SUMMARY
ADHD is considered as one of the most common neuro-developmental condition in children globally and very few studies have recorded the prevalence of ADHD in Indian context, especially in Madhya Pradesh. Hence, this study aimed to determine the prevalence of ADHD among school going children of Gwalior (Urban), Madhya Pradesh. The results showed that there was a prevalence rate of 8.7% among school going children who were screened with symptoms of ADHD. This contributes to the global finding of 1-13% in both India (Suvarna & Kamath, 2009; Venkatesh, Ravikumar, & Virudhagirinathan, 2012) as well as western countries (Ford, Goodman, & Meltzer, 2003). This was done in terms of the ‘Conner’s Abbreviated Rating Scale, the assessment tool used for screening ADHD symptoms in the study. Also, the study highlighted that there were gender differences among the children with ADHD symptoms, where 37 children with ADHD were males and 10 were females. This remains persistent with the previous records of males being more susceptible towards ADHD than females. Moreover, the study also showed persistent results in comparison to previous studies that children with ADHD have comorbidity with other behavioural problems. Around 46 among 47 children with ADHD in this study were found to have other severe behavioural problems as per the norms of ‘Children’s Behaviour Questionnaire-B, an assessment tool used in the study. It also highlighted that 31 children were more inclined towards ‘anti-social’ behaviour and 12 inclined towards ‘neurotic’ behaviour demarcating the previous records that ADHD children have higher risks of other mental illnesses like anxiety disorders, tics, other developmental disorders and conduct disorders.
Thereby, the present study could be marked as a contribution to the prevalence of ADHD among school children of Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh which enabled the researcher to know the probabilities of children having this disorder at an early stage of schooling. It also sensitized the teachers and parents of these children about ADHD, its progressive nature, aetiology and management. This study has opened doors for the parents and teachers of the children with ADHD to reach out to mental health professionals in order to cater to the needs of this disorder and try curbing it at an earlier stage. This in order, also progresses towards a collaboration of caregivers and mental health professionals which would not only help the children with ADHD but also would help in erasing ‘mental health stigma’ attached to such disorders, prevailing in Indian society. This again, would promote better mental health resources for the needy and eradicate such neurodevelopmental problems more efficiently.