

Knowledge on child developmental milestones, developmental stimulation and associated sociodemographic factors among parents attending child welfare clinics in MOH Karaveddy

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Background and objective: Developmental milestones are age-specific tasks that most children can do at a certain age range. It is essential to understand normal development and acceptable variations in normal developmental patterns to recognize possible developmental disabilities in children. This study aims to describe the knowledge on child developmental milestones, developmental stimulation and associated socio-demographic factors among parents attending the child welfare clinics in MOH Karaveddy.

Methods: A descriptive cross-sectional study was carried out on parents (mother or father) of one- to thirty-six-month-old infants and toddlers attending the child welfare clinics in MOH Karaveddy between October and November 2019. Stratified sampling was used to select participants. An interviewer-administered questionnaire was used to assess knowledge on child developmental milestones and developmental stimulation. Data were analyzed using SPSS (v22) software. In scoring knowledge, 15 points were allocated for knowledge on child developmental milestones (11-15 Good, 06-10 Average, 0-5 Poor), and a total of 05 points for knowledge on developmental stimulation (2.5-5 Good, 0-2.4 Poor).

Results: In total, 352 parents participated in the study. Over half (57%, n=200) had good knowledge on child developmental milestones, with 40% (n=139) and 3% (n=13) having average and poor knowledge, respectively. A large majority (95.5%, n=336) had good knowledge regarding developmental stimulation. Knowledge on child development milestones was significantly correlated with parental age ($r=0.1$, $p=0.001$). Knowledge on child developmental milestones was significantly higher in parents who had completed O/L ($p=0.017$).

Conclusion: There is an association between age and educational qualifications of parents and their knowledge on child developmental milestones.

Key words: Child Developmental Milestones, Parents, Medical Officer of Health, Jaffna