

Table 2 Effect of genetic counselling on the total number of children and number of affected children in each family

Parameter	Genetic counselling received			<i>P</i> -value
	Premarital	After birth of an affected child	None	
Number (%) of families	7 (4.5)	36 ^a (23.1)	114 (73.1)	-
Mean (SD) number of children	2.14 (1.07)	3.39 (1.68)	4.81 (2.28)	0.0013
Mean (SD) number of children with beta-thalassaemia	1.00 (0.00)	1.34 (0.59)	1.51 (0.89)	0.150

^a1 mother had counselling both before marriage and after giving birth to an affected child.

SD = standard deviation.