



KNOWLEDGE ON AWARENESS ABOUT SUBSTANCE ABUSE AMONG COLLEGE STUDENTS

Nursing

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ABSTRACT

A descriptive study was conducted to assess the knowledge on awareness of substance abuse among college students. The objectives were to assess the knowledge on awareness of substance abuse and to find out the association between the knowledge on awareness of substance abuse and selected demographic variables. The study reported that majority had inadequate knowledge and minority had adequate knowledge regarding awareness of substance abuse. The study shows that there is a significant association between knowledge regarding substance abuse and gender ($p=0.026$)

KEYWORDS:

Substance abuse

INTRODUCTION

Adolescence is a fluctuating period wherein there is total confusion. It is a period wherein the adolescents love to be popular among all their peers and are ready to do things as they wish and something that gives them a thrill. They have their own social grouping, new values in selection of friends and social acceptance.

Maneesh (2016), reported that majority (53%) of the engineering college students had average knowledge regarding alcohol consumption and its ill effects. Aesha & Abdulrhman (2016) reported that majority of samples (82.4%) had sufficient awareness regarding substance abuse. Age, scholastic year, subject (science) and being non-Saudi had positive association with good awareness. Parental education, family income and parental status of living together were significantly associated with the awareness level of students. Muhammad, Rabia, Junaid, et al., (2015) reported that majority of the (68%) of samples has admitted that drug abuse seriously affected their socioeconomic status. Majority (57%) of the samples took performance enhancer. Males abused drugs more than females.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To assess the knowledge on awareness of substance abuse among 2nd year college students.
- To find out the association between the level of knowledge on awareness of substance abuse and selected demographic variables of college students.

METHODS

Non experimental quantitative descriptive design was used. The study was conducted at selected college, Tamil Nadu, India among 2nd year students. A Convenience sampling techniques was used to select the samples. Total population was 100. Two samples were excluded due to incomplete answering techniques. The final sample size was 98.

Demographic data and structured questionnaire were utilized. The structured questionnaire has 10 questions. Each correct response is given a score of 1 and each incorrect response a score of 0. The sum total of the scores indicates knowledge on awareness of substance abuse.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Majority of samples were 18 and 20 years old (32.7%), males (58.2%), followed Hindu religion (88.8%), fathers and mothers had high school education (40.8%, 42.9% respectively), fathers were self-employed (36.7) and mothers were home makers (53.1), residing in urban

(61.2%), agreed that cigarette, alcohol and tobacco are substance (41.8%) and minority (13%) had abused substance in the past. Majority of samples 52 (53.1%) of the samples had inadequate knowledge and only 8 (8.2%) of the samples had adequate knowledge on awareness of substance abuse. There is a significant association between knowledge regarding substance abuse and gender ($p=0.026$)

Table I: Knowledge on awareness about substance abuse N=98

S.No	Variable	Knowledge Level					
		Inadequate		Moderate		Adequate	
		No	%	No	%	No	%
1	Age						
	17	3	6	3	8	0	0
	18	21	40	9	24	2	25
	19	12	23	12	32	4	50
	20	16	31	14	37	2	25
2	Gender						
	Male	26	50	23	61	8	100
	Female	26	50	15	39	0	0
3	Religion						
	Hindu	46	88	34	89	7	88
	Christian	4	8	4	11	1	13
	Muslim	2	4	0	0	0	0
4	Education of the father						
	No formal education	9	17	6	16	1	13
	Primary schooling	14	27	9	24	4	50
	High school	24	46	13	34	3	38
	Graduation	5	10	10	26	0	0
5	Education of the mother						
	No formal education	9	17	8	21	4	50
	Primary schooling	18	35	9	24	0	0
	High school	22	42	16	42	4	50
	Graduation	3	6	5	13	0	0
6	Occupation of the father						
	Private	11	21	9	24	3	38
	Government	4	8	3	8	0	0
	Self-employed	19	37	14	37	3	38
	others	18	35	12	32	2	25
7	Occupation of the mother						
	Private	6	12	9	24	3	37.5
	Government	2	4	3	8	1	12.5
	Self-employed	16	31	5	13	1	12.5

	Home maker	28	54	21	55	3	37.5
8	Residing in						
	Urban	32	62	21	55	7	87.5
	Rural	20	38	17	45	1	12.5
9	What is a substance?						
	Alcohol	6	12	8	21	1	12.5
	Cigarette	16	31	7	18	1	12.5
	Tobacco	10	19	8	21	0	0
	All	20	38	15	39	6	75
10	Have you abused any substance?						
	Yes	8	15	4	11	1	12.5
	No	44	85	33	87	7	87.5

CONCLUSION

Substance abuse has become a new trend among the college students. Alcohol is not an ordinary commodity but a toxic substance in terms of its direct and indirect effects on a wide range of body organs and systems. Nursing personnel can educate and counsel students and general population to change their attitude regarding substance abuse, aid them to stop consuming it and refer for prompt treatment & rehabilitation.

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