

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Intestinal parasitic infection is a group of endemic communicable disease and constitute a major health problem in many countries specially the less developed one. Where they predispose to mal-nourishment and impairment of physical and mental fitness specially among school age children.

The aim of the present study was to assess knowledge and practice of infected school age children suffering from intestinal parasitic infections and their mothers.

The present study was carried out in an out patient pediatric clinic of Benha University hospital.

A-purposive sample of one hundred school age children from both sexes under criteria of confirmed diagnosis by lab investigation for stool sample as intestinal parasitic infection and their accompanying mothers who attended to the above mentioned setting to seek medical advice.

A pre designed interviewing questionnaire sheet was designed by the researcher to gather related data from the study subjects, it contained the following items:

- I-a- Socio-demographic, characteristic about the children and their mothers, it includes (name, age, sex, level of education and rank of child).
- I-b- Data about environmental characteristics and sanitary condition of study sample.

- 2- Children's and their mothers knowledge about intestinal parasitic infection.
- 3- Children and their mothers practice toward prevention of intestinal parasitic infection.

The actual work of the current study started by an initial pilot study that was carried out for ten children and their accompanying mothers for the purpose of testing the content validity and reliability of the study tools, then the necessary modification done, then sample of the pilot study was excluded from the whole study sample.

Data collected through a period of 3 months where the time needed to fill each questionnaire sheet ranged from 10:20 minutes.

The main findings of this study can be summarized as the following:

Nearly two thirds of infected children were in age group 6 <9 years and (58%) of them were male. The present study also revealed that (75%) of them were in different years of basic education and (25%) of them were illiterate.

As regards mother's age (60%) of them were in age group of 30 <40 years. In relation to their education and occupation it was found that (38%) of them were illiterate and (75%) of them were house wives.

The present study showed that family size of (71%) of children and their mothers ranged between 5 to 8 members and monthly income ranged between 100 < 200 pounds/month for (60%) of them.

The present study also reflects that (68%) of infected children and their mothers were lived at houses that surrounded by unpaved streets and (52%) of them were lived in shared house, also number of house rooms ranged between 1<3 rooms as reported by (64%) of them and (43%) of infected children received food from school.

The present study revealed that all infected children and their mothers lived in a rural areas, also as regards to source of water it was found that (59%) of them had unsafe source of water supply from outside house and (58%) of them used improper storage for water while sewage disposal for (60%) of them was by trunch and (54%) of them get ride from their garbage out side house in the street by *Scaven*.

It also noticed that (92%) of infected children and their mothers had birds and animals that reared inside their house as reported by (67%) of them.

The study also revealed that majority of infected children and their mothers were not able to define intestinal parasitic infection correctly as reported by (64%) and (70%) of them respectively.

As regards mode of transmission of intestinal parasitic disease it was found that (54%), (46%) and (37%) of mothers reported eating infected food, swimming in pool and contact with infected persons respectively. While in infected children only (10%) of them stated through swimming in pool. As regards clinical manifestations of intestinal parasitic infection it were unknown to two thirds of children and (82%) of their mothers stated abdominal pain.

As regards knowledge of both children and their mothers about role of home and school in prevention of intestinal parasitic infection it were unknown to [(87%) and (68%)] and [(77%) and (75%)] of them respectively.

The great majority of infected children and their mothers didn't know complication of intestinal parasitic infection as reported by (83%) and (62%) of them respectively.

The present study showed that as regards the main source of their knowledge about intestinal parasitic infection was personal experience and television by mothers while in children they reported television, books and news papers.

As regards mother's practice towards prevention of intestinal parasitic infection it was found that washing hands before and after meals was mentioned as the most common practice of personal hygiene practice and boiling stored water before its drinking was mentioned as the most common practice of water and food hygiene practice, while ventilate house frequently was mentioned as the most common practice of housing sanitation practice.

As regards to children's practice towards prevention of intestinal parasitic infection it was found that washing hands after meals was reported as the main practice of personal hygiene practice and drink tap water was reported as the main practice of water and food hygiene practice while avoid playing in dust was reported as the main practice of environmental sanitation practice.

Findings of the current study showed that there is a significant relation between all socio-demographic characteristics of mothers except age and their knowledge about intestinal parasitic infection, while there is a significant relation between all socio-demographic characteristics of infected children except sex and their knowledge about intestinal parasitic infection. Also this study was revealed that there was a significant difference between all knowledge of mothers and their infected children about intestinal parasitic infection except concept of disease.

Regarding practice of mothers the current study revealed that there was statistical a significant relation between mother's socio-demographic characteristic and their personal hygiene, water & food hygiene and housing sanitation practice. While in children the present study showed that there was statistical a significant relation between children socio-demographic characteristic and their water & food hygiene and environmental sanitation practice and also there was a significant relation between children all socio-demographic data except sex and their personal hygiene practice.

In the light of findings of the current study the following recommendation are suggested, continuous health education based upon need assessment of high risk group of children and their care givers to improve their knowledge and practice regarding intestinal parasitic infections using different teaching methodology is highly required and periodic surveillance of high risk group of children to assess the actual magnitude of intestinal parasitic infection.

CONCLUSION

From the results of the present study it can be concluded that; mothers have satisfactory knowledge about mode of transmission, clinical manifestations and precautions to be followed for prevention from intestinal parasitic infection. While they have unsatisfactory knowledge regarding conception of parasitic infection, laboratory diagnosis, role of home and school in prevention and complications of intestinal parasitic infection.

As regards infected children, they have unsatisfactory knowledge regarding intestinal parasitic infection (conception, mode of transmission, clinical manifestations, precautions, laboratory diagnosis, role of home and school in prevention and complications) of intestinal parasitic infections.

It was found that mother's practice to prevent intestinal parasitic infection are adequate, while their children's practice to prevent intestinal parasitic infection are inadequate.