



A CROSS SECTIONAL SURVEY TO EVALUATE THE AWARENESS ABOUT THE ALLIED HEALTH AND PARAMEDICAL COURSES AMONG THE MEDICAL ASPIRANTS

Medical Science

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ABSTRACT

Purpose: This study was designed to determine the awareness about the allied health and paramedical courses among the medical aspirants (Rural and Urban).

Methodology : A cross sectional survey on 200 students from biology streams of different schools and medical aspirants from different coaching institute in East Uttar Pradesh using a validate questionnaire containing a mix of open and close ended questions.

Result: It was found that out of 200 students 29.5% students are aware about the allied health and paramedical courses and 10.5% are aware about the different paramedical courses including Optometry, Physiotherapy, Radiology and Lab technology etc. And only 5.5% students are aware of internship duration of different paramedical courses.

KEYWORDS

1. Paramedical, 2. Internship, 3. Paramedical courses, 4. Role of paramedics, 5. Healthcare profession, 6. Allied Health Care

INTRODUCTION:

The science that deals with the emergency or pre- hospital and diagnostics services is called Paramedical sciences, and a person working in this field is referred to as Paramedic. Paramedical courses are job oriented academic programs which are supporting hands of medical staffs that are usually related or near to the allied healthcare sector. Students of allied health courses are trained to diagnosed diseases in patients, do medical checkups and gives therapies. These courses are offered as graduate, postgraduate, doctorate and diploma and as well as certificate courses. These courses include Optometry, Radiology, Physiotherapy, Lab-technology, etc. Paramedical is the part of allied health care.

According to the ministry of health and family welfare (MoHFW), allied health care professional includes individual involved with the delivery of health care related services. They work in multidisciplinary health care setting including Doctors, Nurses, Allied health care workers and the public health officials to promote, protect, treat or manage a person's physical, mental, social, emotional, environmental health and holistic wellbeing. The government and health care sector have recognized the need and importance of the allied healthcare professional¹. Allied health personnel are personnel who have specific connections with the art and science of health care and as recognized as a member of health team in a national health system². A paramedic provides rapid response, emergency medical assessment and treatment³. Allied health care workers and Paramedics play a vital role in our community. It is an emerging health care profession⁴ which provides:

- Emergency services
- Rescue services
- Routine outdoor services
- Industrial paramedic⁵

The paramedic services vary from country to country. The scope and practice of paramedical in India are still poorly defined. The common people do not have a clear understanding of the role and responsibility of allied health care workers and paramedics as additional pillars of a health care. Even the medical aspirants who are preparing for medical entrance examination, they do not have clear understanding about others health care and paramedical courses which is regulated in India. There is a myth among student that nursing is the main part of paramedical sciences. Most of the students think that besides MBBS only nursing is left to do in health care sector. But the reality is that nursing is not part of paramedical science but allied health and paramedical science is important pillars of health care services. The aim of this study is to determine awareness among the medical aspirants.

METHODOLOGY:

A Cross sectional survey on 200 students from biology streams of different schools and medical aspirants from different coaching

institute in East Uttar Pradesh using a validate questionnaire containing a mix of open and close ended questions. A structural questionnaire was designed related to paramedical courses. The questionnaire was taken to evaluate the awareness of students among paramedical courses. This survey was done on 200 students. During Evaluation following common questions were asked to students:

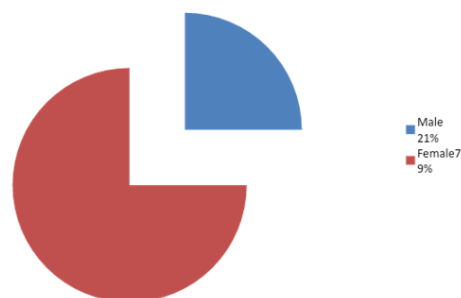
1. Do you know about paramedical courses?
2. Do you know the difference between medical and paramedical courses?
3. What is your choice after class 12th (10+2)
4. If not selected for MBBS course, then what is your second career option?
5. Do you know which courses are included in paramedical sciences and what is the duration of those courses?
6. Are you aware of internship programs of different paramedical courses?
7. Do you know the work of paramedics and allied health care workers?

RESULT:

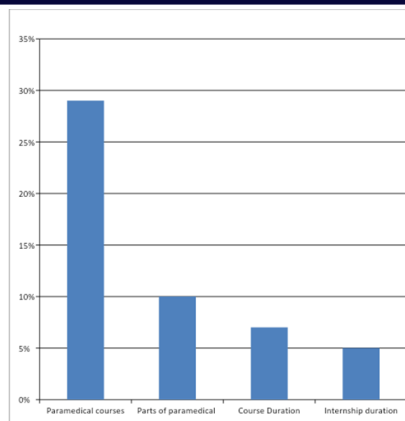
A comparison of statistical analysis on 200 students (n= 200) reveals that (mean age = 17.5+- 4.5) Out of them 59 students (29.5%) are aware about the paramedical courses but they are not aware about the different parts (courses) of paramedical and its scope and role in health care. 21 students (10.5%) are aware about different courses including Optometry, Physiotherapy, Radiology, Lab-technology. 14 students (7%) are aware about different duration of paramedical courses. 11 students (5.5%) are aware about internship duration of different paramedical courses which includes:

- B. Optometry (1 year)
- B. Physiotherapy (6 months)
- B. M. Lab-technology (6 months)
- B. Radiology (6 months)

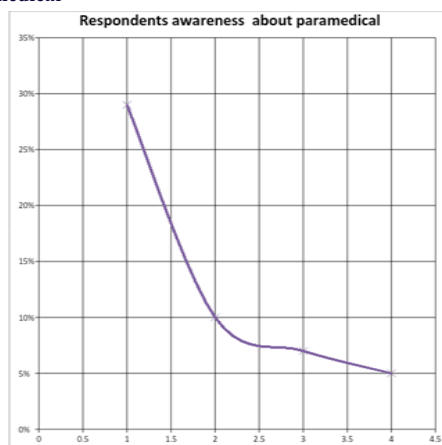
Graph Showing Gender of the respondents



Graph 1.1 - Graph showing gender of respondents



Graph 1.2- graph showing % of respondents' awareness about paramedical



Graph 1.3- Graph showing the awareness about paramedical among NEET aspirants

DISCUSSION:

In India about 13 lakhs students appears for NEET (pre medical entrance test) examination aiming for admission in MBBS and others medical courses. But due to limited seats of MBBS, BAMS, BHMS, BUMS and BDS in government medical colleges and high fees in private medical colleges only few students are able to get admission in medical courses. Most of the medical aspirants who do not get admission in medical college, due to lack of awareness about different paramedical courses, Either they take admission in traditional courses like B.Sc., B.A., B.COM, or they join nursing colleges. It is utmost important to increase the awareness about the other health care courses among the NEET aspirants so that the talented students could join other health care courses and contribute as well as explore the Health care sector.

CONCLUSIONS:

There is a very less awareness about paramedical courses among NEET aspirants which decreases the chances for them to be the part of health care sector. The need of allied health care workers and paramedics is essential for national growth and development. There is a need to increase awareness about these courses among NEET aspirants, so that healthcare sector could be explored and enhanced.

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