

Awareness on Child Protection Provisions Among Prospective Teachers at Secondary Level

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Abstract

Education plays a vital role in shaping the overall personality of children and serves as the foundation for their moral, intellectual, emotional, and social development. It acts as a powerful instrument for social progress and national development by fostering rational thinking, responsible citizenship, and inclusive growth. In India, the 21st century has witnessed significant transformations in the education sector, including improved access, reduced dropout rates, enhanced gender equity, increased teacher qualifications, and the expansion of educational institutions. Alongside these developments, the protection and well-being of children have gained increasing importance through the enactment of various legislative measures such as the Child and Adolescent Labour Act, Right to Education Act, Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, Juvenile Justice Act, and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act. Teachers play a crucial role in implementing these child protection provisions and ensuring safe, supportive, and inclusive school environments. However, the effectiveness of these laws largely depends on the awareness and preparedness of educators. The present study focuses on assessing the awareness of child protection provisions among prospective secondary school teachers and examines their readiness to identify, prevent, and respond to cases of abuse and neglect. By strengthening knowledge and professional responsibility among future educators, the study aims to promote safer learning spaces and contribute to the holistic well-being and development of children, thereby fostering a more just, compassionate, and sustainable society.

KEYWORDS: Child Protection Provisions, Prospective Teachers, Secondary level, Inclusive school

1. Introduction

In India, 21st century has marked a significant period of transformation within the education sector. The evolution has led to notable achievements including improvements in employment opportunities across all educational levels, reduction in dropout rates, gender equality in learning environments, a rise in qualified educators across institutions and substantial growth in both the number and reach of educational nationwide.

The Child and Adolescent Labour Act (1986), The Kerala Prohibition of Ragging Act (1998), Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (2006), Right to Education Act (2009), Protection of Children from Sexual Offence Act (2012), The Juvenile Justice Care and Protection Act (2015), The Right of Persons with Disabilities

Act (2016) play a vital role in wellbeing of children which is essential for educators, administrators and teachers to be aware of their roles and responsibilities in implementing the laws and policies. The school should provide a nurturing and supportive space for children to grow and learn, free from harm, abuse and exploitation. This overview of child protection law in the school environment where children can reach their full potential.

As future teachers, it is essential to recognize the role in creating a safe and supportive learning environment for students. Child protection laws and policies in place to ensure the wellbeing and safety of children in schools. The study aims to the child protection provisions among prospective teachers of secondary level with the knowledge and skills necessary to fulfill responsibilities ensuring that your students feel the supported and empowered to succeed.

2. Review of the Related Literature

Shiji (2021) conducted a study on “Awareness on child right among higher secondary school teachers in Kozhikode district. The sample for the study was 14 higher secondary school teachers from various higher secondary schools in Kozhikode district. The researcher used descriptive survey method and questionnaire was used for the data collection tool and the sample was selected through stratified random sampling method. The researcher was carried out 145 samples from Kozhikode district. This study shows that Awareness on child right among higher secondary school teachers in Kozhikode district was average.

Jacob (2017) conducted a study on “Awareness on Child Rights among prospective teachers at elementary level”. A total of 429 prospective teachers at elementary level from Kozhikode, Malappuram and Wayanad district as sample. The sample for the study was 429 prospective teachers at elementary level. The researcher used descriptive survey method and questionnaire was used for data collection. The study says that Prospective Teachers have High awareness on child rights.

Hynniewta et.al (2017) studied about Knowledge and Attitude on Child Abuse among school teachers in selected urban English medium schools of Udipi district. The descriptive survey method is used in this study. The sample for the study was 100 school teachers of urban English medium schools. Tool used for the study are attitude scale for the study. The study found that school teachers have average knowledge on child abuse also have favourable attitude towards child abuse.

Suprabha and Subramanian (2015) conducted a study on “Awareness of Teachers Towards Right to Education Act, 2009 in Kerala. The researcher used standardized questionnaire as tool for the study. The researcher used descriptive survey method for this study. The sample selected for the study are 250 government school teachers. This study says that teachers have average awareness about Right to Education Act 2009. The study also found that teachers belonging to urban area have more aware about the Right to Education act, 2009.

Bhargava and Ahmad (2015) conducted a study on Awareness of Child Right among teachers, parents and children. In this study the researcher used descriptive survey method among different schools in Chandigarh. The researcher used questionnaire as the tool for the study. This study found that teachers, parents and students have low level of awareness on child rights.

3. Statement of The Problem

In recent years, increasing incidents of child abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence have drawn national and global attention to the urgent need for effective child protection mechanism within educational institutions. In the context the present study entitled “**Awareness on Child Protection Provisions Among Prospective Teachers at Secondary Level**” seeks to examine the level of awareness, understanding and preparedness of future secondary school teachers concerning child protection laws, policies and practices. By identifying existing gaps and strengths, the study aims to provide valuable insights for teacher education institutions, curriculum planners and policy makers to enhance training programmes and strengthen child protection mechanisms in schools. This research is therefore both timely and essential in promoting a safe, inclusive and child friendly educational environment.

4. Need of The Study

Children spend a significant portion of their lives within school environments making educational institutions responsible not only for academic instruction but also for ensuring their safety, dignity and overall wellbeing. In recent times, concerns related to child abuse, neglect, bullying and exploitation have increased highlighting the urgent need for strong child protection systems in schools. Teachers play a central role in identifying risks, responding to concerns and creating safe and supportive learning spaces. Therefore, it is essential that future teachers’ posse’s adequate awareness and understanding of child protection provisions. Prospective teachers at the secondary level are at a critical stage of professional preparation. The knowledge and attitudes they develop during their training will influence their future classroom practices and interactions with students. If teacher education programmes do not sufficiently address child protection laws, policies and procedures, teachers may feel unprepared to handle sensitive situations involving children’s safety and rights. This gap may lead to underreporting of abuse, ineffective intervention and continued vulnerability among children.

5. Objectives of the Study:

1. To find out the level of Awareness on Child Protection Provisions among prospective teachers at secondary level.
2. To find out difference in Awareness on Child Protection Provisions among prospective teachers at secondary level for the subgroups based upon their
 - a) Gender
 - b) Locale of the institutions
 - c) Subject of specialization
 - d) Type of management of the institutions

6. Hypotheses of the study:

Hypothesis of the study is based upon the objectives, the hypothesis were framed.

1. There is no significant difference in the mean scores of level of Awareness on Child Protection Provisions among prospective teachers at secondary level.
2. There is no significant difference in the mean scores of level of Awareness on Child Protection Provisions among prospective teachers at secondary level for the subgroup based on Gender.
3. There is no significant difference in the mean scores of level of Awareness on Child Protection Provisions among prospective teachers at secondary level for the subgroup based on Locale of the institutions.
4. There is no significant difference in the mean scores of level of Awareness on Child Protection Provisions among prospective teachers at secondary level for the subgroups based on subject of specialization.
5. There is no significant difference in the mean scores of level of Awareness on Child Protection Provisions among prospective teachers at secondary level for the subgroups based on Type of management of the institutions.

6. Methodology

The present study adopts survey method.

Sample: The sample for the present study consists of 400 prospective teachers at secondary level.

Instruments: Investigator developed Awareness tool on Child Protection Provisions among prospective teachers at secondary level in Kozhikode and Malappuram districts of Kerala state.

Statistical Techniques: In the present study the investigator uses basic descriptive statistics such as mean, median, mode, standard deviation, skewness, kurtosis was examined for the collected data of total sample and subgroups. To analysis of mean variation scores of the researcher used

- ANOVA and ‘t’ – test based on subgroups.
- To analysis of level of Awareness on Child Protection Provisions among prospective teachers at secondary level the researcher used percentage analysis.

Preliminary Analysis

As the first step of analysis the investigator has done the preliminary analysis of scores of Awareness on Child Protection Provisions among prospective teachers at secondary level. For this the statistical constants such as mean, median, mode, standard deviation, skewness and kurtosis were computed for the scores of Awareness on Child Protection Provisions among prospective teachers at secondary level. Descriptive statistics of scores of the variable, Awareness on Child Protection Provisions

among prospective teachers at secondary level are presented in Table 1.1

prospective teachers are .97 which is less than the tabled value of ‘t’, 1.96 at 0.5 level

Table 1.1

Preliminary Analysis for the scores of Awareness on Child Protection Provisions among Prospective Teachers at Secondary Level

Variable	N	Mean	Median	Mode	SD	Skewness	Kurtosis
Awareness on Child Protection Provisions	400	15.21	16.00	18.00	5.00	-.209	-.779

Table 1.1 reveals that the mean obtained for the scores of Awareness on Child Protection Provisions among prospective teachers at Secondary Level is 15.21. The median value of score of Awareness on Child Protection Provisions among prospective teachers at secondary level is 16.00 which means that 50 percent of prospective teachers scored above 16.00 and 50 percent of prospective teachers scored below 16.00 for Awareness on Child Protection Provisions. The standard deviation of scores of Awareness on Child Protection Provisions among prospective teachers is 5.00. Mode is 18.00, which indicates that the most frequently occurring score is 18.00 for the scores of Awareness on Child Protection Provisions among prospective teachers at secondary level.

The indices of skewness for the scores of Awareness on Child protection provision among prospective teachers at secondary level is -.209. This shows that the distribution is almost symmetric. The measure of Kurtosis is -.779 which shows that the distribution is not deviating much from normality. Thus, it can be concluded that the distribution of scores of Awareness on Child Protection Provisions among prospective teachers at Secondary Level is almost normal. The distribution of scores of Awareness on Child Protection Provisions among prospective teachers at secondary level is graphically plotted in Figure 1.

Figure 1

Graphical Representation of Frequency Distribution of Scores of Awareness on Child Protection Provisions Among Prospective Teachers at Secondary Level

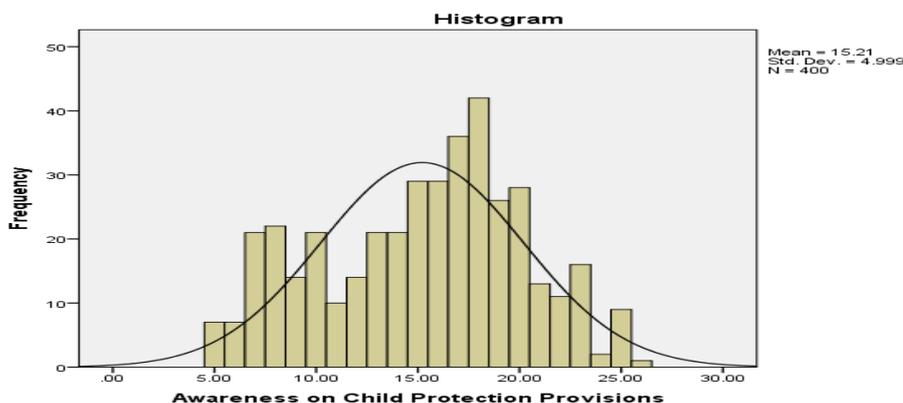


Figure 1 shows visual inspection of histogram with normal curve for scores of Awareness on Child Protection Provisions among prospective teachers at secondary level reveals that distribution of scores is approximately normally distributed Standard error (SE) of mean is 0.245. A small value of SE shows that the population mean is not highly deviating from the sample value. This is the population mean can be assumed as 15.21. In order to get Major analysis about the distribution of awareness on child protection provisions among prospective teachers at secondary level, percentiles are calculated and are presented in Table 1.2

Table 1.2

Percentile scores of Awareness on Child Protection Provisions Among Prospective Teachers at Secondary Level

Percentiles	Scores	Mean
P ₁₀₀	8.00	
P ₉₀	10.00	
P ₈₀	13.00	
P ₇₀	15.00	
P ₆₀	16.00	
P ₅₀	17.00	15.21
P ₄₀	18.00	
P ₃₀	19.80	
P ₂₀	21.00	
P ₁₀	26.00	

Table 1.2 shows that the mean scores of Awareness on Child Protection Provisions among prospective teachers at secondary level is 15.21. Table 4 also reveals that the percentile scores for every tenth percentile i.e.; P₁₀, P₂₀, P₃₀, P₄₀, P₅₀, P₆₀, P₇₀, P₈₀, P₉₀, P₁₀₀. The 10th percentile score of Awareness on Child Protection Provisions is 26.00. It means that scores of Awareness on Child Protection Provisions of 10 percent of prospective teachers lie below the score of 26.00. The 50th percentile score of Awareness on Child Protection Provisions among prospective teachers is 17.00. It means that the scores of Awareness on Child Protection Provisions of 50 percent of prospective teachers lie below the score of 17.00. The 90th percentile scores of Awareness on Child Protection Provision among prospective teachers is 10.00. It means that the scores of awareness on child protection provision of 90 percent of prospective teachers lie below the score 10.00. In a similar way we can interpret all other percentiles.

Major Analysis

Mean Difference Analysis of subgroups Based on Gender of the Prospective Teachers and Locale of the Institutions

In this section investigator tested the mean difference of Awareness on Child Protection Provisions among prospective teachers at secondary level for the subgroups based on gender of the prospective teacher and locale of the institutions. For this test of significance of difference between mean scores of two large independent sample were used. Details of the analysis are given in Table 1.3

Table 1.3

Data and Results of the Test of significance of Difference between Mean scores of Awareness on Child Protection Provisions among prospective teachers at secondary level based on Gender of the prospective teachers and Locale of the institutions.

	Group	N	Mean	SD	t-value
Gender	Male	43	15.9	5.35	
	Female	357	15.12	4.95	.97
Locale	Urban	254	15.09	5.03	
	Rural	146	15.40	4.94	.59

Table 1.3 reveals that the mean scores of Awareness on child Protection Provisions, the 't' value obtained for the test of significance of mean difference on Awareness on Child Protection Provisions among prospective teachers at secondary level for the subgroup based on gender of. Hence the difference in mean score of male and female is not significant even at .05 level. Thus, it is evident that the male and female prospective teachers do not differ in the mean scores on Awareness on Child Protection Provisions among prospective teachers at secondary level.

The t value obtained for the test of significance of mean difference on Awareness on Child Protection Provisions among prospective teachers at secondary level for the subgroup based on locale of the institutions of prospective teachers is .59 which is less than the tabled value of t, 1.96 at 0.50 level. Hence the difference in mean scores of urban and rural is not significant at 0.5 level. That is urban and rural prospective teachers do not differ in the mean scores of Awareness on Child Protection Provisions among prospective teachers at secondary level.

Mean Difference Analysis of Awareness on Child Protection Provisions of prospective teachers for the Subgroups Based on Subject of Specialization

In order to test whether the prospective teachers differ significantly in their Awareness on Child Protection Provisions among prospective teachers at secondary level on their type Subject of specialization, One Way ANOVA is executed. The details are presented in Table 1.4

Table 1.4

Comparison of the Mean scores of Awareness on Child Protection Provisions Among Prospective Teachers at Secondary Level Based on Subject of specialization.

	Sum of squares	Df	Mean square	F-Value	Level of significance
Between Groups	64.312	3	21.437	.857	NS
Within Groups	9908.048	396	25.020		
Total	9972.360	399			

Table 1.4 shows that the F-Value obtained for Awareness on Child Protection Provisions among prospective teachers at secondary level for the subgroups based on Subject of specialization is .857 for Df (3,396) which is less than the tabled value of F (2.63). Thus, it can be concluded that there exists no significant difference in the mean scores of Awareness on Child Protection Provisions among prospective teachers at secondary level for the subgroups based on Subject of specialization – Language, Science, Social Science and Commerce.

Mean Difference Analysis of Awareness on Child Protection Provisions of prospective teachers for the Subgroups based on Type of Management of the Institutions

In order to test whether the prospective teachers at secondary level differ significantly in their Awareness on Child Protection Provisions based on type of management of institutions, one-way ANOVA is executed. The details are presented in table 1.5

Table 1.5

	Sum of squares	Df	Mean square	F-Value	Level of Significance
Between Groups	99.594	2	49.797	2.00	.136
Within Groups	9872.766	397	24.868		
Total	9972.360	399			

Table 1.5 reveals that F-Value obtained for Awareness on Child Protection Provisions among prospective teachers at secondary level for the subgroups based on type of management is 2.00 for Df

(2,397) which is less than the tabled value of F (3.02). Thus, it can be concluded that there exists no significant difference in the mean scores of Awareness on Child Protection Provisions among prospective teachers at secondary level for the subgroups based on type of management of the institutions.

From this it is clear that the results of the analysis revealed that scores of Awareness on Child Protection Provisions of 10 percent of prospective teachers lie below the score of 26.00. The 50th percentile score of Awareness on Child Protection Provisions among prospective teachers is 17.00. It means that the scores of Awareness on Child Protection Provisions of 50 percent of prospective teachers lie below the score of the 90th percentile score of Awareness on Child Protection Provisions among prospective teachers is 10.00. It means that the scores of Awareness on Child Protection Provisions of 90 percent of prospective teachers lie below the score 10.00. The results of mean difference analysis indicated that there is no significant difference in the mean scores of Awareness on Child Protection Provisions among prospective teachers at secondary level for the subgroups based on gender, locale of the institutions, subject of specialization, type of management of the institutions.

Major Findings of the study

- The extent of level of Awareness on Child Protection Provisions among prospective teachers at secondary level are having low.
- While comparing the Awareness on Child Protection Provisions among prospective teachers at secondary level between boys and girls the 't'-value is .97 which is less than table value 1.96 at 0.5 level. Since the 't'-value obtained is less than the tabled value, there exists no significant difference in the mean score of Awareness on Child Protection Provisions among prospective teachers at secondary level. There is no significant difference of gender on Awareness on Child Protection Provisions among prospective teachers at secondary level.
- While comparing the Awareness on Child Protection Provisions among prospective teachers at Secondary level between Locale Urban and Rural the 't'-value obtained .59 which is less than the table value 1.96 at 0.5 level. Since, the 't'-value obtained is less than the table value, there exists no significant difference in the mean scores of Awareness on Child Protection Provisions among prospective teachers at secondary level. There is no significant difference of locale of the Institutions on Awareness on Child Protection Provisions among prospective teachers at secondary level.
- The result of one-way ANOVA for Awareness on Child Protection Provisions among prospective teachers at secondary level for the sub group based on type of management reveals that the 'F' value (2.0) which is less than the table value (3.02) at 0.5 level. That mean there exists no significant difference in the Awareness on Child Protection Provisions among prospective teachers at secondary level based on type of management of the Institutions.
- The result of one-way ANOVA for Awareness on Child Protection Provisions among prospective teachers at secondary level for the sub group based on subject of specialization reveals that the 'F' value (.857) which is less than the table value 2.63 at 0.5 level. That mean there exists no significant difference in the Awareness on Child Protection Provisions among prospective teachers at secondary

level based on subject of specialization.

Conclusion:

- The distribution of the variable Awareness on Child Protection Provisions among prospective teachers at secondary level is approximately normal. From the analysis it is found that majority of prospective teachers are having low level of awareness on child protection provisions. Its emphasis the current level of Awareness on Child Protection Provisions among prospective teachers at secondary level.
- The result indicated that the Awareness on Child Protection Provisions among prospective teachers at secondary level do not differ on the sub sample based on gender and locale of the Institutions. Here we can say that gender and locale of the Institutions do not affect the Awareness on child protection provisions among prospective teachers. While examining other subsample the type of management of the Institutions and subject of specialization, shows that there exists no significant difference in Awareness on Child Protection Provisions among prospective teachers at secondary level. Here, we can say that subject of specialization and type of management of the Institutions. do not affect the Awareness on Child Protection Provisions among prospective teachers at secondary level.
- The present study was intended to find out the Awareness on Child Protection Provisions among prospective teachers' secondary level. The study reveals that prospective teachers have low level Awareness on Child Protection Provisions for the subgroup based on gender, locale of the Institutions, type of management of the Institutions and subject of specialization. So, it can be said that by giving proper general orientation with regard to child protection provisions as part of B.Ed. curriculum. We can make prospective teachers more aware on child protection provisions. The investigator concludes that child rights should also be taught to prospective teachers. The result of the study supported the previous studies of Awareness Test in various studies as reported by Anu (2014).

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