

# A Study to Assess the Knowledge Regarding “Effects of Consanguineous Marriage on Offspring” Among Adolescent Girls in Selected Schools at Salem

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**Abstract:** A descriptive cross sectional study was undertaken to assess the knowledge regarding “Effects of consanguineous marriage on offspring “on among adolescent girls in a selected school, Salem”. 60 adolescents were selected by purposive sampling technique and data was collected by using structured questionnaire. The demographic characteristic of adolescent girls reveals that highest percentage of adolescents was belonged to the age group of 16-17years (48%), Hindu (56%), similar percentage (42% each) of them were from nuclear family. Further 38% of them had the family monthly income of Rs.3001-5000 and 52% of them had information from friends and family members.

Area wise and overall distribution of Mean, SD and Mean percentage of the knowledge scores shows that out of 3 areas highest mean score was  $2.4 \pm 16.7$  which is 50% of them had average knowledge a regarding Effects of consanguineous marriage on offspring

## **INTRODUCTION:**

In human societies marriages usually occur within quite narrow geographical boundaries, which effectively limit the degree to which genes are transmitted. Genetic admixture is further restricted by positive assortative mating, i.e., by individuals choosing a marriage partner not only from the same geographical area but also with similar physical characteristics, religious clans or tribes largely remains in the rule in more traditional societies, and marital endogamy also is strongly favoured in many migrant communities resident in western countries.

BLOOD RELATED marriages are called consanguineous marriages – sanguine meaning blood. According to the World Health Organization Guidelines, a consanguineous marriage is defined as a marriage between people who are second cousins or more closely related.

## **NEED FOR THE STUDY**

It is estimated that globally about 20% of the human population live in communities with a preference for consanguineous marriages, and that at least 8.5% of children have consanguineous parents. Prenatal mortality and infant mortality are important indicators of community health, consanguineous marriages increases the risk of having children with autosomal recessive disorders and may be a cause of prenatal and infant death that cannot be prevented.

The awareness with regard to the hazards of consanguineous marriages was very low (7.6%). It would also be advisable to avoid consanguineous marriages in families where already a child with an autosomal recessive disorder has been born. A study conducted 1000 families were interviewed during 2000 in the city in Denizil, which is situated in western Anatolia and has a population of 79,211 families. The overall rate of consanguinity was 11.7%, which mean inbreeding coefficient of 0.00873.

A study conducted on consanguineous marriages and their effects on common adult diseases: studies from an endogamous population to determine the extent and nature of consanguinity in the Qatari population and its effects on common adult diseases. The study was conducted in urban and semi-urban areas of Qatar between October 2004 and May 2005. The total sample of 1,050 married Qatari females 15 years of age and over were approached for study.

## **STATEMENT OF PROBLEM**

A study to assess the knowledge regarding “Effects of consanguineous marriage on offspring” among adolescent girls in selected schools at Salem.

**OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

- ❖ To assess the knowledge regarding effects of consanguineous marriage on offspring among adolescent girls.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

- ❖ **Research Design:** Descriptive design was used for the study.
- ❖ **Research Approach :** Evaluative approach was used for the study.
- ❖ **Setting:** Study was conducted in selected higher secondary schools insalem.
- ❖ **Population :** The population selected are adolescent 16-18 years of age.
- ❖ **Method of Collection of Data**
- ❖ Interview will be conducted between 9am to 2pm. Data will be collected from five samples per day. The duration of the study will be four weeks. The duration of 30 minutes will be spend per each subject.
- ❖ **Sampling Procedure:** Purposive sampling will be used for the study.
- ❖ **Sample Size :** The sample size is 60.

- ❖ **Tool :** A structure questionnaire to assess the knowledge regarding “Effects of consanguineous marriage on offspring” among adolescent girls

**RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

The highest percentage of adolescents were belonged to the age group of 16-17years (48%), Hindu (56%), similar percentage (42% each) of them were from nuclear family. Further 38% of them had the family monthly income of Rs.3001-5000 and 52% of them had information from friends and family members.

Area wise and overall distribution of Mean, SD and Mean percentage of the knowledge scores shows that out of 3 areas highest mean score was  $2.4 \pm 16.7$  which is 50% of them had average knowledge a regarding Effects of consanguineous marriage on offspring

**Assessment of level of knowledge of the adolescent girls regarding Effects of consanguineous marriage on offspring**

**Table No. 4.1.1 : Distribution of adolescent girls according to their level of knowledge regarding Effects of consanguineous marriage on offspring**

S. No.	Level of knowledge	Number	Percentage (%)
1	Very poor (1-4)	8	16
2	Poor (5-8)	8	16
3	Average (9-12)	21	42
4	Good (13-17)	10	20
5	Excellent (18-22)	3	6
	Total	50	100

Distribution of adolescents according to their level of knowledge regarding hazards of plastic use shows that highest percentage (42 %) of them had average knowledge, 20% of them had good knowledge and similar percentage (16%) of them had very poor and poor knowledge and only 6% of them excellent knowledge regarding Effects of consanguineous marriage on offspring (Table No. 4.2.1).

**CONCLUSION**

The present study concluded that the adolescence has average knowledge regarding Effects of consanguineous marriage on offspring. Hence the study interpreted that the investigator need to conduct experimental study to assess the knowledge and prevent the complications of consanguineous marriage.

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