



A DESCRIPTIVE STUDY TO ASSESS THE KNOWLEDGE REGARDING ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AMONG OLD AGE PEOPLE IN SELECTED OLD AGE HOME AT KHAMMAM

Nursing

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ABSTRACT

Alzheimer's disease is a progressive, irreversible, degenerative neurological disease that begins insidiously and is characterized by gradual loss of cognitive function and disturbances in behaviour and affect. The present study was undertaken to assess knowledge of old age regarding Alzheimer's Disease at selected old age home. In order to achieve the objectives of the study a descriptive research design used and sixty samples were selected by non probability convenient sampling technique. Their knowledge regarding Alzheimer's disease was assessed by structured knowledge questionnaire which comprised of two parts. Part I-socio demographic profile and Part -II structured knowledge questionnaire on Alzheimer's disease. Findings revealed that (72%) had below average knowledge followed by 20% had average knowledge and only 8% had good knowledge regarding Alzheimer's Disease. Chi square test showed that there was no significant association between level of knowledge with socio demographic variables. The findings revealed that majority of old age persons had below average knowledge, Hence it is recommended that education should be given on Alzheimer's Disease by health professionals.

KEYWORDS

Alzheimer's Disease, Old Age, Knowledge

INTRODUCTION:

Ageing in humans refers to a multidimensional process of physical, psychological and social changes. Health management for older adults consists of determining the reasons for loss of independence in the elderly, some symptoms include the high incidence of dementia caused by psychological changes such as in the decline of mental and physical abilities, and the diminishing mental health and cognitive functions which leads to seek assistance from family members or institutions.

Increase in life expectancy during the twenty first century has produced aged population of unprecedented size and longevity. Ageing leads to several biological changes that take place over time and results in progressive loss of functional capacity.

Dementia robs the quality of not only the elderly, but also the family members who are forced to devote their lives caring for their impaired loved ones. Alzheimer's disease attacks the parts of the brain that control thought, memory and language. The onset of the disease is gradual and the person's decline is usually slow. Ultimate cause of Alzheimer's disease is unknown and currently no cure for the disease. Right now, Alzheimer's disease is diagnosed by a battery of mental and other tests and even the diagnosis rests on the judgment of the physician. Already 58% of people with dementia live in developing countries, but by 2050 this will rise to 71%.

Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia are becoming more prevalent among the elderly. The prevalence of Alzheimer's disease is projected to quadruple by the year 2047. Alzheimer's disease can occur to any adult at any age. Women are three times more likely to be affected than men. In Indian context prevalence of Alzheimer's disease is one in every five elderly citizens suffers from Alzheimer's disease. In India 32, 00,000 people are affected by dementia. The figure is expected to double every 20 years.

Nurses are vital sources in educating the public on various health related issues. so that the knowledge gaps can be filled up by educating the public and increasing the awareness about Alzheimer's and to accept an individual who is suffering from Alzheimer's as an important member of the society

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

"A Descriptive Study to Assess the Knowledge Regarding Alzheimer's disease among old age people in Selected Old Age Home at Khammam."

OBJECTIVES

- To assess the level of knowledge on Alzheimer's disease among old age people.
- To find out the association between the level of knowledge and selected socio-demographic variables.

HYPOTHESES

Ho; There is no significant association between the level of knowledge and selected socio demographic variables.

MATERIALS AND METHODS:

Research Approach: Non experimental study

Research Design: Descriptive Research Design

Variables

Study Variable: Knowledge of old age people regarding Alzheimer's disease

Attribute Variables: Socio-demographic Variables such as age, gender, educational qualification, marital status, religion, residence, source of information about Alzheimer's disease.

Sampling Technique: Non Probability convenient Sampling Technique
Sampling Size: 60 old age people of selected old age home who fulfil the selection criteria

Setting of the study: Amma oldage Home, Nehru nagar, khammam.
Selection Criteria

a. Inclusion criteria:

- Old age people, who are willing to participate in the study.
- Old age people, who are present during the time of data collection.
- Old age people who can understand and respond in English or Telugu

b. Exclusion criteria

- Old age people, who are not willing to participate in the study
- Old age people, who are not able to respond in English or Telugu
- Old age people, who are above the age of 74 years

Duration of the study

Description of Tool

Section A: Socio-demographic profile which includes age, gender, qualification, religion, place of residence, marital status, income, type of family and source of information about the Alzheimer's disease.

Section B: Structured knowledge Questionnaire regarding Alzheimer's disease

Data collection procedure:

Formal permission was obtained from concerned authorities. After giving introduction about purpose of study, written consent was obtained. Structured knowledge questionnaire was administered to the subject and information booklet handed over to samples under study. Data collection period was about one month. Data obtained was analysed by descriptive and inferential statistics.

RESULT & DISCUSSION:

Regarding age, 60% subjects were in the age groups of 60-65years,

more than half (62%) subjects were male, 62% belonged to urban area. 64% belonged to nuclear families. 62% were Hindus.

Frequency and Percentage distribution of oldage people according to level of knowledge regarding Alzheimer's disease.

N=50

Level of knowledge	Score	f	%
Good	>21	4	8
Average	11-20	10	20
Below average	0-10	36	72

Reveals that majority of subjects (72%) had below average knowledge followed by 20% had average and only 8% had good knowledge regarding Alzheimer's disease. There was no significant association found between level of knowledge and socio demographic variables. Hence hypothesis is accepted

CONCLUSION:

The present study concludes that Alzheimer's disease among old age people is a public health problem.. Hence Health education is an important strategy for oldage regarding Alzheimer's disease.

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