EP019

BARRIERS OF HOME INJURY PREVENTION PRACTICE AMONG PARENTS OF UNDER-FIVE CHILDREN

MINISTRY OF HEALTH MALAYSIA
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Introduction

Home injury in the likes of fall, drowning, burns, suffocation and poisoning remain a public health burden despite being largely preventable. When occured among under-five children, it is highly fatal(1). While the causes are multifactorial, parents poor prevention practice was a huge contributor to its occurrence(2). Parents barrier and challenges are yet to be explored in the local setting.



Objectives

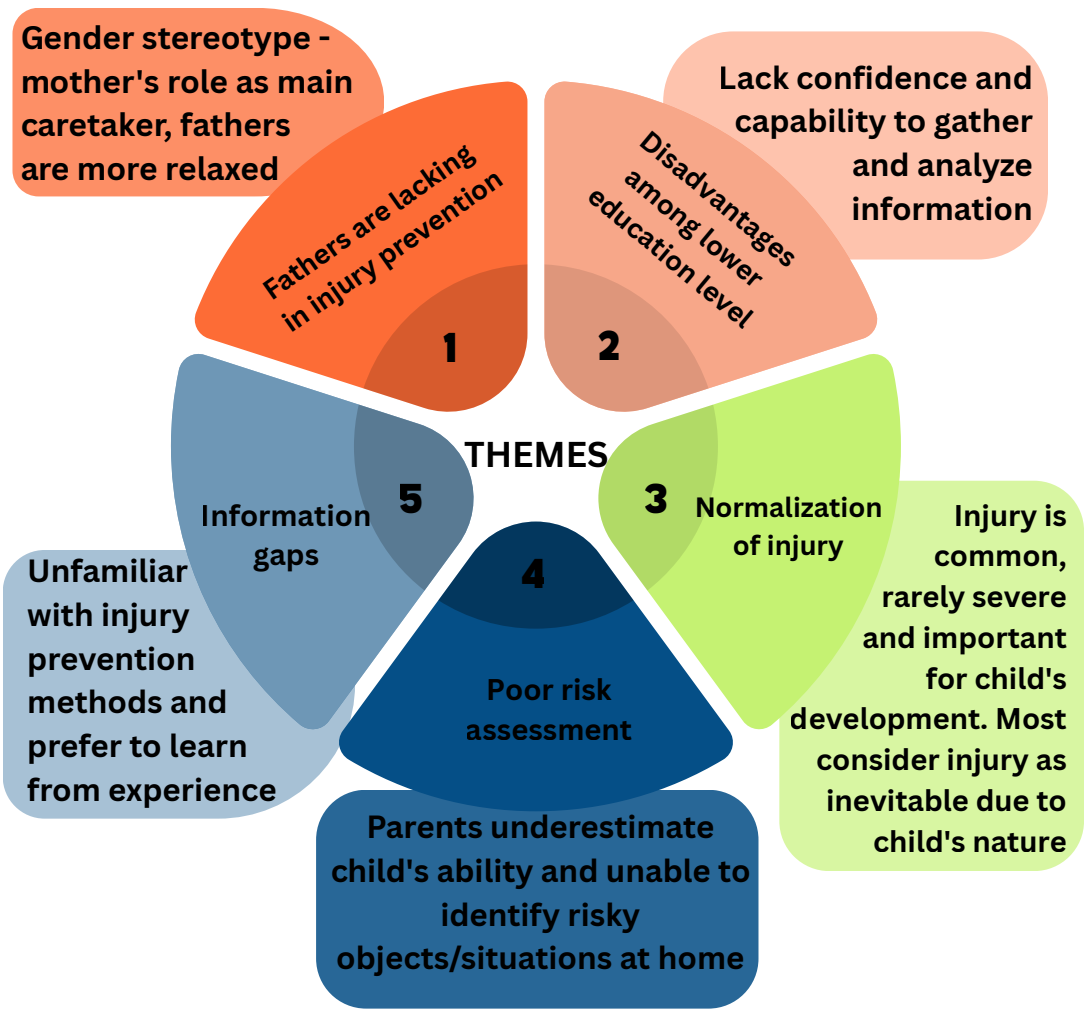
This study aimed to explore the barriers of carrying out home injury prevention practice among parents of under-five children in North Seberang Perai District, Penang.

Methodology

- A qualitative case studies of 15 parents of under-five children with poor prevention practice were sampled purposively among those who attended mother child health unit in North Seberang Perai government health clinics.
- A semi-structured interview was carried out using the help of an interview guide and recorded using voice recorder.
- Sampling stopped after achieving saturation point. Thematic analysis was used to generate findings.

Results

Interviews among six male and nine female Malay parents ranging between 24 and 38 year old with last education of SPM yielded five themes:



Nampak isterilah..(yang lebih baik dalam pencegahan kecederaan). Dia lebih kepada (menjaga) anak, saya buat kerja rumah.

Mr. N, 29-year-old Malay

Cegah tu memang kita cuba cegah, tapi perkara tu mungkin akan berlaku lagi. Walaupun kita cuba macam mana pun kan, kemungkinan akan berlaku lagi..

Mr. SH
32-year-old
Malay

Kalau anak tersedak, takkan nak katuk (tepuk) belakang kot, budak (kecil lagi) kan?

Mrs. A, 28-year-old Malay

Discussion and Conclusion

1. Consistent with this study, fathers were found to be less involved with their children compared to mothers (3) and more lenient in parenting (4).
2. Parents defended themselves as being less resourceful, supported by a qualitative study which shows educated mothers as more capable and good at carrying measures at home(5).
3. Religious belief influenced parent's attitude towards injury, perceiving it as fate. Similarly, a study among Muslim community in Palestine shared the same sentiment. Learning curve and shared responsibility also emerged and supported by previous studies (3,6)
4. Parents are lacking in risk assessment and only deemed prevention important if involving height or speed (7)
5. Parent's lack of awareness regarding self-insufficiency is evident as found by another qualitative study(8).
6. Safety measures such as window grill and kitchen barrier are considered costly, which calls for government to enforce specific protective design on home developer.
7. Strength of the study is providing local viewpoint while it's limitation is lacking in other ethnicity perspective.
8. In conclusion, parents with poor prevention practice are dictated by cultural norms, belief and passivity. Injury prevention awareness campaign must be carried out to improve safety at home.

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