



# Assessment Of Knowledge Regarding Prevention Of Chickenpox Among Mothers Of Under-Five Children In Selected Anganwadi Centers Of Rani Block, Kamrup, Assam

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## Abstract

**Background:** Chickenpox (varicella) is a highly contagious viral disease affecting children, especially under five years. Mothers play a crucial role in prevention and early management.

## Objectives:

1. To assess the knowledge regarding prevention of chickenpox among mothers of under-five children.
2. To find association between knowledge and selected demographic variables.

## Methods:

A descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted among 50 mothers in selected Anganwadi centres of Rani Block, Kamrup, Assam. Convenience sampling technique was used. Data were collected using a structured questionnaire and analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics (Chi-square test).

## Results:

- Majority (66%) had **moderate knowledge**, 16% had **good knowledge**, and 8% had **poor knowledge**.
- Mean knowledge score: **14.32 ± 4.09**
- Significant association found with **marital status (p=0.0139)** and **religion (p=0.0028)**.
- No significant association with other variables.

## Conclusion:

Most mothers had moderate knowledge, indicating need for **health education programs** to improve awareness and preventive practices.

**Keywords:** Chickenpox, Knowledge, Mothers, Under-five children, Prevention, Anganwadi

## Introduction

Chickenpox (varicella) is an acute, highly infectious disease caused by the varicella-zoster virus. It is characterized by fever, malaise, and vesicular rash. The disease spreads through respiratory droplets and direct contact with lesions.

Although usually mild in children, complications such as pneumonia, encephalitis, and secondary infections may occur, particularly in immunocompromised individuals.

In India, chickenpox remains a public health concern due to:

- Poor hygiene
- Lack of awareness
- Inadequate vaccination coverage

Mothers are the primary caregivers and play a vital role in:

- Early identification
- Prevention
- Home management

Hence, assessing their knowledge is essential to reduce morbidity among under-five children.

## Objectives

1. To assess knowledge regarding prevention of chickenpox among mothers of under-five children.
2. To determine association between knowledge and selected demographic variables.

## Hypotheses

- **H1:** Mothers have some knowledge regarding prevention of chickenpox.
- **H2:** There is a significant association between knowledge and demographic variables.

## Methodology

### Research Approach

Descriptive research approach.

### Research Design

Cross-sectional survey design.

### Setting

Selected Anganwadi centres, Rani Block, Kamrup, Assam.

### Population

Mothers of under-five children.

### Sample Size

50 mothers.

### Sampling Technique

Convenience sampling.

### Inclusion Criteria

- Mothers with under-five children
- Able to read and write Assamese

### Exclusion Criteria

- Mothers who cannot read/write Assamese

## Tool Description

### Part I: Demographic Data

Includes age, education, occupation, income, religion, family type, etc.

### Part II: Knowledge Questionnaire

- 25 multiple-choice questions
- Score:
  - Good: 17–25
  - Moderate: 10–16
  - Poor: 1–9

### Data Collection Procedure

- Permission obtained from authorities
- Verbal consent taken
- Data collected in August 2025

### Data Analysis

- Descriptive statistics: frequency, percentage, mean, SD
- Inferential statistics: Chi-square test

### Ethical Considerations

- Permission obtained
- Confidentiality maintained
- Informed consent taken

### Results

#### Knowledge Level

- Moderate: **66%**
- Good: **16%**
- Poor: **8%**

**Mean Score:** 14.32

**SD:** 4.09

### Association Findings

Significant association:

- Marital status ( $p=0.0139$ )
- Religion ( $p=0.0028$ )

No significant association with:

- Age
- Education
- Occupation
- Income
- Family type
- Number of children

## Discussion

The study revealed that most mothers had moderate knowledge, similar to findings from other studies where awareness was not adequate.

Educational interventions have been shown to improve knowledge significantly, indicating the importance of structured health education.

Low awareness regarding vaccination highlights the need for strengthening immunization programs.

## Conclusion

The study concludes that:

- Majority of mothers have moderate knowledge
- Knowledge gaps still exist
- Health education programs are essential

## Recommendations

- Conduct regular health education sessions
- Strengthen Anganwadi awareness programs
- Promote vaccination campaigns
- Develop IEC materials (booklets, posters)

## Limitations

- Small sample size
- Limited to one geographical area
- Convenience sampling limits generalization

