1%), and anal assault with rate (55%) was the most common type of reported child sexual abuse (CSA). (Adel et al., 2022)

Child sexual abuse can have catastrophic effects on the child's physical, social, and psychological health as well as long-term consequences. Short term effect may include Neurological disorders, cognitive, an emotional problems, psychiatric disorders, such as psychosis, aggression, antisocial behaviors, destructive behavioral disorder, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, and post-traumatic stress disorder, Long-term consequences include depression, anxiety, physical complaints, drug and substance abuse, and an increased risk of crime in older children (kandi, et al., 2022).

### Aim of the study:

To evaluate the effect of educational program for mothers regarding protection of their children from sexual abuse in early childhood

### The Aim of this study could be achieved through the following objectives:

1. Assess the mother's knowledge, attitude, and reported practice, regarding protection of their children from child sexual abuse in early childhood.
2. Plan an educational program for mothers regarding protection of their children from sexual abuse in early childhood.
3. Implement an educational program for mothers regarding protection of their children from sexual abuse in early childhood.
4. Evaluate the effect of educational program on mothers regarding protection of their children from sexual abuse in early childhood.

### Research Hypothesis

The educational program will improve the mother's knowledge, attitude and reported practice regarding protection of their children from sexual abuse in early childhood.

### Subjects and Methods:

#### A. Research design:

A quasi-experimental design was used to achieve the aim of this study.

#### Study Setting:

The study was conducted at maternal and child health center located in 15 may city, Cairo governorate, the MCH consists of one floor that is divided into rooms which includes the clinics, it provides services for mothers and children, such as dental care, children's vaccination, and physical therapy, gynecological care, and mothers care from pregnancy to post-natal care, social services department, and laboratory in addition to health education sessions.

**Sample:**

Convenient sample was used to choose 235 mothers who will attend to the selected at (MCH) from 600 mothers that reported as the flow rate of the mothers in the previous setting in year (2022-2023) according to the following equation:

$$N = \frac{N}{1+N(e)^2}$$

Where, N=total population, n =sample size, e=level of precision=0.05

**Tools of data collection:**

The data in this study were collected by structured interview questionnaire that developed by the researcher after reviewing related literature and online searching, the questionnaire divided into 6 parts:

**Part 1: mothers Demographic Characteristics:** contains 7 questions used to assess the mothers' demographic characteristics

**Part 2: child demographic characteristics:** contains 3 questions used to assess the child demographic data

**Part 3: child sexual history:** including questions about if the child has previously exposed to sexual abuse,

**Part 4 : mothers knowledge assessment questionnaire :** it includes 45 closed ended to assess the mother's general knowledge regarding children protection from sexual abuse, mothers knowledge about contributing factors and, complications of child sexual abuse

**Scoring system for knowledge:**

The knowledge question was 45 questions, each knowledge question was scored by zero for a «No» answer and one for a «Yes » answer. The total knowledge scores ranged from 0-45, they were evaluated as follows:

**Total score knowledge**

- Unsatisfactory less than 50% (0 - > 23)
- Satisfactory from 50 %:100% (≥23- 45)

**Part 5: Assessment of the mothers' attitude questionnaire**

It include 20 questions , agree , not sure and disagree such as :(think mother must talk about sexual abuse at early childhood period, etc....)

**Scoring system for attitude Assessment:**

20 items checklist, It was three-point Likert scale; agree (3), Not sure (2) and disagree (1). The total score was calculated by summing up and then converting into a percentage score.

**Total score Attitude**

- Negative (<50%) (0 :< 30)
- Positive (≥50%) (≥30: 60)

**Part 6: reported practice assessment questionnaire**

it consists 32 done, and not done questions to assess the mothers general reported practice and daily protective practice regarding protection of their children from sexual abuse such as : (if the mother taught the child about sexual matters in gentle manner, etc...)

**Scoring system of mothers reported practice:****Total score reported practice**

32 items in the practice questions, classified as the following: Done (1), Not done (0) and they were evaluated as follows:

- Inadequate (<50%) (0 :< 16)
- Adequate (≥50%) (≥16: 32)

**Operational Design:****Preparatory phase:**

It included reviewing the past, current, national, and international related literature and theoretical knowledge of various aspects of the study using books, articles, the internet, periodicals, and magazines to develop tools for data collection.

**Pilot study:**

A pilot study was carried out on 10% equal 24 mother of the study subjects and was included in to the total sample before the actual work began to test the clarity of the tools and to estimate the needed time to fill the questionnaire.

**Fieldwork:**

1-An official letter from the dean of faculty of nursing Helwan university to the director of the maternal and child health centre in 15 may city, Cairo governorate, including the aim of the study to obtain the permission.

2- Data was collected during six months from the beginning of November to the end of April (2023-2024) 2 days / week (Sunday and Wednesday) from 10am-12pm until the required sample was completed.

3-Educational program was developed based on the results of the pre-test questionnaire, the plan of the educational program was prepared, implemented and evaluated the degree of the improvement in studied sample according to program objective.

4- The effect of the educational program was measured after the end of the program by using the same tools one time again. The teaching method during the program was lecture, brain storming, discussion, demonstration and redemonstration.

**An educational program for mothers was conducted through four phases: Preparatory phase, assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation phase.**

- **First preparatory phase:** tools for data collection was developed, after reviewing the previous and current related literature covering various aspect of mother's protection of their children from child sexual abuse in early childhood using available magazine, articles, and books.
- **Second assessment phase:** before start designed educational program, it was applied to assess the mother's knowledge, attitude, and reported practice regarding protection of their children from sexual abuse in early childhood.
- **Third planning and implementation phase:** the educational program implemented in 6 months 2 days / week. the researcher divided the mothers into 10 group approximately each group include 24 mother , two groups for each months, ,each group take two weeks with average ( 4 days) the first day is for pre assessment , second day for the theoretical sessions , third day for practical session , fourth day for reviewing previous sessions and post assessment .the educational program developed to improve the mothers knowledge , attitude and reported practice to protect their children from sexual abuse in early child hood , the program content includes topics like : the meaning of the child sexual abuse , the contributing factors to child sexual abuse , the mothers practices to protect their children from sexual abuse...etc.
- **General objectives:** by the end of the educational program, the mothers were able to determine knowledge about child sexual abuse(CSA) in early childhood, have positive attitude toward protection of the child from sexual abuse in early childhood, every mother have enhanced reported practice to protect their children from sexual abuse in early childhood.the program was done through two theoretic session each session take one hour, and practice session .

**First session:**

**1<sup>st</sup> hour** At the beginning the researcher start to introduce herself to the mothers and made a general orientation about the program and how the program will benefit the mothers , then mothers made the informed consent

**2<sup>nd</sup> hour:** introduction about sexual abuse, concept of sexual abuse and types of sexual abuse.

**Objectives:** by the end of the session 1-Mother will be able to mention the concept of (CSA) .2-Mother will be able to explain the types of (CSA)

**Second session:**

It includes how the preparator of sexual abuse looks like, how the preparator groom the child, and complications of exposing child to sexual abuse. in addition, it includes explaining the contributing factors to (CSA).

**Objectives:** by the end of session, mother will be able to: 1- Mention how the preparator of CSA look like.

2- Explain how preparator groom the child .3-Verbalize the complications of (CSA). 4-Understand the contributing factors of (CSA)

**Third session**

Include general reported practice for mothers to protect children from child sexual abuse which contain: child sexual development the difference between appropriate touch and non-appropriate touch, and mother's daily reported practice to protect children from sexual abuse, topic my body is only mine.

**Objectives:** by the end of the session mother will be able to: 1-Understand the child sexual development. 2-Mention the difference between appropriate and inappropriate touch.3-Explain the mothers daily practice to protect children from sexual abuse.

**Fourth session**

cont. of mothers practice to protect children from child sexual abuse, and a revision on the previous sessions also includes the evaluation phase where the evaluation of the effect of the program on the mothers take place through the post assessment questionnaire.

**Objectives:** by the end of session post assessment take place to evaluate the improvement in mothers' knowledge attitude and reported practice

**Technical methods:**

Lecture, brain storming, group discussion

**Media used:**

Pictures and laptop, online – educating videos for children

**Administrative Design:**

An official approval was obtained from the dean of faculty of nursing Helwan University which directed to the manager of the MCH in 15-may city Cairo governorate who officially approved the agreement and give the researcher permission for the study to take place, after explaining the aim of the study

**Ethical considerations:**

official permission was obtained for the proposed study from the scientific research ethics committee faculty of nursing Helwan university, participation in the study was voluntary and subjects gave complete full information about the study and their role before signing

the informed consent, the ethical considerations included explaining the purpose and nature of the study, stating the possibility to withdraw at any time, and confidentiality of the information where it would not be accessed by any other party without taking permission of the participants. Ethics, values, culture and beliefs would be respected. Confidentiality as coding of data and participants were ensured that the collected data will be used only for the purpose of the study.

Package for the Social Sciences, version 25, SPSS Inc. Chicago, IL, USA). For quantitative data, the range, mean, and standard deviation were calculated. For qualitative data, which described a categorical set of data by frequency, percentage, or proportion of each category, the Correlation between variables was evaluated using Pearson’s correlation coefficient (r). Significance was adopted at  $P < 0.05$  for the interpretation of results of tests of significance, (Dawson, & Trapp, 2001).

**Statistical Design:**

The collected data were organized, tabulated, and statistically analysed using SPSS software (Statistical

**Results:**

**Table (1):** Number and Percentage Distribution of Mother's Demographic Characteristics, (N=235).

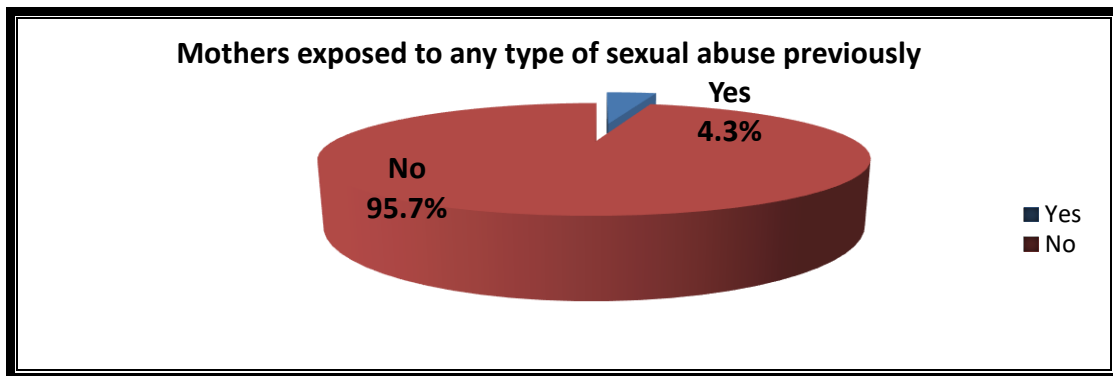
Mother's Demographic data	The studied sample (N=235)	
	No.	%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Age:</b></li> <li>- 18-28</li> <li>- 29-39</li> <li>- 40 – more</li> </ul>	133 66 36	56.6 28.1 15.3
<b>Mean ± SD</b>	28.983± 7.8096	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Marital status</b></li> <li>- Married</li> <li>- Single</li> <li>- Widow</li> </ul>	229 - 6	97.4 - 2.6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Educational Level:</b></li> <li>- Read and write</li> <li>- Basic education</li> <li>- Secondary education</li> <li>- High educated</li> </ul>	- - 36 199	- - 15.3 84.7
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Income statuses</b></li> <li>- Insufficient</li> <li>- sufficient</li> <li>- sufficient and more</li> </ul>	- 180 55	- 76.6 23.4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Residence:</b></li> <li>- Rural</li> <li>- Urban</li> </ul>	66 169	28.1 71.9
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Occupation</b></li> <li>- Working</li> <li>- Not working</li> </ul>	181 54	77 23

Table (1) shows that, 56.6% of the studied mothers aged between (18 years to 28) with Mean age ± SD 28.983± 7.8096 years. 97% of the mothers were married, 84.7% high educated, 77% of the mothers working, in addition 76.6% of mothers mentioned sufficient income. Regarding Residence: rural 28.1 while urban 71.9, concerning mothers occupation, reveals that 77% of the studied mothers were working, while 23% of the mothers were house wives.

**Table (2):** Number and Percentage Distribution of Child Demographic Characteristics, (N=235).

Child Demographic data	The studied sample (N=235)	
	No.	%
•Child age:		
- 0-4 years	169	71.9
- 4-8 years	66	28.1
<b>Mean ± SD</b>	4.3277 ± 1.6089	
• Sex		
- Male	163	69.4
- Female	72	30.6
• Education:		
- Nursery	169	71.9
- Primary	66	28.1

**Table 2 :** reveals that 71.9% of children aged between 0-4 years , while 28.1% between 4-8 years , with mean age ± SD was **4.3277 ± 1.6089** concerning education 71.9% in nursery while 28.1% in primary school , in addition regarding sex 69.4% were male , and 30.6% were female .



**Figure (1)** Distribution of mothers Exposed to sexual abuse previously, (N=235).

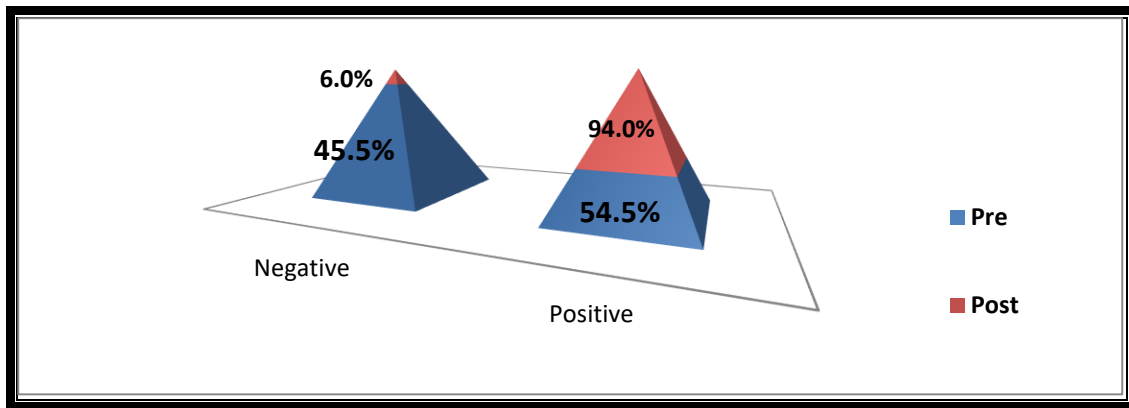
**Fig. (1)** Illustrates that 95.7% of mothers answered (No) for exposing to any type of sexual abuse through life time.

**Table (3):** Number and Percentage distribution of Total mothers' knowledge scores and level regarding protect their children from sexual abuse in early childhood, (N=235).

Total knowledge scores	The studied sample (N=235)				χ <sup>2</sup> P value
	Pre		Post		
	No.	%	No.	%	
<b>Level of total knowledge</b>					
- Unsatisfactory (<50%)	218	92.8	16	6.8	356.020 0.000**
- Satisfactory (>50%)	17	7.2	219	93.2	
<b>Range</b>	15		20		
<b>Mean ± SD</b>	10.4723 ± 2.57583		38.2170 ± 4.52718		

\*Statistically significant at  $p \leq 0.05$  and \*\*highly statistically significant at  $p \leq 0.000$

**Table (3)** indicates that the mother's level of total knowledge, Satisfactory (>50%) level increased from 7.2% pre-program to 93.2% post program, with mean Mean ± SD range increasing from 10.4723 ± 2.57583 pre-program to 38.2170 ± 4.52718 post program.



**Figure (2):** Percentage Distribution of Mother's attitude scores and level towards children protection from sexual abuse, (N=235).

Fig. (2) Illustrate that, 54.5% mothers had positive attitude pre- program, improved and increased to 94.0% mothers with positive attitude post educational program.

**Table (4):** Number and percentage of distribution of Total Mothers' Reported Practice scores and level to protect their children from sexual abuse (N=235)

Total Mothers' Reported Practice	The studied sample (N=235)				χ <sup>2</sup> P value
	Pre		Post		
	No.	%	No.	%	
<b>Level of total Reported Practice</b>					
- Inadequate (<50%)	226	96.2	33	14	324.391 0.001*
- Adequate (>50%)	9	3.8	202	86	
<b>Range</b>	20		25		
<b>Mean ± SD</b>	4.7021 ± 5.17355		30.0851 ± 5.31901		

\*Statistically significant at  $p \leq 0.05$  and \*\*highly statistically significant at  $p \leq 0.000$

Table (14) indicate that 3.8% of mothers had adequate reported practice towards protection of children from sexual abuse pre-program , that improved to 86% post implemented educational program.

**Table (5):** Correlation between Total Scores of Knowledge, Total Scores of Attitude and Total Score Reported Practice of the Studied Sample regarding Mothers' protect their children from sexual abuse in early childhood, (N=235).

Variables	Total scores of knowledge	
	Pre	Post
	R P value	r P value
Total score reported practice	0.672 0.001*	0.951 0.001*
Total scores of attitude	0.584 0.001*	0.984 0.001*

\*Statistically significant at  $p \leq 0.05$  and \*\*highly statistically significant at  $p \leq 0.000$  r= Pearson Correlation Coefficient

Table (18) display that highly statistical significant difference in correlation between total score knowledge, attitude and reported practice, pre and post educational program

## Discussion:

### Part (I) Demographic characteristics of studied mothers

Regarding to **demographic characteristics of mothers** the present study revealed that, more than one half of mothers their age ranging from 18 to 28 and mean age of the study sample was ( $\pm$  SD 28.983  $\pm$  7.8096) years, the majority of the sample mothers were married, this finding agreed with **Fatouh, (2020)**, who studied "an educational program for mothers to protect their children from sexual harassment in Egypt" study was conducted with sample size (**n=110**) of mother, and found that more than two thirds of mothers (69.1%) their age ranging from 20 to 34 and mean age of the study sample was (34.06  $\pm$  7.200)

According to the current study findings **regarding to educational level of mothers** the present study revealed that the majority of the study sample 84.7% are highly educated, this finding agree with **Maureen et al (2021)**, who studied "mothers attitudes toward child sexual abuse prevention in schools: a preliminary examination" in Switzerland (**n= 300**) who found that, the majority of the study sample was highly educated.

### Part (II): demographic characteristics of the child

Regarding to **child demographic characteristics** the present study revealed that less than three quarter (71.9) the children age ranged between 0-4 years, while slightly more than one quarter ranged between 4-8 years, with mean age  $\pm$  SD was **4.3277  $\pm$  1.6089**, this finding was disagree with **Prikhidko & Kenny (2021)**; they studied "examination of parents attitudes toward and efforts to discuss child sexual abuse prevention with their children in Florida survey was conducted with sample size (**n=185**) and children aged between 5-12 years.", they found that the average age of the children was six years old.

### Part (III): child sexual history assessment

Regarding to child sexual history the present study revealed that almost of the study sample agreed on the same opinion that there is no child sexual history and no child exposed to child sexual abuse before.

Current study is on the same line with **E-Saboula, et al (2019)**: who studied the effect of health education intervention on sexual abuse awareness and perception among school children and their parents, with sample size (**n=300**) school children and their parents in primary and preparatory schools from rural and urban areas at Shebin El-Kom district, Menoufia Governorate, Egypt. and found that 7.7% of children have previous exposure to sexual abuse before;

Regarding to mothers **previously exposed to sexual abuse** the present study revealed that the almost of the study sample not exposing to any type of sexual abuse before life time this finding disagreed with **Arata, et al (2022)**, who studied that "rates of lifetime sexual victimization among mothers in a child sexual abuse prevention study, in America" and found that one third of mothers exposing to sexual abuse.

Regarding to mothers knowledge about **Contributing factors to child sexual abuse**, the present study revealed that there was marked improvement in the mothers knowledge **regarding contributing factors** to child sexual abuse in all items with highly statistically significant at **P  $\leq$  0.000**

As evidence that the majority of the study sample in post educational program (**yes**) answers response for items like: know that exposing that child to bullying with the lack of parental support increase the child vulnerability to sexual abuse, know that uneducated child is more risk to child sexual abuse because they are beyond the reach of school and source of support.

### Part (IV): Studied mother's knowledge about children protection from sexual abuse pre and post the educational program (answered research hypothesis) the mother's knowledge, attitude and reported practice regarding protection of their children from sexual abuse in early childhood will be improved after implementation of educational program.

Regarding to total mothers' knowledge scores and level regarding protection of their children from sexual abuse in early childhood the present study revealed the minority 7.2% of mothers had satisfactory levels of total knowledge, but it improved to the almost of the mother's (93.2%) had satisfactory levels of knowledge post implemented program

This finding agreed with **Fatouh, (2020)**, who studied "an educational program for mothers to protect their children from sexual harassment in Egypt" and found that concerning mothers' level of knowledge pre and post educational program, regarding sexual harassment results indicates that, 22% of the mothers under study had satisfactory level of knowledge pre educational which increased to 92.70% post educational program.

From the researcher's point of view in pre-program knowledge levels, the fact that only a minority of mothers had satisfactory levels of total knowledge prior to the implemented program indicates a substantial knowledge gap among the target population, this baseline finding highlights the critical need for an educational intervention to address the lack of adequate knowledge among mothers on this important issue. In addition, post implemented program there was marked improvement in the mothers' knowledge levels, where almost the majority had



satisfactory levels of knowledge post program that proves the effectiveness of the educational program in bridging the knowledge gap

**Part (V): Studied mother's attitude about children protection from sexual abuse pre and post the educational program (answered research hypothesis) the mother's knowledge, attitude and reported practice regarding protection of their children from sexual abuse in early childhood will be improved after implementation of educational program.**

According to the current study findings regarding to total mother's attitude scores and level towards children protection from sexual abuse, the results of the present study revealed that the more than one half (54.5.0%) of mothers had positive attitude pre-program, while improved the almost of mother with percent (94%) positive attitude post implemented educational program.

This finding also agreed with **Fatouh, (2020)**, who studied "an educational program for mothers to protect their children from sexual harassment" sample size (**n=110**) mothers who found that, approximately half of the mothers (49.09% ) pre educational program had positive attitude to protect their children from sexual harassment while after educational program improved to 100%, and there were highly statistical significant differences between pre and post educational program with  $X^2 = 2.02$  ( $p$  value  $< 0.15$ )

From the researcher's point of view, this result is expected due to the lack of sufficient information's, especially on this sensitive topic, which demonstrated the importance of the educational program that was given to mothers, which led to raising the mother's positive attitude

**Part (VI): Studied mother's practice about children protection from sexual abuse pre and post the educational program (answered research hypothesis) the mother's knowledge, attitude and reported practice regarding protection of their children from sexual abuse in early childhood will be improved after implementation of educational program.**

According to the current study findings regarding to mother's total reported practice scores and level to protect their children from sexual abuse, the results of the present study revealed that the minority 3.8% of mothers had adequate reported practice pre-program, but improved to almost of the mother's under the study had adequate reported practice towards protection post implemented educational program.

This finding agree with **Guggisberg, et al (2021)**, who studied that " child sexual abuse prevention the strategies of protective mothers and fathers: a systematic review" in Australia and found that " Parents showed in the prior evaluation inadequate level of practice of child sexual abuse and skills, after taking part in the program,

majority of parents significantly improved their skills and practices about CSA protective practices and their ability to cope and protect the children from sexual abuse.

From the researcher point of view the inadequate results of practice pre -program due lack of mothers realization about the general reported practice and ways of protection from CSA, also fear associated with sexual education as mothers thinks it will make children know too much about sex, but results enhanced post implementation of program due to the effectiveness educational program which provide the mothers with the skills needed to protect children.

**Part (VII) correlations between variables** the results of the present study revealed that, there was highly statistically significant relation between the mothers socio-demographic data as age, marital status, educational level, occupation, income, and residence and mothers total knowledge regarding protection of children from sexual abuse.

This finding agrees with **James, et al (2023)**: he studied that "a study to determine the knowledge and attitude of mothers regarding prevention of child sexual abuse in a selected rural area of Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, in India. Sample size (**n=60**) mothers using non-probability convenient sampling, and found that highly statistically significant relation between the mother's socio-demographic data as age, marital status, educational level, occupation, income, and residence and mother's **total knowledge regarding protection** of children from sexual abuse.

**According to the current study findings regarding to correlation between total scores of knowledge, total scores of attitude and total reported practice of the studied sample regarding mothers' protect their children from sexual abuse in early childhood**, the results of the present study revealed that display that highly statistical significant difference in correlation between total score knowledge, attitude and reported practice, pre and post educational program.

This finding agrees with **Smith, et al. (2021)** who studied that " enhancing maternal knowledge and attitudes to prevent child sexual abuse: a randomized controlled, conducted **with 240 mothers** of children aged 3-12 years.. "Found a highly statistically significant positive correlation between the total scores of knowledge, attitude, and reported practice before and after the educational program.

**According to the current study findings regarding to correlation between mothers' total knowledge and total attitude sample regarding preprogram to protect their children from sexual abuse in early childhood, concerning correlations** the results of the present study showed that shows positive

relationship between total score knowledge and attitude preprogram.

This finding agrees with, **Kenny et al (2021):** Who studied that "mothers attitudes toward child sexual abuse prevention in schools: a preliminary examination, survey was conducted with 185 mothers of children aged 5-12 years. and found that majority of mothers have positive relationship between total score knowledge and attitude preprogram.

From researcher point of view the positive relationship observed prior to the educational program indicates that mothers' existing knowledge about child sexual abuse was already associated with more positive attitudes towards protective measures, this foundation likely facilitated the further development and strengthening of these attitudes through the educational intervention.

### Conclusion

Based on the results of this study and research hypothesis, it concluded that, Regarding to demographic characteristics of mothers the present study revealed that, more than half of mothers (56.6%) their age ranging from 18 to 28 and mean age of the study sample was ( $\pm$  SD28.983 $\pm$  7.8096) years, the majority of the sample mothers were married,, (71.9%) of the children age ranged between 0-4 years. In addition, (84.7%) of the study sample had highly educated, The educational program were effective in improving the mothers knowledge, attitude, and reported regarding protection of their children from sexual abuse .These study findings were supported the study hypotheses.

### Recommendations

Based on the findings of the current study, the following recommendations can be suggested

- Continues of educational program for mothers regarding protection of their children from sexual abuse in early childhood to improve mothers' knowledge, attitude and practices to protect their children.
- Disseminations of booklet on mothers who attend MCH about protection of children from sexual abuse
- further researches are needed to increase the mothers knowledge, attitude and practice regarding children protection from sexual abuse.

### References

1. **Adel Ali Mohamed, H., Sadek Abd El-Hameed, H., Elahmady Sarhan, A., & Atta Mohamed, W. (2022).** Mothers' Perception for Protection of their Children from Sexual Abuse Journal of Nursing Science Benha University, 3(2), 969-985. <https://doi.org/10.21608/jnsbu.2022.24820>
2. **Arata, C.M., Langhinrichsen-Rohling, J., & Bowers, D. (2022):** Rates of Lifetime Sexual Victimization Among Mothers in a Child Sexual

- Abuse Prevention Study. Proceedings of the 16th Biennial Conference of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children, 41-44.poe
3. **CDC(2024) available at** <https://www.cdc.gov/child-abuse-neglect/about/about-child-sexual-abuse.html>
4. **Elsiddig, S., & Sabir, M. (2022):** Knowledge, Attitude and Practice of Parents towards Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse in Khartoum Sudan 2021.
5. **Erdoğan, Ç. (2023).** The effect of training about child sexual, physical and emotional abuse. *Child Abuse Review*, 32(2), e2792
6. **E-Saboula El-Said, M., M, El-Nagar M, El-Malky, M (2019):** effect of health education intervention on sexual abuse awareness and perception among school children and their parents, *iosr journal of nursing and health science (iosr-jnhs)* e-issn: 2320-1959.p- issn: 2320-1940 volume 8, issue 4 ser. iv. (july-aug .2019), pp 21-35 [www.iosrjournals.org](http://www.iosrjournals.org) doi: 10.9790/1959-0804042135 [www.iosrjournals.org](http://www.iosrjournals.org) 21 | page
7. **Fatouh, W., Soliman, M N., Hamed, N., & Mohamed, H. (2020):** An Educational Program for Mothers to Protect their Children from Sexual Harassment, *Egyptian Journal of Health Care*, 11(1), 205-218. doi: 10.21608/ejhc.2020.74781
8. **Guggisberg, M., Botha, T., & Barr, J. (2021):** Child sexual abuse prevention – the strategies of protective mothers and fathers: a systematic review. *Journal of Family Studies*, 29(2), 927-945. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13229400.2021.2009366>
9. **Horen, N. M., Sayles, J., McDermott, K., Sippel-Klug, K., Drake-Croft, J., & Long, T. (2024).** Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH) and Early Childhood Intervention: Intentional Integration. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 21(7), 870
10. **Ilyasa, R. M. A. (2021):** Legal and Victim logical Perspective on Sexual Violence against Children Cases in Indonesia. *The Indonesian Journal of International Clinical Legal Education*, 3(3), 281-300
11. **James, Arun, Singh, Amrita (2023):** a study to determine the knowledge and attitude of mothers regarding prevention of child sexual abuse in a selected rural area of jabalpur, madhya pradesh doi - 10.13140/rg.2.2.19349.29928
12. **Kandi, Z. R. K., Azar, F. E. F., Farahani, F. K., Azadi, N., & Mansourian, M. (2022).** Significance of knowledge in children on self-protection of sexual abuse: a systematic review. *Iranian journal of public health*, 51(8), 1755-1765
13. **Kenny MC, Prikhidko A. (2021)** Mothers Attitudes Toward Child Sexual Abuse Prevention in Schools: A Preliminary Examination. *J Child Adolesc Trauma*. May 14;15(2):297-306. doi: 10.1007/s40653-021-00361-1. PMID: 35600520; PMCID: PMC9120317.

14. **Maureen C. Kenny<sup>1</sup> & Alena Prikhidko<sup>1</sup>(2021):** Mothers Attitudes Toward Child Sexual Abuse Prevention in Schools: A Preliminary Examination Switzerland <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40653-021-00361-1> poe
15. **McCartan, K., Uzieblo, K., & Smid, W. J. (2021):** Professionals' understandings of and attitudes to the prevention of sexual abuse: An international exploratory study. *International journal of offender therapy and comparative criminology*, 65(8), 815-831
16. **Prihidko, A. & Kenny, M (2021) :**Examination of parents' attitudes toward and efforts to discuss child sexual abuse prevention with their children, *Children and youth services review- Florida* DOI: 10.1016/j.chilyouth.2020.105810 [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/347698047\\_Examination\\_of\\_Parents'\\_Attitudes\\_Toward\\_and\\_Efforts\\_to\\_Discuss\\_Child\\_Sexual\\_Abuse\\_Prevention\\_with\\_Their\\_Children](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/347698047_Examination_of_Parents'_Attitudes_Toward_and_Efforts_to_Discuss_Child_Sexual_Abuse_Prevention_with_Their_Children).
17. **Smith, J., et al. (2021):** Enhancing maternal knowledge and attitudes to prevent child sexual abuse: A randomized controlled trial. *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse*, 20(3), 345-poe
18. **Thurtle, V. (2022):** Management Of Common Childhood Accident Ailments And Prevention. *Health Visiting E-Book: Health Visiting E-Book*, 323
19. **Aiffah, G. I., & Religia, W. A. (2020).** Child sexual abuse prevention program: Reference to the Indonesian government. *Jurnal Promkes*, 8(2), 238