

## An Educational Program for Mothers to Protect their Children from Sexual Harassment

**Wafaa Fatouh, Nawal Mahmmoud Soliman, Nadia Hamed, Hala Mohamed**  
Community Health Nursing department-Faculty of Nursing- Ain Shams University.

### Abstract

**Background:** Sexual harassment is a real and serious problem that can affect any child or youth regardless of gender, race, religion, ethnic, age groups and occurs at all socioeconomic levels. **Aim of the study** was to evaluate the effect of an educational program for mothers to protect their children from sexual harassment. **Research design:** A quasi experimental design was used, **setting:** The study was conduct at Shoubra maternal and child health care center it selected randomly from Shoubra district in Cairo governorate. **Sample:** A purposive sample of 110 mother their children age from 4 to 18years, regardless the gender. The **tools** of this study included, an interviewing questionnaire for mothers to assess mothers knowledge and behaviors. **Results:** findings of the present study, revealed that, there were highly statistically significant differences between pre and post educational program related to mothers' knowledge and behaviors. There were improvement of the mothers' knowledge and behaviors after the program implementation. **conclusion** the mothers improved their knowledge and behaviors related to protection of their children from sexual harassment. **Recommendation:** The sexual harassment educational program must be provided for all parents of children to improve their knowledge about sexual harassment, an-orientation program for newly mothers to improve mothers knowledge level about sexual harassment and mass media could efficiently be utilized to offer specific educational programs to community to raise the mothers' knowledge about protection of their children from sexual harassment.

**Keyword:** Child, Sexual Harassment, Educational Program

### Introduction

Child sexual harassment is far more prevalent than most people realize. Child sexual harassment is likely the most prevalent health problem children abused before they turn 18. This year, there will be about 400,000 babies born in the U.S. that will become victims of child sexual abuse unless we do something to stop it (*Townsend, 2013*).

The total number of children in the world is estimated as 2.2 billion, In Egypt according to demographics Profile 2014, Proportion of Population under 17 years of age (0-17 years) is 37.1% of total population. Children constitute a large segment of the population, they are a vulnerable to

victimization because they are smaller, weaker, and less sophisticated compared with the older, aggressive, and crafty offender (*UNICEF, 2015*).

The definition of child sexual harassment is broader than most people realize. Often a traumatic experience for children and teens, child sexual abuse is a criminal offense punishable by law in many societies. Child sexual harassment includes any sexual act between an adult and a minor, or between two minors, when one exerts power over the other, forcing, coercing or persuading a child to engage in any type of sexual act and non-contact acts such as exhibitionism, exposure to pornography, voyeurism, and communicating in a sexual manner by phone or Internet (*Townsend, 2013*).

Understanding healthy child sexual development is very important to prevent child sexual harassment or abuse. Many adults don't know what to expect as children develop sexually, which can make it hard to differentiate between healthy and unhealthy behaviors (*National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC), 2013*).

Protection of children from harassment is considered an important contemporary goal. This includes protecting children from exploitation such as child labor, child trafficking and selling, child sexual abuse, including child prostitution and child pornography, military use of children, and child laundering in illegal adoptions. There exist several international instruments for these purposes. There is a normal process by which children develop sexually and emotionally. This takes place from infancy. A key aspect of this process is children's curiosity. Children have a natural desire to learn about their bodies, their emotions and those of others (*Jewkes, 2015*).

Mothers are often the first source of information for children when it comes to education about their bodies, safety and sex. Due to their close relationship and the influence they have on their children's lives, mothers should have an active role in child sexual harassment prevention (*Tessier et al., 2015*).

Sexual harassment is a real and serious problem that can affect any child or youth regardless of gender, race, religion, ethnic, age groups and occurs at all socioeconomic levels. It can threaten physical or emotional wellbeing, influence school performance, and make it difficult to achieve career goals. Sexual harassment is one form of sexual violence against children which is a significant problem in many low- and middle-income countries (*Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 2015*).

The nursing role in early identification and intervention in child sexual harassment is a critical one and it embraces all areas of clinical practice. The signs and symptoms may be subtle, the legal responsibilities unclear, and the family dynamics complex. The role of professionals who work to support and protect vulnerable children and victims of child sexual harassment is vital, which is essential that nurses take this opportunity to contribute to the process of reforming procedures for tackling this issue. School nurses are involved in prevention, early identification, reporting, and treatment related to child sexual harassment because of their opportunity to interact with children on a daily basis (*Kirtley, 2013*).

#### **Significance of the Study:**

In Egypt the global prevalence of child sexual harassment has been estimated at 18% from the total number of children. The National Council for Childhood and Motherhood indicates that 18% of the children had been subjected to sexual harassment, and that 35% of the incidents the offender was a relative of the child, and responsible for the protection. According to a 2009 study published in *Clinical Psychology Review* that examined 65 studies from 22 countries. Using the available data, the highest prevalence rate of child sexual abuse geographically was found in Africa (34.4%), found 19.6% of female students and 21.1% of male students aged 11-16 years. Rates among 16-year-olds were 28.8% in females and 25.4% in males they were children 1 in 5 girls and 1 in 20 boys is a victim of child sexual abuse (*Gutmacher Institute, 2010*).

In Egypt official reports suggest that violence and sexual assaults against children have increased in recent years, The National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM) has documented 206 cases of "sexual harassment and rape" on children between 2011 and 2014, 138 of the incidents

were carried out against girls, with the rest suffered by boys (*El-Ashmawy,2014*).

### **Aim of the Study**

This study aims to evaluate the effect of an educational program for mother's knowledge and behaviors to protect their children from sexual harassment.

#### **Research hypothesis:**

The educational program will improve the knowledge and behaviors of mothers to protect their children from sexual harassment.

#### **Subjects and methods**

##### **Research Design:**

A quasi-experimental design was used to conduct this study,

##### **Setting:**

This study was carried out at Shoubra district health care center (El Maksy) was selected randomly from Shoubra district in Cairo Governorate.

##### **Target Population:**

The target population of this study included A purposeful sample, consisting of (110) mothers attended to the selected center have children from 4 to 18 years.

##### **Sample Size:-**

Purposive randomly sample technique were used for selection of one maternal and child health care center, the total number of MCHs in Cairo Governorate at the level of urban maternal and child care centers at Shubra district (2) in Cairo governorate; and the researcher has chosen randomly one of them for this study, the MCH center of First

Shubra maternal and child care center (El Maksy).

The total number of mothers attended to the selected center (El Maksy) were 5348 mother monthly, from this number, there were 2208 mother satisfying the study criteria. The study inclusion criteria was the age of mother's children from 4 to 18 years, regardless the gender. The sample in this study was 5% of total number (110 mother) in selected center according to the study criteria

#### **Tools of Data Collection**

**Tool of the study:** A structured interview questionnaire, developed by the researcher based on literature review, and written in simple clear Arabic language, to assess mothers back ground and their knowledge regarding the protection of their children from sexual harassment.

#### **It consists of three parts:**

**Part one:** Socio - demographic characteristics of mothers and their children: It includes 9 questions for mothers to assess the socio- demographic characteristics of mothers and their children as age of mothers, child age, marital status, educational level of the parent, family income and previous exposure to sexual harassment, if joining in educational program about sexual harassment and providing education for child about sexual harassment protection, which presented in questions from Q1 to Q9.

**Part two:** Mother's knowledge regarding to children sexual development and characteristics. Johnson, (2013), (NSVRC, 2013) and Hagan et al. (2008); it included sexual developmental stages of children from 4 to 18 years, mothers past experience and knowledge about sexual harassment it included meaning, a person who harasser children, forms of sexual harassment, places of sexual harassment, its factors, the effect of

sexual harassment which presented in questions from Q 10 to Q 22.

➤ **Scoring system:**

The total items of mothers' knowledge (13 questions) the scoring system was followed according to the outcome of the mother's knowledge in answering the questions. The studied participants' knowledge was calculated for each item as follows: 'Complete answer' being scored as 3 point, 'Incomplete answer' as 2 points and 'Don't know' as 1 point. The total scoring of knowledge was less than 60% indicates unsatisfactory level and more than 60% indicates satisfactory level.

**Part three:** It included questions to assess mother's behaviors toward life practices which contribute to protection of their children from sexual harassment National guidelines task force, *National Child Traumatic Stress Network, (2009), Hagan et al. (2008) and Horner, (2004)*. This part included mother's behaviors toward ways and life practices for child protection from the sexual harassment phenomenon as touching, avoid kissing or touching child, private body parts (buttock or genitals), bathing, washing teach the child how to clean his/her genitals by him or herself, privacy, help child begin to understand how to interact respectfully with others and sleeping pattern, avoid the child sleeping in the parent's bed,' and disperse between boys and girls in their beds during sleeping, which presented in questions number 23 and 24.

➤ **Scoring system:**

The questionnaire included 13 items on a 3-point ranging from (always), (sometimes) to (never). The studied participants' knowledge was calculated for each item as follows: 'always' being scored as 3 point, 'Sometimes' as 2 points and 'Never' as 1 point. The total score range was (13-39), and a higher score indicated a more positive

behaviors toward sexual harassment prevention education. A total score < 60% indicates unsatisfactory level while  $\geq 60\%$  indicates satisfactory level.

**Field work:**

**A- Preparatory phase**

A review of the current and past available literature, covering the various aspects of the problem, using textbooks, articles, magazines and internet search was done, to assess in the development of data collection tool and the preparation of educational program.

**B- Pilot study**

A pilot study was conducted on 10% (11 mothers) from total sample of the mothers to evaluate the clarity, visibility, and time required to fulfill the tool that was used. According to the obtained results, modification as omissions, additions, and rewording was done. These were excluded from the study sample.

**C. Content validity:**

A panel of five experts from the Public Health Department, Faculty of Nursing, Ain Shams University, reviewed the tools for its clarity, relevance, comprehensiveness, understanding and applicability.

**D. Field work:**

Approvals were obtained from the directors of maternal and child health care center (El Maksy) to get their agreement to conduct the study.

**Ethical consideration:**

An informed consent was taken from each client who agreed to participate in the study after explaining the objectives assuring that it hasn't any harmful effects on them and

the information will be treated confidentially. They were informed that they can leave the study at any time without giving any reason.

The field work was carried out over a period of 5 months starting from beginning of October 2015 to end of February 2016. The study was carried out from 9.00 a. m. To 12.00 p. m. until data had completed from mothers. maternal and child health care center (El Maksy) for 3 days weekly, through an interview with mothers in outpatient clinic waiting area of maternal and child health care center individually or in group of mothers.

**Educational Program for Mothers construction:** Educational program for mothers, it was conducted in four phases.

#### 1<sup>st</sup> phase:

**Preparatory phase:** review of recent, current, national and international related literature to cover the various aspects of the problems and to develop the study tools.

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> phase:

At the beginning of the assessment phase, the program was used the previous tool for data collection to assess the socio demographic and mother's knowledge and behaviors.

**3<sup>ed</sup> phase:** planning and implementation of the educational program.

#### Objectives:

The main objective of the educational program was to improving mother's knowledge and behaviors to protect their children from sexual harassment.

#### Content of educational program:

This program, was designed to be practical in nature, addressing knowledge and behaviors necessary for protection of children

from sexual harassment. it was applied through sessions, in individual or groups of mothers regarding actual need assessment.

**The program was included the following: Educational program was contain the following:**

- Child Sexual Developmental characteristics during all stages of children's growth.
- Sexual harassment (meaning, causes, prevention.....etc).
- Mothers, behaviors related to protect their children from sexual harassment (touching, bathing, washing, privacy...).

Implementation of the program took 12 weeks in addition to two weeks for pretest and another four weeks after the program for post-test.

The sessions were, 3 hours/day for 3 days/week. The handout was distributed to all mothers after explanation of its aim and objectives of the program to all mothers.

The training time was 6 hours (4 theoretical and 2 practical). The visits started from 9.00 a.m. -12.00 p.m. for each group which included 10 mothers or individual. Then the same content was repeated by the researchers to other 10 mothers.

Each session started by the objectives of the program, taking into consideration the use of simple language that suites the mothers levels of understanding.

Motivation and reinforcement techniques, as praising and recognition during the sessions were used to enhance motivation. At the end of each session, mothers' questions were discussed to correct any misunderstanding.

#### 4<sup>th</sup> phase: Program evaluation phase

Evaluation was based on scores of acquired knowledge in preprogram and post program.

Evaluation was done before and after the program implementation, in order to identify differences, areas of improvement as well as to detect any defects. These were done through pre and post administration of questionnaire.

#### Teaching methods:

Methods used in teaching the program content included the following:

Lectures discussion, and group discussion

#### Teaching aids:

Teaching aids were specially prepared for the program application as: colored posters, lab-top CD and handouts.

#### Ethical Consideration

First, Approved by ethical faculty research committee, consent was taken from; the administrators of districts, maternal and child health care center, and the mothers. They were informed about the purpose and expected outcomes of the study. Their approval to participate in the study was ensured, also all data obtained was treated with anonymity and confidentiality.

#### Statistical Design:

An IBM compatible PC was used to store and analyze the data. Calculations were done by means of statistical package for social sciences (SPSS), version 11.5. Numerical data were expressed as mean  $\pm$ SD, and range, qualitative data were expressed as frequency and percentage. Relations between different variables, probability (p-value) less than 0.05

was considered significant and less than 0.01 was considered as highly significant.

#### Results:

**Table (1):** regarding general characteristics of the studied sample, more than two thirds (69.1%) of mothers their age ranging from 20-34 years with mean of age was (34.06 - 7.200). Also more than half of mother's children age (70.9) range between 4-9 year with mean age (8,64 - 3.634). The same table shows that more three quarters (89.1%) of studied mothers group were married. Regarding their educational level 28.2% of mothers were moderate education. Also more than half of mothers (55,5%) had enough family income. The same table illustrate that 14.5% of mothers have exposed for sexual harassment with different forms. while, 7.3% of mothers joined in educational program about sexual harassment. while, 8.2% of mothers providing education for their children about sexual harassment.

**Table (2):** indicates that, 19.1%, 23.6% and 11.8%, of mothers know that their children respecting the privacy of others, discovering the details of his body and understanding that his body is his own pre educational program while post educational program their knowledge improved to 95.5%, 91.8% and 99.1% respectively related to knowledge of mothers about sexual developmental in age of 4<6 years.

While, 31.8% and 19.1% of mothers know that their children Presenting of females menstruation and completing the reproductive system function pre educational program while post educational program the mother knowledge improved to 93.6% and 94.5% respectively related to knowledge of mothers about sexual developmental in age of 12<18 years. There were highly statistically significant differences in mother's level of knowledge post-educational program compared to pre- educational program regarding the sexual developmental characteristics of their children at  $P<0.001$ .

**Table (3):** Illustrates that 40.9% of that studied mothers know the meaning of sexual harassment in pre educational program but improved to 96.4% post educational program. Concerning their knowledge about a person who harasser children, 29.1%, 19.1% and 12.7% are often one of the immediate family, stranger and a teacher as a harasser compared to 97.3%, 96.4% and 96.4% respectively post educational program. While 19.1% pre educational program and 99.1% post educational program of studied sample know hazing telephone as type of sexual harassment. While, 22,7% pre educational program and 96,4% post educational program of studied group know stripped the girl of her clothes as a form of it.

**Figure (1):** shows that, after implementation of educational program a significant improvement was obvious in the mothers' total satisfactory knowledge regarding the sexual harassment. There was highly statistically significant improvement in the mothers satisfactory knowledge between pre and post educational program ( $p < 0.001$ ).

**Figure (2):** This figure illustrates that: 49.09% of mothers pre educational program had positive behavior to protect their children from sexual harassment while after educational program improved to 100%, and there were highly statistical significant differences between pre and post educational program with  $X^2 = 2.02$  ( $p \text{ value} < 0.15$ ).

**Table (1):** Distribution of the mothers according to their socio-demographic characteristic (n = 110).

Items	No	%
<b>Mother age</b>		
20-	76	69.1
35-42	34	30.9
Mean ± SD	34.06	- 7.200
<b>Child age</b>		
4-	78	70.9
10-16	32	29.1
Mean ± SD	8.64	- 3.634
<b>Marital status</b>		
Married	98	89.1
Divorce	12	10.9
<b>Mother's educational level</b>		
Illiterate	27	24.5
Read and write	30	27.3
Moderate education	31	28.2
High education	22	20.0
<b>Father's educational level</b>		
Illiterate	12	10.9
Read and write	27	24.5
Moderate education	40	36.4
High education	31	28.2
<b>Family Income</b>		
Enough	61	55.5
Not enough	49	44.5
<b>Exposed for sexual harassment</b>	16	14.5
<b>Joined in educational program about sexual harassment</b>	8	7.3
<b>Providing education for children about sexual harassment</b>	9	8.2

**Table (2):** Distribution of mothers according to their knowledge about the sexual developmental stages of children in various stages of childhood (n = 110).

knowledge Items	Pre-program		Post - program		p- value
	Satisfactory level				
	N	%	N	%	
<b>knowledge about the sexual developmental in age of 4&lt;6 years</b>					
Understanding the relation of marriage	18	16.4	106	96.3	< 0.001
Respecting the privacy of others	21	19.1	105	95.5	
Discovering the details of his body	26	23.6	101	91.8	
Understanding that his body is his own	13	11.8	109	99.1	
Unaccepting touch from others	14	12.7	80	72.7	
<b>knowledge about the sexual developmental in age of 6&lt;13 years</b>					
Understanding meaning of puberty	32	29.1	108	98.2	< 0.001
Respecting privacy of the relationship.	19	17.3	108	98.2	
Discussing the visual programs or movies	15	13.6	107	97.3	
Distinguishing the difference between the sexes, both (male or female)	27	24.5	108	98.2	
Changing body image (special organs)	19	17.3	108	98.2	
<b>knowledge about the sexual developmental in age of 13&lt;18 years</b>					
Largeing genital organ size	34	30.9	104	94.5	< 0.001
Hair growth in multiple places	40	36.4	106	96.4	
Presenting of females menstruation	35	31.8	103	93.6	
Changing sound to the high voice	20	18.2	106	96.4	
Completing the reproductive system function	21	19.1	104	94.5	

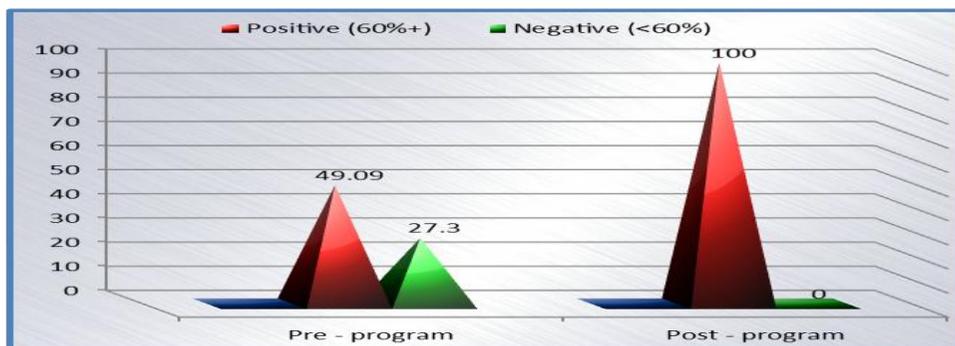
**Table (3):** Distribution of mothers according to their knowledge about the sexual harassment (n = 110).

knowledge Items	Pre- program		Post - program		< 0.001
	N	%	N	%	
Meaning of sexual harassment	45	40.9	106	96.4	< 0.001
<b>* Who harasser the child?</b>					
One of the family member	32	29.1	107	97.3	< 0.001
Neighbor	21	19.1	106	96.4	
Teacher	14	12.7	106	96.4	
Friends	22	20	100	90.9	
Driver	16	14.5	107	97.3	
Sentinel	18	16.4	106	96.4	
Stranger	21	19.1	106	96.4	
<b>*Forms of sexual harassment</b>					< 0.001
Beeping during a walk in the street	21	19.1	106	96.4	
Verbal hazing	14	12.7	106	96.4	
Hazing telephone	21	19.1	109	99.1	
Forced identification	24	21.8	105	95.5	
Touching the body of the female	22	20	104	94.5	
Stripped the girl of her clothes	25	22.7	106	96.4	
A closer look	20	18.2	107	97.3	
Showing pornographic images	24	21.7	109	99.1	
Sending sexual images via email	28	25.5	108	98.2	
<b>*Places of sexual harassment</b>					< 0.001
In front of school	40	36.4	104	94.5	
In school	22	20	62	56.4	
Street	52	47.3	109	99.1	
Social gathering	19	17.3	108	98.2	
Transport	27	24.5	106	96.4	
Studying place	24	21.7	109	99.1	
Home	21	19.1	109	99.1	

**Figure (1):** Total satisfactory knowledge about the sexual harassment as phenomena.



**Figure (1):** Distribution of mothers according to their total satisfactory knowledge about the sexual harassment as phenomena. (n = 110).

**Figure (2):** Total behavior toward sexual harassment pre and post educational program.**Figure (2):** Distribution of mothers according to their total behavior toward sexual harassment pre and post educational program (n = 110).

## Discussion

The current study was carried out to evaluate the effect of an educational program on the mothers' knowledge and behaviors to protect their children from sexual harassment. Regarding socio demographic data of mothers, the present study revealed that, more than two thirds of mothers their age ranging from 20 to 34 and mean age of the study sample was  $34.06 \pm 7.200$ , and more than three quarters of children aged from 4 years and less than 10 years with mean age  $8.64 \pm 3.634$  (Table 1). This finding agreed with **Chen and Chen, (2005)**, who studied "awareness of Child sexual abuse prevention education among parents of 3 elementary school pupils in Fuxin City, China, Health Education Research", who found that the mean age of mothers was  $33.86 \pm 2.6$  years. Also this finding agreed with **Yossif & Elbahnasawy (2016)**, who studied Sexual harassment preventive program for mothers to protect their children in Benha, Egypt, who reported that, less than half of studied mothers aged 30 years or more with the mean age was  $32.42 \pm 4.73$  years and their children aged less than six years.

In relation to marital status, the same table showed that, the majority of mothers were married less than one quarters of

mothers were high education and more than half of them have enough income (table 1). These findings disagreed with **Chen and Chen, (2005)**, who found that most parents had a high school education. But the findings come in line with **Patterson and Bess, (2008)**. Who studied "Knowledge, attitude and practices on the prevention of child sexual abuse and the support to children who have been abused" who stated that, married persons outnumbered all others categories followed by single, widowed and divorced. Also this result was in line of agreement with **Tremblay et al. (2014)**, who studied "Evaluation of mother knowledge in preventing child sexual abuse" who mentioned that, the average educational level of the participants was 14.8 years of schooling. This result could be due to different culture between two countries.

In the present study, in relation to studied mothers' knowledge regarding the sexual developmental stages characteristics of their children pre and post educational program implementation, there was highly statistically significant difference between pre and post child sexual harassment educational program implementation regarding most of knowledge items. minority of mother's have knowledge regarding the sexual developmental stages characteristics of their children pre educational program as

compared to more than three quarters of them had knowledge post educational program regarding most of knowledge items ( $p \leq 0.001$ ) (table 2). This finding in the line with National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC), (2013), and also with Yossif, (2016) who found that, Understanding healthy child sexual development is very important to prevent child sexual harassment. Many adults don't know what to expect as children develop sexually, which can make it hard to differentiate between healthy and unhealthy behaviors. The result of this study could be due to the importance of teach our children about the privacy of body parts, and that no one has the right to touch their bodies if they don't want that to happen. Children should also learn to respect the right to privacy of other people.

Concerning mothers' level of knowledge pre and post educational program, regarding sexual harassment results indicates that, less than half of the mothers under study answered correctly pre educational which increased to most of them know the correct answer regarding to meaning of sexual harassment post educational program. Regarding their knowledge about a person who harasser children a few of mothers in pre educational program which increased to majority of them post educational program mentioned that harasser of child often one of the immediate family, stranger and a teacher (table 3). This finding was supported by Ruto,(2009), who studied "Sexual Abuse of School Age Children: Evidence from Kenya" who clarified that, the main perpetrators of sexual harassment were identified as children themselves, stranger, neighbors and teachers (60%, 16%, 6% & 15% respectively). However, girls are more likely to be abused by a family member, whereas boys are more likely to be abused by someone outside the family. Also according to Abul Komsan, (2009), in Algeria 27% of female university students confirmed that they were subject to molestations and sexual misbehaviors by their professors. 44.6% of them complained

about verbal utterances, whereas 13.8% said they were subject to physical harassment. In Qatar 21.1% of young girls revealed their vulnerability to the same thing. We also found that 30% of working-women were subjected to sexual harassment in their work places. In Saudi Arabia 22.7% of children face the same matter. According to Maikovich-Fong and Jafee, 2010, reported that harassers of child are more likely to be a family friend or to be acquainted with the child rather than being a parent or stranger. Girls are at a greater risk than boys of being abused by a family member. Boys are at a higher risk than girls of being abused by a stranger Also according to study done by Fayed & Alam (2015), who finding that the perpetrates of child sexual abuse were family member, neighbor, driver, guardian and stranger. The result could be due to children being left unprotected for long periods, mothers' fear of losing economic support were all considered as the reasons for the existence and persistence of child sexual harassment. Also may be due to absence of efficient role of the social specialist in schools and granting him the abilities to consider the problems of students and guide different ages of students.

To summarize the differences in total satisfactory of knowledge of study mothers about the sexual harassment were highly statistically significant differences between pre/post educational program implementation (92,70% in post compared to 22% in pre educational program and  $p < 0.001$ ) (figure 2). In congruence, Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape 2009, with study on Sexual harassment Prevention in schools, reported that quantitative evaluation results from pre- and post-tests showed that this sexual harassment prevention program increased participants' knowledge and awareness about sexual harassment and sexual violence. Also Ogunfowokan and Fajemilehin (2012) with study on impact of a School-based sexual abuse prevention education program on the

knowledge and attitude of high school girls, found that there was significant increase in the knowledge mean scores of the girls at first post intervention stage. In this respect Barron et al. (2015) with study on school-based child sexual abuse prevention programs: moving toward resiliency – informed evaluation, mentioned that there is a need for more sexual harassment prevention programs targeting parents due to the scarcity of such programs. The current study result is in agreement with Fayed and Alam (2015), who stated that there were significant improvement of mothers awareness on posttest than on pre-test. This result could be due to The participants have agreed to be open and transparent in confronting this issue, and are willing to exert more effort to solve this problem in order to provide our societies with a more transparent and open phase where our societies are free from societal violence and free from sexual harassment against children in particular.

In the present study less than half of mothers pre educational program while all of them post educational program of mothers had positive behavior to protect their children from sexual harassment, and there were highly statistical significant differences between pre and post educational program with  $X^2 = 2.02$  (p value  $<0.15$ ), (Figure 2).

### Conclusion

The present study concluded that, implementation of the educational program for mothers had an efficient efficacy on improving mothers' knowledge and behaviors to protect their children from sexual harassment, with highly statistical significant differences between pre and post educational program (p value  $<0.05$ ). There is significant correlation was found between both mothers' knowledge and mothers' behavior (p value  $<0.05$ ) pre and post educational program which showed highly statistically significant differences in all the tested items.

Based on the study findings of the present study, the following recommendations are proposed:

1. The sexual harassment educational program must be provided for all parents of children to improve their knowledge and awareness about sexual harassment.
2. An- orientation program for newly mothers and their children to improving mothers education and training.
3. Other researches conducted on sexual harassment.
4. Encourage all organizations serving children and youth to incorporate trainings about child sexual abuse and exploitation, and its prevention, into ongoing, regular in service education for all staff and volunteers, including older youth who supervise younger children in these settings.

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