



KNOWLEDGE REGARDING HEALTH HAZARDS OF OPEN AIR DEFECATION AND ITS PREVENTION AMONG PEOPLE OF BHUTARAMATTI VILLAGE, BELAGAVI. – A PROSPECTIVE CROSS SECTIONAL STUDY

Nursing

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ABSTRACT

A study was conducted on 585 populations in Bhutaramatti village, Belagavi. To assess the knowledge regarding health hazards of open air defecation and its prevention and to associate the knowledge of village people with selected socio-demographic variables. The samples were selected by using purposive sampling technique. Data collection was done using structured knowledge questionnaire and observational checklist. Collected data was tabulated and analyzed in view of objectives of the study using descriptive and inferential statistics. The study revealed that out of 585 participants 90 (15.38) of participants were had high knowledge, 411 (70.26) of participants had average knowledge and 84 (14.36) of participants had low knowledge. Hence all the demographic variables showed there is no significant association with the knowledge, as they were independent on it. The chi-square calculated value is more than the p value.

KEYWORDS

Open air defecation, Knowledge.

INTRODUCTION

Sanitation, cleanliness, and neatness are the signs of a socialized society. Sanitation is basic for wellbeing and maintainable financial improvement. India has the most established culture with great created neatness including aura of human squanders. Harappa civilization had developed a fantastic hard and liquid waste disposal facility including the human feces. Cleanliness was given more preference during this period.¹ Our country's connection with cleanliness and the activities related to good environment are as a result of many cultural factors which have helped in forming many aspects that gave rise to the enhancement of cleanliness in India. As far as cleanliness is concerned, in the earlier Vedic period before Britishers entered and invaded India, hygiene and health were given more importance in the Indian society.² Open air defecation refers to defecating in open fields, between the plants, in the forests, near to the water source or any such areas rather than making use of toilets for defecation.³ Cleanliness is always associated with a good quality of human life. It acts like a solid foundation, where if it is not maintained properly there could be no improvement seen in terms of hygiene and this will definitely have a negative impact on the society.⁴

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To assess the knowledge regarding health hazards of open air defecation and its prevention among people of rural areas of Belagavi.
- To assess the practice regarding health hazards of open air defecation and its prevention among selected people of rural areas of Belagavi.
- To find the association between levels of knowledge regarding health hazards of open air defecation and its prevention with demographic characteristics
- To find correlation between knowledge and practice regarding health hazards of open air defecation and its prevention of people of rural areas of Belagavi

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A descriptive research approach was chosen to carry out the research study. The research setting selected for the present study was Bhutaramatti village, Belagavi, Karnataka. The sample size was 585, people who are staying in Bhutaramatti village. Purposive sampling technique was used to collect the samples for the study. This is a type of non-probability sampling.

Description of the tool

- After modifying the tool as per the expert's advice, the final tool consists of 3 sections:
- Section 1:** Items on selected data includes Age, Gender, Type of family, Family income per month, Religion, Educational status, Occupation, Dwelling place.
- Section 2:** Items assessing knowledge regarding health hazards of open air defecation and its prevention.

- Section 3:** Check list; open air defecation prevention checklist.

PRESENTATION OF THE DATA

Table 1: Distribution Of Respondents By Demographic Characteristics.

(n=585)

Characteristics	No of respondents	% of respondents
Age groups		
18 - 25 years	76	12.99
26 - 33 years	115	19.66
34 - 41 years	108	18.46
42 - 49 years	152	25.98
50 years and above	134	22.91
Gender		
Male	294	50.26
Female	291	49.74
Type of family		
Nuclear Family	207	35.38
Joint Family	378	64.62
Family income		
Rupees 1000 – 2000	61	10.43
Rupees 2001 – 3000	137	23.42
Rupees 3001 – 4000	182	31.11
Rupees 4000 and above	205	35.04
Religions		
Hindu	550	94.02
Muslim	29	4.96
Christian	6	1.03
Educations		
Primary (1st - 6th standard)	147	25.13
Secondary (7th - 10th standard)	188	32.14
PUC	92	15.73
Graduation and above	16	2.74
Illiterate	142	24.27
Occupations		
Labour	301	51.45
Professional	113	19.32
Unemployed	171	29.23
Ownership of house		
Owned	526	89.91
Rented	59	10.09
Total	585	100.00

Table 1 indicates that majority 152 (25.98%) of the respondents belongs to 40-49 years of age and minority 76 (12.99) respondents

belongs to 18-25 years of age. Maximum 294 (50.26%) were male and minority 291 (50.26%) were female. Majority 378 (64.62) of respondents were belongs to joint family, minority 207 (35.38) of respondents were belongs to nuclear family. Maximum 205 (35.04) of participants family income was Rupees 4000 and above, minority 61 (10.43) of participants family income was Rupees 1000-2000. Maximum 550 (94.02) of participants were Hindu and minority 6 (1.03) of participants were Christian. Majority 188 (32.14) of participants were studied secondary education (7th -10th standard), minority 147 (25.13) of participants were studied primary education (1st -6th standard). Majority 301(51.45) of participants were formers, minority 171 (29.23) of participants were unemployed. Majority 526 (89.91) of participants were staying in own house and minority 59(10.09) of participants were staying in rent house.

Table 2: Distribution of participant's according to levels of knowledge wise.

(n=585)

Levels of knowledge	No of respondents	% of respondents
Low level (<mean-SD)	84	14.36
Average level (>=mean-SD, <mean+SD)	411	70.26
High level (>=mean+SD)	90	15.38
Total	585	100.00

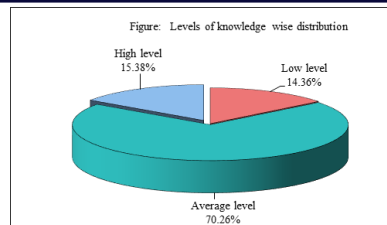
Table 2 reveals that out of 585 subjects surveyed 84 (14.36%) of subjects were had low knowledge, 411(70.26%) of subjects had average knowledge and 90 (15.38%) of subjects were had high level knowledge regarding health hazards of open air defecation and its prevention measured by the knowledge questionnaire.

Table 4: Analysis and interpretation of data to find out an association between knowledge scores and demographic characteristics.

Table 4: Association between levels of knowledge and demographic variables.\Characteristics	Levels of knowledge								Chi-square	p-value
	Low level	%	Average level	%	High level	%	Total	%		
Age groups										
18 - 25 years	8	10.53	56	73.68	12	15.79	76	12.99	8.5260	0.3840
26 - 33 years	13	11.30	84	73.04	18	15.65	115	19.66		
34 - 41 years	24	22.22	67	62.04	17	15.74	108	18.46		
42 - 49 years	18	11.84	111	73.03	23	15.13	152	25.98		
50 years and above	21	15.67	93	69.40	20	14.93	134	22.91		
Gender										
Male	37	12.59	211	71.77	46	15.65	294	50.26	1.5140	0.4690
Female	47	16.15	200	68.73	44	15.12	291	49.74		
Type of family										
Nuclear Family	26	12.56	142	68.60	39	18.84	207	35.38	3.3340	0.1890
Joint Family	58	15.34	269	71.16	51	13.49	378	64.62		
Family income										
Rupees 1000 – 2000	2	3.28	33	54.10	26	42.62	61	10.43	95.3780	0.0001*
Rupees 2001 – 3000	11	8.03	84	61.31	42	30.66	137	23.42		
Rupees 3001 – 4000	33	18.13	133	73.08	16	8.79	182	31.11		
Rupees 4000 and above	38	18.54	161	78.54	6	2.93	205	35.04		
Religion										
Hindu	80	14.55	382	69.45	88	16.00	550	94.02	4.5500	0.3370
Muslim	4	13.79	24	82.76	1	3.45	29	4.96		
Christian	0	0.00	5	83.33	1	16.67	6	1.03		
Education										
Primary	24	16.33	100	68.03	23	15.65	147	25.13	7.9800	0.4350
Secondary	29	15.43	130	69.15	29	15.43	188	32.14		
PUC	8	8.70	68	73.91	16	17.39	92	15.73		
Graduation and above	0	0.00	15	93.75	1	6.25	16	2.74		
Illiterate	23	16.20	98	69.01	21	14.79	142	24.27		
Occupations										
Labour	50	16.61	202	67.11	49	16.28	301	51.45	6.8260	0.1450
Professional	13	11.50	89	78.76	11	9.73	113	19.32		
Unemployed	21	12.28	120	70.18	30	17.54	171	29.23		
Ownership of house										
Owned	80	15.21	370	70.34	76	14.45	526	89.91	5.6000	0.0610
Rented	4	6.78	41	69.49	14	23.73	59	10.09		
Total	84	14.36	411	70.26	90	15.38	585	100.00		

(*p<0.05)

Table 4 the findings reveals that demographic characteristics like age



Graph 1: Pie graph showing distribution of respondent's according to levels of knowledge wise.

Table 3: Comparison of male and females with knowledge and its dimensions scores by independent t test.

(n=585)

Gender	Practice scores	
	Mean	SD
Male	8.08	1.25
Female	8.00	1.27
Total	8.04	1.26
t-value	0.7491	
P-value	0.4541	

(*p<0.05)

The findings of table 3 reveals that there is no significance difference between male and female, with practice scores of ($t = 0.7491$, $p = 0.4541$). It means that the mean practices scores are similar in males (8.08 ± 1.25) and females (8.00 ± 1.27).

groups, gender, type of family, family income, religion, education, occupation and ownership of house, showed there is no significant association with the knowledge, as they were independent on it. The

chi-square calculated value is more than the p value, In case of all the demographic characteristics. Thus all demographic characteristics were independent of knowledge. Hence there is no significant association between levels of knowledge and demographic characteristics.

DISCUSSION:

The discussion was mainly focused with the objectives to assess the knowledge and practices regarding health hazards of open air defecation and its prevention among people of Bhutaramatti village, Belagavi District.

CONCLUSION:

By completion of this study I had been created awareness regarding hazards of open air defecation among Bhutaramatti village and many of people have stopped practicing open air defecation. I am sure that this study will help in future studies in eliminating the open air defecation practice

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