

# Knowledge and Attitude on Child Rights among the Caregivers of Childcare Institutions in Udupi District, Karnataka

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## Abstract:

The United Nation Convention on the Rights of Child (UNCRC 1989) ensures the right of all children to live with their parents and grow up in a family environment. Unfortunately millions of children without parental and family care continue to remain within the framework of Child Care Institutions who are further exposed to the problems of institutionalization. Caregivers in the child care institutions are one of the key stakeholders of child rights protection. The main objective of this study is to understand the knowledge and attitude of child rights among the caregivers of children in child care institutions in Udupi District, Karnataka. The study being descriptive in nature, 33 samples were selected by using simple random sampling through lottery method. The researcher wants to measure the knowledge level on child rights and attitude towards Child Rights by using the standardized scale (Child Rights Knowledge Scale (Samridhi *et al.* 2015) and Children's Rights Attitude scale (Stephany L. Morine 2000). While analyzing the data it is clearly evident that more than one fourth (27.3 per cent) of the respondents have low level of attitude towards Child Rights, and less than one fourth (24.2 per cent) of the respondents have high level of attitude towards Child Rights. It is also clearly evident that majority (63.6 per cent) of the respondents have high level of Knowledge about Indian laws related Child Rights and more than one fourth (27.3 per cent) of the respondents have low level of knowledge on Indian laws related Child Rights, less than three fourth (72.7 per cent) of the respondents have average level of knowledge and more than one fourth (27.3 per cent) have low level of knowledge about Child Rights.

**Keywords:** Knowledge, attitude, Child, Child Rights, Caregivers, Child care Institutions

## 1. Introduction

The United Nation Convention on the Rights of Child (UNCRC 1989) ensures the right of all children to live with their parents and grow up in a family environment. In India the JJ Act and the UNCRC uphold the principle of institutionalization being a measure of last resort. Unfortunately, millions of children in India and in other parts of the world are without the family care, are placed within the framework of Child Care Institutions who further face the problems of institutionalization. According to Sec 1 (21) of JJ Act 2015 “child care institution” means Children Home, open shelter, observation home, special home, place of safety, Specialised Adoption Agency and a fit facility recognised under this Act for providing care and protection to children, who are in need of such services. UNICEF estimates that 153 million children globally have lost one or both parents. In 2015 alone 17 million children are displaced across the world. And India has more than 25 millions of orphan and abandoned children. According to the Department of Women and Child Development, Government of Karnataka (2017) there are 834 Registered Child Care Institution in Karnataka State.

Children are placed in institutional care for varied reasons such as separation from their parents and family, victims of parents with HIV/AIDS, natural/manmade disasters, armed conflict, disability, broken family, death of parents, Domestic violence, poverty, children with special needs and social breakdown. Besides orphans, a substantial number of children are out of the family protective net and get institutionalized as abandoned, abused, runaway, and children in conflict with law. Often victims of Child labor, Child marriage and Child beggars also end up in Institutional care as their parents fail in their responsibility towards the care and education of their children.

Children in institutions find themselves at a higher risk of exploitation, abuse and neglect. Their well-being is often insufficiently monitored and they do not receive the type of nurturing and stimulating environment needed for healthy development. Such Children face Physical stunting, Poor social and psychological development and lower IQ level activity. Children living in institutional care often do not develop social networks or skills that are essential in adulthood. They are more likely to have behavioral, physical and mental health problems. The UN Study on Violence against Children (2006) identified care institutions as one of the five settings where violence against children occurs.

Children without parental care are equally entitled to all the rights conferred on them like all other children. Special care and protection of children in Institutional care is the need of the time as the number of children getting placed in institutional care are mounting day by day with the increased family and societal problems. Caregivers in the child care institutions are one of the key stakeholders of child rights protection. Hence

enhanced knowledge and attitude on child rights among caregivers in the child care institutions could facilitate child friendly environment and reduce the vulnerability of children in institutional care.

## 2. Review literature

Save the Children International and the United Nation's Children Fund (2014) in their study on "Child Protection Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices Study" aimed to assess key child protection concerns across Rakhine State, Myanmar. The key objective of the study was to establish a baseline on current levels of community (children and duty bearers) knowledge, attitudes, and practices within the communities. Major finding of the study were that nearly 90% of the respondents said that children are beaten sometimes or often, 13% of them said that girls face sexual abuse, 29% of adults say that child marriage happens sometimes, 50% of respondents say that children are sometimes shouted at or humiliated, 17% of the adults do not agree that parents should spend time with their children, 50% of respondents say 'sometimes' children below 14 years also work without going to school, 40% of adult respondents report that children are sent away or taken for money, 80% of child and adult respondents said that children witness community violence sometimes or often.

Usha Ajithkumar in her study on "Awareness of child rights and their practices among the secondary school teachers of Mumbai in relation to their gender and type of institution. The objective of this paper is to find the child rights awareness and practices among the secondary school teachers of Greater Mumbai. The highlights of the findings are that the awareness and practices of child rights among the nation builders are abysmally poor. Ironically, hardly any study has been conducted in the country to ascertain the knowledge and attitude level on child rights among the caregivers of child care institutions. The present study is an attempt to fill the existing gap.

## 3. Research Methodology

The main aim of this study is to analyze the Knowledge and Attitude on Child Rights among Caregivers of Childcare Institutions in Udupi District, Karnataka. The objectives of the study are; to describes the Demographic Characteristics among caregivers of Childcare institutions, to measure the knowledge level on Child Rights among caregivers of Child care institutions, to assess the attitude on Child Rights among Caregivers of Childcare Institutions and to provide suitable suggestion to improve their knowledge and attitude of caregivers. The study is descriptive in nature. The researcher selected 33 samples by using simple random sampling through lottery method. Child Rights Knowledge Scale by (Samridhi *et al.*2015) originally derived from Child Rights Knowledge Scale (Sarada 2000) rated on Yes/NO type was used to assess the caregivers knowledge on child rights and knowledge on Indian laws on child rights and Children's Rights Attitude scale (Stephany L. Morine2000) originally derived from Rogers &Wrightsmen, 1978) was used to assess the caregivers attitude on child rights. The researcher formulated four hypotheses to test the data, the data was analyzed by using SPSS version 23.

## 4. Analysis and Interpretation

While analyzing of the Demographic characteristics of the respondents it shows that more than one fourth (33.3 per cent) of the respondents belong to the age group of 26-35 years, One fourth (27.3per cent) of the respondents belong to the age group of 36-55 years and more than one fourth (27.3 per cent) of the respondents belong to the age group of 36-55 years and the remaining (12.1 per cent) of the respondents belong to above 56 years of Age. Of the total respondents less than half (45.5 per cent) of the respondents have 1- 9 years of service in the child care institution. More than one fourth (27.3 per cent) of the respondents have more than 26 years of experience, another meager (15.2 per cent) of respondents have 10-25 years of experience and merely (12.1 per cent) of respondents have below one years of experience in the institution where they serve. With regard to the educational qualification of the respondents, majority (60.6 per cent) of the respondents have completed their college education and more than one third (39.4 per cent) of the respondents have completed their school education. More than half (51.5 per cent) of the respondents have received child rights training and the remaining (48.5 per cent) respondents have not received the child rights training.

Regarding the level of child rights Knowledge more than half (63.6 per cent) of the respondents have high level of Knowledge about Indian laws on Child Rights, more than one fourth (27.3 per cent) of the respondents have low level of knowledge on Indian laws on Child Rights and meager (9.1 per cent) of the Respondents have average level of knowledge on child rights laws. It is also evident that less than three fourth (72.7 per cent) of the respondents have average level of knowledge and more than one fourth (27.3 per cent) have low level of knowledge about Child Rights. It is also evident that less than half (48.5 per cent) of the respondents have average level of attitude towards Child Rights. More than one fourth (27.3 per cent) of the respondents have low level of attitude towards Child Rights, and less than one fourth (24.2 per cent) of the respondents have high level of attitude towards Child Rights.

### 5. Major Findings Related to the Hypothesis

Variables		Sum of Squares	df	Mean	Mean Square	F
Attitude	Between Groups	127.763	1	G1 = 195.08	127.763	F= .357 P< 0.05 Not Significant
	Within Groups	11097.873	31	G2 = 191.05	357.996	
Knowledge1	Between Groups	2.553	1	G1 = 8.23	2.553	F = .401 P< 0.05 Not Significant
	Within Groups	197.508	31	G2 = 8.80	6.371	
Knowledge2	Between Groups	13.792	1	G1 = 47.92	13.792	F = 4.562 P< 0.05 Not Significant
	Within Groups	93.723	31	G2 = 46.60	3.023	

G1= School Education G2= College Education

One Way Analysis of Variance among the Educational Qualification of the Respondents with Knowledge and Attitude on Child Rights

The One Way ANNOVA analysis shows that there is no significant difference between educational qualification of the respondents with regard to their Knowledge and Attitude on Child Rights. However the mean value indicates that knowledge about child rights as well as attitude towards Child Rights of respondent with school education is higher than respondents with college education, it is also noted that there is no significant difference between educational qualification of the respondents with regard to their knowledge on Indian laws on Child Rights. The mean value indicates that the level of legal knowledge on Child Rights of respondents with college education is higher than the respondents with school education. The analysis result shows that the F value obtained is less than the table value at 0.05 level of significance. That means it is not significant. Therefore the null hypothesis is accepted and the research hypothesis is rejected.

S. NO	DIMENSION	TRAINING RECIEVED	N	MEAN	STANDARD DEIVATION	SD ERROR MEAN	STATISTICAL INFERENCE
1	Child Rights Attitude	Training Received	17	195.12	12.519	3.036	t=.780 df=31
		Training not Received	16	190.00	23.808	5.952	P>0.05 Not Significant
2	Knowledge on Indian Laws Related to Child Rights	Training Received	17	9.41	1.938	.470	t=-2.080 df=31
		Training not Received	16	7.69	2.774	.327	P>0.05 Not Significant
3	Knowledge on Child Rights	Training Received	17	47.24	1.348	.327	t =.364 df=31
		Training not Received	16	47.00	2.280	.570	P>0.05 Not Significant

Student T Test between the Child Rights Training Received By the Respondents with Knowledge and Attitude on Child Rights

The ‘t’ test analysis display that there is no significant difference between Child Rights Training Received by the Respondents and their Attitude on Child Rights, Knowledge on Indian Laws related to Child Rights and Knowledge on Child Rights. However, the mean values indicate that, in all three variables, the respondents who received training have slightly higher level of knowledge and attitude on Child Rights

The analysis result shows that the ‘t’ value obtained is less than the table value at 0.05 level of significance. That means it is not significant. Therefore the null hypothesis is accepted and the research hypothesis is rejected.

VARIABLE	CORRELATION VALUE	EXTEND OF RELATION SHIP	SATISTICAL INFERENCE
Age and Attitude	.198	low relationship	P>0.05 Not Significant
Age and Knowledge on Law Related to Child Rights	-.245	Negative Low relationship	P>0.05 Not significant
Age and Child Rights Knowledge	.126	Low relationship	P>0.05 Not significant

Karl Pearson Co Efficient of Correlation between Age of the Respondents with Knowledge and Attitude on Child Rights

The Above Karl Pearson Co-efficient test displays that there is no significant relationship between the age

of the respondents and their Knowledge on Indian Laws related to Child Rights, Knowledge on Child Rights and Attitude on Child Rights. The Karl Pearson Co-efficient test value obtained is lesser than the table value at 0.05 level of significance. That means it is not significant. Therefore the null hypothesis is accepted and the research hypothesis is rejected.

VARIABLE	CORRELATION VALUE	EXTEND OF RELATION SHIP	SATISTICAL INFERENCE
Years of Service and Attitude	.273	Low relationship	P>0.05 Not Significant
Years of Service and Knowledge on Law Related to Child Rights	.116	Low relationship	P>0.05 Not significant
Years of Service and Child Rights Knowledge	.170	Low relationship	P>0.05 Not significant

Karl Pearson Co Efficient of Correlation between Years of Service of the Respondents with their Knowledge and Attitude on Child Rights

The Above Karl Pearson Co-efficient test displays that there is no significant relationship between the years of experience of the respondents and their Knowledge on Indian Laws on Child Rights, Knowledge on Child Rights and Attitude on Child Rights. The Kar Pearson Co-efficient test value obtained is lesser than the table value at 0.05 level of significance. That means it is not significant. Therefore the null hypothesis is accepted and the research hypothesis is rejected.

## 6. Suggestions:

1. To ensure absolute child rights protection of children in the institutional care the caregivers need to acquire complete knowledge on child rights legislation. Hence the researcher strongly recommends that the authorities of child care institutions take the responsibility to enrich caregivers on child rights legislation.
2. With regards to Knowledge on Child Rights, the respondents have average and low level of knowledge, such an environment can possibly increase the vulnerability of children in the institutional settings. Hence the researcher strongly recommends for the knowledge based Child Rights training for those who work with children in the child care institutions.
3. As the study reveals that less than one fourth (24.2 per cent) of the respondents have high level of child rights attitude, the researcher strongly recommends for the motivation of the caregivers through focus group discussion approach for enhancing of child rights attitude among the caregivers of child care institutions. Because both average and low level of child rights attitude of caregivers can have negative impact on the wellbeing of children placed in institutional care.

## 7. Conclusion:

Although knowledge and attitude of children's rights are increasing among the different stakeholders of child rights around the world but still there is a greater scope for the betterment in the said area, especially in developing countries like India. The present study is of vital importance as the number of children being placed in institutional care are rising and the vulnerability of such children are increasing. From this point of view the knowledge and attitude of child rights among the caregivers are of immense importance towards wellbeing of children deprived of family care and are living in the institutional settings.

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