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"A study to assess the knowledge regarding COVID-19 and it's prevention among the BSc Nursing students of Alva's College of Nursing, Moodbidri, with a view to provide informational leaflet."

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ABSTRACT

Corona virus is an acute respiratory illness in humans caused by SARS-CoV-2 virus, capable of producing severe symptoms and in some cases death, especially in older people and those with underlying health conditions. Healthcare workers (HCWs) have experienced considerable morbidity and mortality during the pandemic and studies have reported infection rates as high as 59% among HCWs during the COVID-19 pandemic. Non-experimental descriptive survey was used in the study to assess the knowledge regarding Covid-19 and its prevention among B.Sc Nursing students. The sample was 60 B.Sc. Nursing students selected by purposive sampling technique. The result of the study shows that 4% subjects acquired poor knowledge, 75% acquired average knowledge, 13% had good knowledge. The result of the study showed that only few had acquired very good knowledge. Preventing the virus can be the best way of controlling the pandemic. Community awareness programs should address the practices like improving knowledge regarding early screening, diagnosis, isolation, and treatment are necessary to prevent and control COVID-19 infection.

KEYWORDS: Corona virus, Knowledge, Students

INTRODUCTION

Corona virus is an acute respiratory illness in humans caused by SARS-CoV-2 virus, capable of producing severe symptoms and in some cases death, especially in older people and those with underlying health conditions. It was originally identified in China in 2019 it become pandemic in 2020.[1]

Over 760 million cases and 6.9 million deaths have been recorded worldwide since December 2019.[2] As of 14 September 2022, according to Indian government figures, India has the second highest number of confirmed cases in the world (after the united states of America) with 44,502,363 reported cases of Covid 19 deaths (after the united states and Brazil) of 528,185 deaths. [3]

Covid-19 is necessitating social distancing and also other measures to protect the health. Coronavirus are medium sized viruses, 100-150nm in diameter. It contains an un-segmented single - stranded positive - sense RNA. Transmission of the virus is by inhalation of droplets or aerosol. By using the Enzyme - Linked Immunosorbent essay (ELISA) test, the viral antigens were detected in the respiratory secretions and antibodies in the serum. [4]

Nurses, make up more than half of the health-care workforce, and provided services on the front line. Regarding prevention of COVID-19 and related interventions, nursing professionals have a critical role not only in providing direct services to patients and communities but also in health promotion and disease prevention strategies. During the pandemic, it became necessary to protect public health and be informed about and apply various measures to minimize economic and social losses arising from the pandemic. [5]

NEED FOR THE STUDY

In December 2019, more than 90% of reported corona cases were from Hubei province in China.. In regards to data on Coronavirus, the spread of COVID -19 is reported to be basically from individual to individual transmission by breathing droplets from coughing and sneezing via close contact. Transmission of COVID -19 virus via contaminated areas or families following contact with the mouth, eye or nose may also take place. Symptomatic individual are at the highest risk of infecting other individual. [6]

Healthcare workers (HCWs) have experienced considerable morbidity and mortality during the pandemic with an estimated overall global case fatality rate (CFR) of approximately 9 deaths per 1000 infections, alongside an infection rate of 14.5%. Studies have reported infection rates as high as 59% among HCWs during the COVID-19 pandemic. [7]

A descriptive study was conducted to assess the knowledge regarding COVID-19 among 60 first year BSc Nursing students of Government Nursing College in Nerchowk Mandi (HP). Structured questionnaire was used to assess knowledge regarding COID-19 and its prevention. The study results revealed that most of nursing students (45.0%) were having adequate knowledge regarding COVID-19 and its and prevention and (53.3%) were having inadequate knowledge regarding COVID-19 and its prevention. The study concluded that majority of nursing students were having inadequate knowledge regarding COVID-19.The study recommended that there is need to raise the awareness regarding COVID-19 and its prevention. [8]

A cross-sectional survey was conducted assess the Knowledge and Practice about COVID 19 among 304 nursing students. The study findings showed that participants had good levels of knowledge and practices regarding the COVID-19 outbreak. The students' total mean knowledge score regarding COVID-19 was 28.95 ± 4.46 and their total mean practice score was 5.85 ± 1.03. The study concluded that it is very important that all nurse candidates, who will soon play an active role in the pandemic, have the correct knowledge and practices to prevent its spread. The nurses are described as the backbone of public health, should be equipped and enriched with evidence to support them during major events such as the COVID-19 pandemic.[4]

Nurses' play a major role in health care field and apply knowledge in real-world clinical settings. Hence the investigator felt necessary to find out the knowledge regarding Covid-19 among nursing students, in order to sensitize them regarding covid 19 and its prevention.

Population and Sample

The sample for the present study was students above 17 years of age. The sample size was 60 Bsc Nursing students.

Data and Sources of Data

The instrument comprises of **Section – A:** Demographic variables like age, gender, religion, type of family and previous information regarding Covid-19 from other sources. **Section- B:** Structured knowledge Questionnaire was used to assess the Knowledge regarding covid-19 and its prevention.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Frequency and Percentage distribution of students according to their demographic variables

Table 1: Frequency and percentage distribution of the students according to their demographic variables.

S.NO	DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1.	**AGE IN YEARS:**		
a	17-20	58	97
b	21-25	2	3
c	Above 25	0	0
2.	**GENDER**		
a	Male	0	0
b	female	60	100
3	**RELIGION**		
a	Hindu	30	50
b	Muslim	0	0
c	Christian	30	50
d	Others	0	0
4	**TYPE OF THE FAMILY**		
a	Nuclear Family	50	16
b	Joint Family	10	84
c	Extended family	0	0
5.	**knowledge**		
a	yes	58	96
b	no	2	4

Table 1 depicts the distribution of demographic variables of students. It shows that , Majority of

subjects (97%) were belongs to the age group of 17-20 years. All of the subjects (100%) were females. 50% were belonged to Hindu religion and 50% were Christians. 84% belonged to nuclear family.

Table 2: Frequency and percentage distribution of the sample according to their level of knowledge regarding Covid- 19 and it's prevention among students

S. NO	LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE %
1.	Good	13	21
2.	Average	45	75
3.	Poor	2	4

Table 2 shows that 4% subjects has poor knowledge, 75% has average knowledge, only 13% has good knowledge.

Table 3: Association between the level of knowledge regarding COVID 19 and its prevention and the demographic variables of the students

Sl. No.	Demographic Variables	Knowledge Score		x^2 (Chi-square)
		<median	≥median	
1.	**Age in years**			
a.	17-20	21	37	
b.	21-25 & above 25 years	0	2	0.587
2.	**Gender**			
a.	Male	0	0	
b.	Female	21	39	1.009
3.	**Religion**			
a.	Hindu & Muslim	9	21	
b.	Christian & Others	12	18	2.344
4.	**Type of family**			
a.	Joint & Extended	1	9	
b.	Nuclear	20	30	2.344
5.	**Do you have any information regarding Covid-19?**			
a.	Yes	20	38	
b.	No	1	1	0.091

Table value $\chi^2_{(1)}=3.84$; $p<0.05$,

The data presented in table 3 shows that there was no significant association between knowledge score and selected demographic variables such as age ($\chi^2_{(1)}=1.11$, table value $\chi 2_{(1)}=3.84$; $p<0.05$), gender ($\chi^2_{(1)}=0.00$, table value $\chi^2_{(1)}=3.84$; $p<0.05$), religion ($\chi^2_{(1)}=0.659$, table value $\chi^2_{(1)}=3.84$; $p<0.05$), type of family ($\chi^2_{(1)}=3.29$, table value $\chi^2_{(1)}=3.84$; $p<0.05$), any information ($\chi^2_{(1)}=0.20$, table value $\chi^2_{((1)}=3.84$; $p<0.05$). Hence null hypothesis is accepted and research hypothesis is rejected.

CONCLUSION

The study concludes that COVID-19 infections a public health emergency. Preventing the virus can be the best way of controlling the pandemic. Community awareness programs should address the practices like improving knowledge regarding early screening, diagnosis, isolation, and treatment are necessary to prevent and control COVID-19 infection.

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