KNOWLEDGE AND UTILIZATION OF AVAILABLE SOCIAL SECURITY MEASURES AMONG MOTHERS OF CHILDREN WITH CHRONIC ILLNESS, ADMITTED IN SAT HOSPITAL, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

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Background and rationale: Social security measures have a two-fold significance in health sector. Proper utilization of social security measures helps to reduce the economic burden of family. The study was intended to identify the knowledge and utilization of available social security measures among mothers of children with chronic illness, who were admitted in pediatric neurology, nephrology, medical and OPD of SAT Hospital Thiruvananthapuram. **Methods:** The objective of the study were to assess the knowledge level of mothers of children with chronic illness regarding available social security measures ,and to assess the level of utilization of social security measures of mothers of children with chronic illness. A quantitative Descriptive study was conducted among 60 mothers of children who were admitted in pediatric neurology, nephrology, medical and OPD of SAT Hospital Trivandrum. Semi-structured questionnaire was used to assess their knowledge and utilization of available social security measures. The data obtained was analyzed using appropriate statistical methods and interpreted accordingly. **Results:** Among the 60 participants under study 1.65% of mothers had good knowledge, 20% had average knowledge, 78.32% had poor knowledge about the available social security measures. Among the 60 mothers 86.66% had average utilization, 13.33% had poor utilization of available social security measures. From the chi square test, there is significant association between religion and knowledge of mothers about available social security measures. **Conclusion:** The study revealed a significant association between the knowledge and selected socio demographic data. Nurses as the vital professional caregivers must be able to make significant contribution to improve their knowledge and utilization of social security measures by providing education.