

## Mothers' Knowledge and Attitude Regarding Child Sexual Harassment

Sahar Mahmoud El-khedr Abdelgawad<sup>1</sup>, Hanaa Ibrahim Mansour khatte<sup>2, 3</sup>,  
Nagafa Hafez Farag<sup>4</sup>, Seham Eid Hashem Elhalafawy<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Professor of Pediatric Nursing, Faculty of Nursing, Tanta University, Egypt.

<sup>2</sup>Doctorate student of Pediatric Nursing, Faculty of Nursing, Tanta University, Egypt.

<sup>3</sup>Nurse practitioner at Mansoura Health Technical Institute, Dakahlia Governorate, Mansoura, Egypt

<sup>4</sup>Assistant Professor of Pediatric Nursing, Faculty of Nursing, Tanta University, Egypt.

<sup>5</sup>Lecturer of Pediatric Nursing, Faculty of Nursing, Tanta University, Egypt.

**Corresponding author:** Hanaa Ibrahim Mansour khatte

**Email:** PG\_176979@nursing.tanta.edu.eg

### Abstract:

**Background:** Sexual harassment is a matter of concern in all societies. Mother's knowledge regarding child sexual harassment, could play an important role in child protection and prevention of sexual harassment. **Aim:** The current study aimed to assess mothers' knowledge and attitude regarding child sexual harassment. **Research design:** A descriptive design was used. **Setting:** Three nursery schools at Tanta City were included in the current study. **Subjects:** Seventy mothers (70) who attended the previously mentioned settings were involved. **Tools:** Two tools were utilized, Mothers' Knowledge Regarding Sexual Harassment Questionnaire and Mothers' Attitudes Regarding Sexual Harassment. **Results:** A few percentage of the studied mothers 10% had high level of knowledge regarding sexual harassment. Regarding prevention sexual harassment more than half of the mothers (52.9%) had low level of knowledge. More than one third of the mothers had positive attitude toward sexual harassment. **Conclusion:** According to the findings of the current study, it was revealed that nearly two thirds of mothers had low level of knowledge about sexual harassment and had negative attitude regarding sexual harassment. **Recommendation:** Establish an awareness program for mothers regarding child sexual harassment. An orientation program about sexual harassment must be available at nursery and primary schools for school personnel.

**Keywords:** Attitude, Children, Mothers' Knowledge & Sexual Harassment

## Introduction

Sexual harassment is a problem in all societies regardless of cultural and/or religious backgrounds. It is rarely reported because of embarrassment, guilt, and lack of awareness regarding victim's rights. Other reasons may include unwillingness to confront the legal system, the need to keep the event hidden from significant people, and fear of not being believed **Vosz et al., (2023)**. Sexual harassment victimizes children of all ages, the most vulnerable children are the preschoolers. There are programs widely presented nationally, and are designed to teach children how to fend off a sexual harassment **Prikhidko & Kenny, (2021)**.

Child sexual harassment is difficult to rated accurately because of its sensitivity and criminal nature. It is often unreported to professionals or adults for many complex reasons, including fear of punishment, as well as the stigma and shame **Gyawali, Budhathoki & Poudel, (2021)**. The world Health Organization estimates that 36 -62 % of all sexual assault victims are aged below 15 years. Complementary data from Nairobi Women`s Hospital indicate that 55 % of these violated are girls **World Health Organization (2022)**.

Childhood is a critical developmental stage, where children begin to form an understanding of the world around them, including their bodies and sexual

identity **Rofiah, (2021)**. Young children are at risk of sexual harassment, both boys and girls equally because they still weak, as well as not being able to prevent the sexual harassment of aggressive adult and perpetrators. However, equipping mothers with knowledge about sexual abuse prevention is necessary so that they can be alert, detect and prevent unusual behaviors from children **Hang, Nguyen, Thao Trang &Thanh, (2022)**.

Consequences of sexual harassment and unresolved traumatic experiences may lead to suffering caused by remembrances of the event. Participation in social, academic, professional, or personal context may be affected. Long-term psychiatric disorders such as physical issues, emotional or behavioral problems, and bonding disruptions may occur after traumatic experiences in general. Psychological consequences of child sexual harassment are diverse and range from short- to long-term such as flashbacks, fears, and depression **Canton-Cortes, Cortes, & Canton, (2020)**. Physical consequences are closely linked to psychological issues that manifest as psychosomatic symptoms on the physical level. Besides, infection of the genitals and sexually transmitted diseases are directly related to sexual acts

consequences **Salloum, Johnco & Zepeda-Burgos, (2020).**

Child sexual harassment has a significant impact on health and well-being of children and adolescents worldwide. The impact varies in relation to the nature, severity and duration of the abuse. It also affected developmentally in relation to the child's ability to understand the sexual harassment, their coping strategies and the responses from family, friends, wider community and services **Wismayanti, Farida, Patrick, Tilbury, & Tjoe, (2021).** A child who is sexually harassed is also at greater risk of experiencing other types of violence or abuse. The consequences can be life long and include issues with intimacy, affecting relationships and socio-economic consequences such as homelessness and unemployment **Manheim, Felicetti & Moloney, (2020).**

Mothers are playing a vital role in taking care of their children, to provide love and support constantly through their life. As a primary caregiver they can easily identify the symptoms of child sexual harassment. So that mothers should be educated about preventive aspect of child sexual harassment. Parents are important actors in protecting their children from any kind of violence including sexual harassment. Knowledge, attitudes and practices with responsible parenting are

instrumental in prevention of child sexual harassment **Khoori, Gholamfarkhani, Tatari & Wurtele, (2020).**

Nurses had a unique role in the awareness against child sexual harassment due to their role in providing health care in a variety of settings. Nurses should provide an effective educational intervention to increase the knowledge of parents especially mothers and their children on how to prevent, recognize, and react responsibly to child sexual harassment. It is essential for parents to understand sexual harassment, how to react to, and how to stop it and cope with any form of sexual harassment **Elfreich, Stevenson, Sisson, Winstead & Parmenter, (2020)**

#### **Significance of the study:**

Child sexual harassment is a form of anti-social behavior with the children that cause potential harm to the health, development and dignity of the child. According to UNICEF, each year, millions of girls and boys around the world are sexually harassed at home, school, or in their community. The growing use of digital technologies has also increased child sexual harassment risks **(UNICEF 2023).**

The World Health Organization report **(WHO 2020)** stated that all nations have laws and rules prohibiting sexual assault. Consequently, the global communities have recognized the

urgency of addressing and preventing this dangerous phenomenon to protect children from its harmful effects. In Egypt, there is a lack of accurate epidemiological studies to assess the full extent of the problem. Mothers are the most important group to target in child sexual harassment prevention training. Mothers can provide developmentally appropriate education for their children **Fatouh, Soliman, Hamed & Mohamed, (2020)**. So, this study is crucial to assess mothers' knowledge and attitude regarding children sexual harassment.

**Aim of the study:**

The present study aimed to assess mothers' knowledge and attitude regarding children sexual harassment

**Research Questions:**

- What is the mothers' level of knowledge regarding children sexual harassment?
- What is the mothers' attitude regarding children sexual harassment?

**Subjects and Method:**

**Research design:** A descriptive research design was used in the current study.

**Setting:**

The present study was conducted at three nursery schools at Tanta City: Two of them were affiliated to the Ministry of Education and Technical Education and one was affiliated to Private Educational Academic Center in Tanta City.

**Subject:**

The current study involved (70) mothers who accompanied their preschool children to the previously mentioned settings.

**Tools of data collection:**

Two tools were used in the current study:

**Tool (I): Mothers' Knowledge regarding Sexual Harassment:**

Questionnaire sheet was developed by the researcher after reviewing the related literatures **Mileva, Goshev & Alexandrov, (2020); Salloum, Johnco, Zepeda, (2020); Goswami, Arora, Thomas, 2019)**. It consisted of three main parts:

**Part (1): Socio-demographic characteristics of mothers.**

It was included data related to mothers such as age, marital status, residence, type of family, educational level, occupation, previous awareness about sexual harassment, source of information about harassment.

**Part (2): Mothers' Knowledge about Sexual Harassment:**

This part was consisted of three sections as follow:

**a- Sexual Harassment questionnaire:**

It was included data such as, meaning of harassment, types, indicators of sexual harassment, causes, physical / psychological /social impact of child sexual harassment.

**b-Sexual Harassment Prevention Questionnaire:**

This part was included assessment of mothers' knowledge about prevention of sexual harassment for their children.

### **C-Sexual Harassment Safety Instructions Questionnaire:**

Such as teaching child correct names of body parts, avoid punish the child when touching genitals, draw the child's attention to something else, teach child how to clean his / her genitals by himself / herself, avoid kissing or touching child' private body parts.

**The total score of mothers' knowledge was calculated and classified as follow:**

- Low level of knowledge less than 50%.
- Moderate level of knowledge from 50-75%
- High level of knowledge more than 75%.

### **Tool (II): Mothers Attitudes Regarding Sexual Harassment Scale:**

The scale was developed by the researcher after reviewing of literatures **Russell, Higgins & Posson, (2020); Rueda, Ferragut, Cerezo & Ortiz-Tallo, (2021)**. It included 16 items in Arabic language. It is Likert type scale ranged between agree (2 points), uncertain (1 points) and disagree (0 point). It included statements such as: Parents should be role models for their children. Children often make up stories about being sexually harassed. Child should be taught to react to the bad touch by anyone. Children should be given some training for self-defense.

The scores of the items were summed-up and the total divided by the number of the items, giving a mean score.

### **Scoring system of attitude scale:**

- Positive attitude  $\geq$  50% (range 16-32).
- Negative attitude  $<$  50% (range 0-15).

### **Method**

The study was accomplished through the following steps:

#### **1-Administrative process:**

An official permission for data collection was obtained from the Dean of the Faculty of Nursing, Tanta University directed to administrators responsible for the selected nursery schools.

#### **2- Ethical consideration:**

- a. Ethical approval was taken from the Scientific Research Ethics Committee of the Faculty of Nursing, Tanta University before conducting the study code No. 235/4/2023.
- b. Confidentiality and privacy were taken into consideration regarding the data collection and was maintained by coding number.
- c. Mothers' informed consents to participate in this study were obtained after explanation the aim and benefits of the current study.
- d. Mothers had the right to withdraw from the study at any time.
- e. Privacy and confidentiality for mothers and their children were assured.

f. Nature of the study did not cause any harm to the mothers or children

**Tools Development:** Two tools were developed by the researcher after reviewing of recent literatures

#### **4- Pilot study:**

A pilot study was carried out on 10% of mothers (7mothers) to test the tools for clarity, applicability, feasibility and to determine any obstacles that may encountered the researcher during the data collection. The pilot study was excluded from the total sample.

#### **5- Content validity:**

The tools of the study were presented to a jury of five experts in the field of Pediatric Nursing. Content validity index was =98.5%.

#### **6- Reliability of tools:**

Test of reliability was done using Cronbach's alpha coefficient test. It was 0.960 for tool (I) and 0.832 for tool (II).

7- Mothers' knowledge and attitude regarding child's sexual harassment were fulfilled by mothers through individualized interview with the researcher. The data was collected within six months.

#### **Statistical analysis:**

The collected data were organized, tabulated, and statistically analyzed using SPSS software (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences, version 20.0). For quantitative data were described using number and percent, mean and standard deviations were calculated.

#### **Results:**

**Table (1):** Explain distribution of the studied mothers according to their socio-demographic characteristics. It was observed that nearly one third of mothers (32.9 %) their age was  $\geq 35$  years old with mean  $\pm$  SD was  $30.985 \pm 7.137$  years. Regarding educational level, it was found that nearly half of mothers (48.6%) had basic education. Regarding mothers' occupation, 60% of mothers were working and majority of them (94.3%) lived in urban areas. It was clear that most of the mothers (84.3%) did not have previous knowledge about sexual harassment, 45.4% of those who had previous knowledge gained their knowledge from TV programs followed by internet 27.3%, and the least source of knowledge was books (9.1%)

**Table (2):** Reveals distribution of mothers' knowledge regarding sexual harassment. It was found that, 21.4% of mothers had correct/complete answers regarding meaning of child sexual harassment and social symptoms of sexual harassment. Only 20% of the mothers had correct and complete answer about good and bad touch. Concerning mothers' total knowledge about sexual harassment, it was noticed that less than one quarter of the mothers (20%) had correct & complete answer.

**Table (3):** Shows distribution of mothers' knowledge regarding prevention of sexual harassment. It was

evident that less than one third of the mothers (34, 3%) reported about teaching their children to say no to any bad touch & 28,6% of them reported that they keep attention to the child's complaints.

**Table (4):** Indicate percentage distribution of total mothers' knowledge regarding prevention of sexual harassment. It was revealed that nearly one quarter of the mothers (25.7%) had correct/complete answer about ways of prevention sexual harassment prevention. As regards role of the family in sexual harassment prevention, it was observed that more than one quarter of mothers (28.6%) had correct and complete answer. Concerning total mothers' knowledge about prevention of sexual harassment, it was noticed that less than half of the mothers (47.25%) had wrong answers.

**Table (5):** Depicts distribution of mothers' total knowledge regarding sexual harassment safety instructions. It was clear that less than one quarter of mothers (21.4%) had correct /complete answer regarding mothers' reaction when the child touches his/her genital organs. It was clear that 20% & 22.9% of them had correct and complete answer regarding protection of child from exposure to sexual harassment at the home and regarding teaching children about physical development respectively. Nearly half of mothers

(42.9%) had wrong answer about safety instructions.

**Figure (1):** Refers mothers' total level of knowledge regarding sexual harassment, sexual harassment prevention and sexual harassment safety instructions. It was observed that 10% of the mothers had high level of knowledge regarding sexual harassment. Regarding mothers' knowledge about prevention of sexual harassment & sexual harassment safety instructions, it was noticed that equal percentage (11.4%) of mothers had high level of knowledge.

**Figure (2):** Shows mothers' total level of knowledge about sexual harassment. It was found that 67.2% of mothers had low level of knowledge about sexual harassment.

**Table (6):** Demonstrates distribution of mothers' attitudes regarding sexual harassment. It was evident that slightly more than one- third of mothers (35.7%) were agreed that parents should be role models for their children. It was also observed that 18.6 % of the mothers agreed that the great majority of victims are abused by familiar harasser.

**Figure (3):** Declares mothers' total attitude about sexual harassment. It was noticed that nearly one third of the mothers (38.6%) had positive attitude while 61.4% of them had negative attitude.

**Table (1): Distribution of the Studied Mothers According to their Socio-Demographic Characteristics (n=70).**

Mothers' characteristics	No.	%
<b>Age/ years</b>		
20-<25	18	25.7
25-<30	17	24.3
30-<35	12	17.1
≥ 35	<b>23</b>	<b>32.9</b>
<b>Mean ±SD</b>	<b>30.985±7.137</b>	
<b>Educational level</b>		
Illiterate	3	4.3
Basic education	<b>34</b>	<b>48.6</b>
Secondary education	22	31.4
University education	11	15.7
<b>Occupation</b>		
<b>Working</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>60.0</b>
Not working	28	40.0
<b>Residence</b>		
<b>Urban</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>94.3</b>
Rural	4	5.7
<b>Family type</b>		
Single mother	10	14.3
Nuclear	<b>51</b>	<b>72.8</b>
Extended	9	12.9
<b>Marital status</b>		
Married	<b>60</b>	<b>85.7</b>
Divorced	6	8.6
Widow	4	5.7
<b>Previous knowledge about sexual harassment</b>		
Yes	11	15.7
No	<b>59</b>	<b>84.3</b>
<b>Source of knowledge(n=11)</b>		
Books	<b>1</b>	<b>9.1</b>
Magazines	2	18.2
TV programs	<b>5</b>	<b>45.4</b>
Web internet	<b>3</b>	<b>27.3</b>

**Table (2): Distribution of Mothers' Knowledge Regarding Sexual Harassment (n=70).**

Mothers Knowledge about sexual harassment	Correct & complete		Correct & incomplete		Wrong answer	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Meaning of harassment	15	<b>21.4</b>	31	44.3	24	34.3
Types	10	14.3	20	28.6	40	57.1
Risk factors	14	20.0	12	17.1	44	62.9
Causes	17	24.3	17	24.3	36	51.4
Suggestive behaviors	12	17.1	49	70.0	9	12.9
Bad touch	14	<b>20.0</b>	40	57.1	16	22.9
Good touch	14	20.0	31	44.3	25	35.7
Physical symptoms	9	12.8	20	28.6	41	58.6
Psychological symptoms	20	28.6	28	40.0	22	31.4
Social symptoms	15	<b>21.4</b>	40	57.2	15	21.4
<b>Total</b>	14	<b>20.0</b>	29	41.4	27	38.6

Chi-square test, \* statistically significance  $p \leq 0.05$ ,

\*\*highly statistically significance  $p \leq 0.001$

**Table (3): Distribution of Mothers' Knowledge Regarding Prevention of Sexual Harassment (n=70).**

Sexual harassment prevention's				
	Yes		No	
	No	%	No	%
<b>Prevention of sexual harassment through teaching the child the following:</b>				
Avoid any harmful situations	21	30.0	49	70.0
Say no to any bad touch	24	<b>34.3</b>	46	65.7
The correct names of the body parts	28	40.0	42	60.0
The defend himself	21	30.0	49	70.0
<b>Role of the family</b>				
Advise the child not to go with strangers	24	34.3	46	65.7
Orient the child not to take things from strangers	22	31.4	48	68.6
Never leave the child alone	26	37.1	44	62.9
Listen and investigate any complain of the child	22	31.4	48	68.6
Protect the child from exposure to social problems	16	22.9	54	77.1
Keep attention to the child's complaints	20	<b>28.6</b>	52	71.4

**Table (4): Percentage Distribution of Total Mothers' Knowledge Regarding Prevention of Sexual Harassment (n=70).**

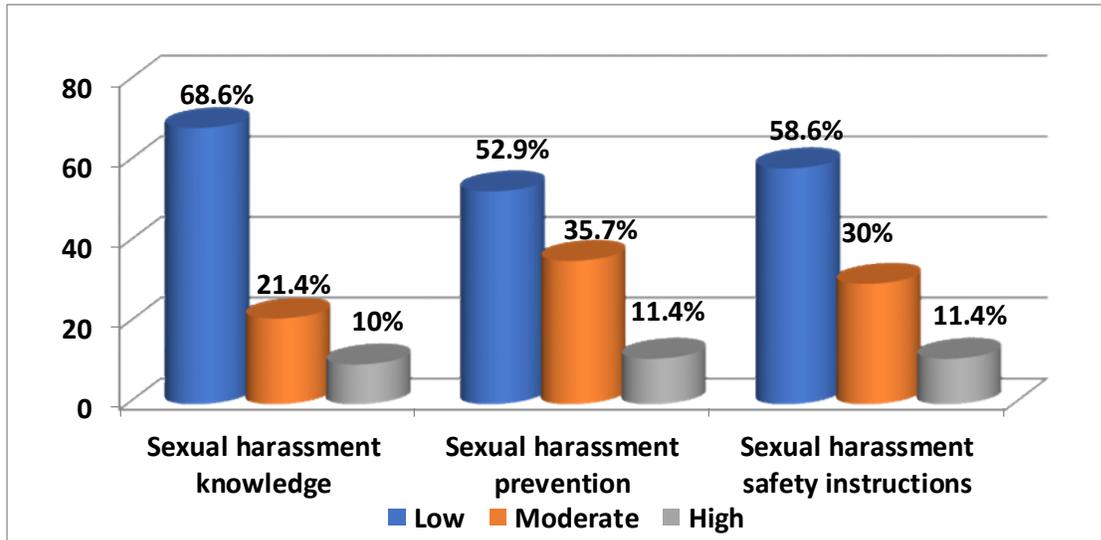
Total Knowledge about prevention of sexual harassment prevention	Correct & complete		Correct & incomplete		Wrong answer	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Ways to prevent sexual harassment	18	<b>25.7</b>	22	31.4	30	42.9
Role of the family	20	<b>28.6</b>	14	20.0	36	51.4
<b>Total</b>	19	27.1	18	25.7	33	<b>47.2</b>

Chi-square test, \* statistically significance  $p \leq 0.05$

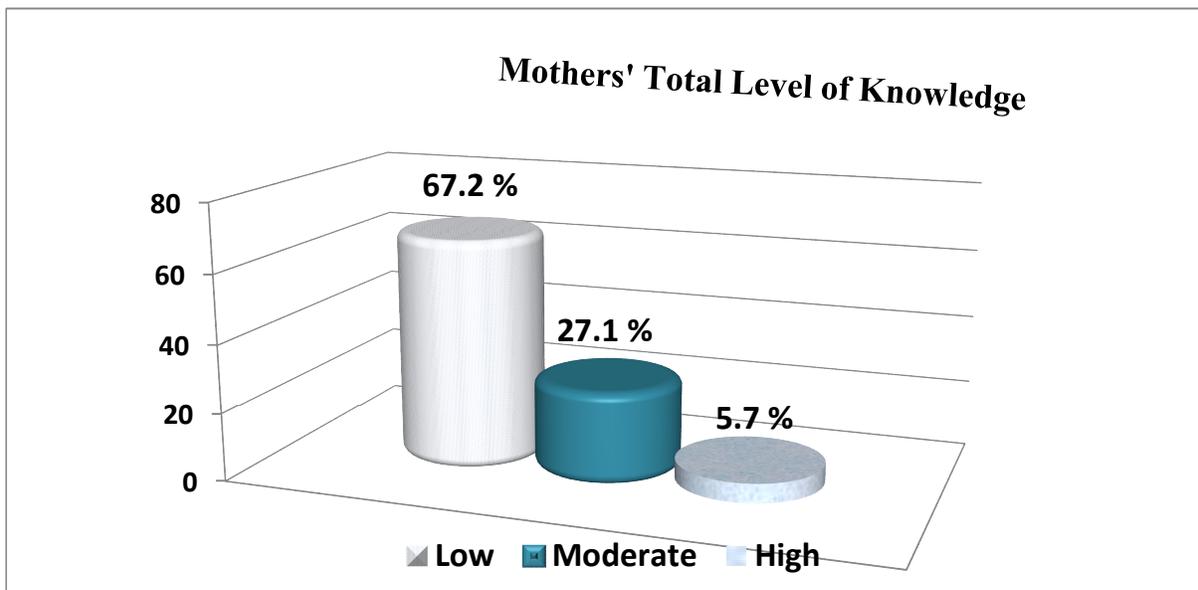
**Table (5): Distribution of Mothers' Total Knowledge Regarding Sexual Harassment Safety Instructions (n=70).**

Knowledge related to safety instructions	Correct & complete		Correct & incomplete		Wrong answer	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Safety instructions regarding sexual harassment	20	28.6	18	25.7	32	45.7
Mothers' reactions to child's touches genital organs	15	<b>21.4</b>	25	35.7	30	42.9
Protect child from expose to sexual harassment at home	14	<b>20.0</b>	22	31.4	34	48.6
Teach a child physical development	16	<b>22.9</b>	32	45.7	22	31.4
<b>Total</b>	16	22.9	24	34.2	30	<b>42.9</b>

Chi-square test, \* statistically significance  $p \leq 0.05$ ,



**Figure (1): Mothers' Level of Knowledge Regarding Sexual Harassment, Sexual Harassment Prevention and Sexual Harassment Safety Instructions**

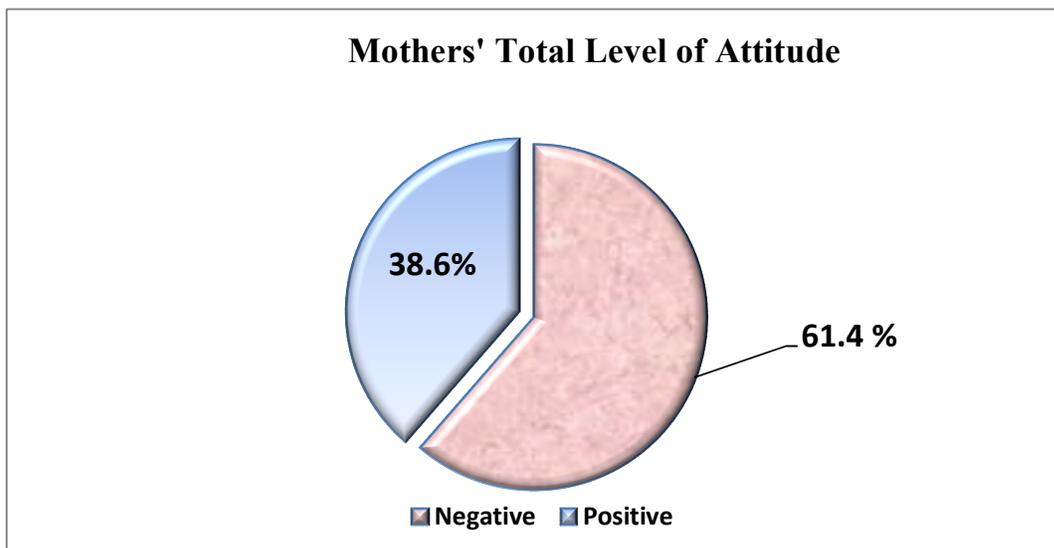


**Figure (2): Mothers' Total Level of Knowledge about Sexual Harassment.**

**Table (6): Distribution of Mothers' Attitudes Regarding Sexual Harassment (n=70).**

Items	Agree		Uncertain		Disagree	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Parents should be role models for their children.	25	35.7	25	35.7	20	28.6
Children have no freedom to discuss their physiological changes	16	22.9	16	22.9	38	54.2
Children often make up stories about being sexually abused	11	15.7	35	50.0	24	43.3
Child should be taught to react to the bad touch by anyone.	22	31.4	34	48.6	14	20.0
Children should be trained for self-defense.	16	22.9	32	45.7	22	31.4
Parent should ensure a school premise is safe for their children.	28	40.0	21	30.0	21	30.0
It is not good for child to know about the child sexual abuse in the school	9	12.9	8	11.4	53	75.7
Females are at greater risk for being abused than males.	5	7.1	12	17.1	53	75.7
The great majority of victims are abused by familiar harasser.	13	18.6	34	48.6	23	32.9
Adults are responsible for the protection of children.	22	31.4	28	40.0	20	28.6
A child who is sexually abused lives with sense of insecurity and feels unwanted	10	14.3	33	47.1	27	38.6
Reporting a case of child sexual abuse to the social services usually does more harm than good.	16	22.9	19	27.1	35	50.0
Most of the children do not tell anyone about being sexually abused.	16	22.9	13	18.6	41	58.6
Sexual victimization as a child may be related to psychological difficulties in later life.	26	37.1	20	28.6	24	34.3
parent responsible to ensure safe transport of the child to nursery	31	44.3	23	32.9	16	22.9
Parental absence and poor intra family relationships seem too related to abuse	11	15.7	30	42.9	29	41.4

Chi-square test, \* statistically significance

**Figure (3): Mothers' Total Attitude regarding Sexual Harassment**

## Discussion

Mothers should have the support they need to protect their children from sexual harassment. Specific interventions should include a well-established educational program that is implemented by nurses targeting the most vulnerable families **Xi & Lantolf, (2021)**. The current study was carried out to assess mothers' knowledge and attitude regarding children's sexual harassment

Regarding mothers' previous knowledge about child sexual harassment. It was clear that most of the mothers did not have previous knowledge about sexual harassment, and nearly half of those who had previous knowledge gain their knowledge from TV programs and more than one quarter of them gain knowledge from web internet. From researcher point of view, mass media starts in the last years to focus on sexual harassment as a developing problem in many societies.

This finding was supported by **Pahantasingh & Samantary, (2020)** who conducted a study entitled "Knowledge and attitude of mothers toward prevention of child sexual abuse" who reported that the majority of

mothers with previous knowledge on prevention of child sexual abuse gain their knowledge from mass media.

Concerning mothers' knowledge about sexual harassment, it was found that only one fifth of studied mothers had correct and complete answer regarding meaning of harassment. These results may be explained by a lack of efforts to raise public awareness about sexual harassment. This could contribute to existing knowledge gaps. Additionally, the lack of national resources and support systems may also play a role as the most of the families fear from stigma associated with sexual harassment. These findings were in the same direction with **Fatouh, Soliman, Hamed & Mohamed, (2020)** who illustrated that less than half of the mothers had correct knowledge regarding to meaning of sexual harassment

The current result also revealed that one quarter of the studied mothers had correct and complete knowledge about psychological symptoms of sexual harassment. From the researcher perspective the current results were consistent with the previous findings that

the majority of the mothers hadn't previous knowledge about sexual harassment and nearly half of them had basic education so, they had lack knowledge about psychological symptoms of sexual harassment. This finding was in the same direction with **Abdullah, Abou-Abdou & Kafli, (2021)** who conducted a study entitled "Assessment of mothers' knowledge about early detection of child Abuse at child health centers in Ismailia City". They revealed that, the majority of mothers had unsatisfactory knowledge regarding effects of child abuse.

The current study showed that one quarter of mothers had correct and complete answer regarding mothers' total knowledge ways of child sexual harassment prevention. This might be due to that nearly half of mothers had basic education think that discussing sexual topics with their children is inappropriate and they may struggle to understand medical, psychological or legal aspects of child sexual harassment due to limited literacy skills.

This finding was in accordance with **Kaushik & Daniel, (2019)** who conducted a study about

"Knowledge and attitude of mothers regarding prevention of child sexual abuse in New Delhi", who reported that most of mothers in their study had inadequate knowledge regarding child sexual abuse. On the other hand, this finding was contradicted with **Pahantasingh & Samantary, (2020)** who found that more than half of the mothers in their study had average level of knowledge regarding prevention of child sexual abuse.

Regarding all items of sexual harassment safety instructions, the present study revealed that the majority of mothers had limited level of knowledge. This may due to most of mothers didn't receive any programs or public awareness about sexual harassment. This finding was supported by **Hokmabadi, Khoori, Tatari & Wurtele, (2024)** who conducted a study entitled "Preventing child sexual abuse in Iran: mothers teaching body safety to their sons" who reported that there was no significant improvement in child sexual abuse prevention skills among children before their mothers taught them a personal safety instruction.

The current study found that the majority of studied mothers had low level of total knowledge about sexual harassment. This finding is in the same line with **Saboula, El-Nagar, El-Malky, & El-Said, (2019)** who reported that there was no statistical significant improvement in the total parents' awareness pre intervention.

Concerning mothers' attitude regarding sexual harassment, the current study revealed that slightly more than one- third of mothers had agreed that parents should be role models for their children & great majority of victims are abused by familiar harasser. These results may be due to sexual harassment is a complex topic and has many social, cultural, and psychological dimension and not all cases in Egypt are recorded. This result was in the same line with **Swailam, Oueda, Aboelyazied & Abdelbary, (2023)**, who illustrated that slightly more than two-thirds of the mothers in their study had negative attitude towards child sexual harassment protection education pre intervention.

On the other hand, the present result was not in harmony with **Kaushik & Daniel, (2019)** as

they mentioned that most of mothers had positive attitude regarding prevention of child sexual abuse. This was adversary to **Ekram, Wahaj, Khan, Khafagy & Shahad, (2024)** who studied "Knowledge, perception, and attitude of Saudi mothers towards discussing child sexual abuse" and found that the majority of mothers in their study had agreed that educating their children about sexual abuse will protect them and the majority of them had favorable attitudes toward child sexual abuse prevention.

The present study cleared that nearly two thirds of mothers had negative attitude regarding reporting sexual harassment. This may due to mothers fear speaking out if their children have been harassed because fear of scandal and shame. The current result was congruent with **Pahantasingh & Samantary, (2020)** who found that more than half of mothers had negative attitude towards prevention of child sexual abuse

**Conclusion:** According to the findings of the current study, it was revealed that nearly two thirds of mothers had low level of knowledge about sexual harassment and had negative

attitude regarding sexual harassment.

**Recommendations:** In light of the study's findings the following recommendations are made:

- 1- Well-established educational program regarding child sexual harassment must be implemented to enhance parents' awareness about sexual harassment.
- 2- Diverse educational materials should be used for mothers to increase their awareness and reduce the prevalence of child sexual harassment.
- 3- Community awareness through mass media should be focused on prevention and combating sexual harassment.

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