



“ASSESSMENT OF KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE AND PRACTICES OF NURSING STAFF TOWARDS COVID - 19 IN SELECTED HOSPITAL.”

Nursing

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ABSTRACT

Corona virus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is an ongoing pandemic, for which appropriate infection prevention and control measures need to be adopted. Nurses play a vital role in dealing with individuals with COVID 19. Nurse's infection control measures are affected by their knowledge, attitude and practices towards COVID 19. The aim of this study was to assess the Knowledge, attitude and practices of nursing staff towards COVID 19. **Methods:** A cross sectional web based survey method was adopted for present study. The study comprised of 100 nursing staff of selected hospital. The survey questionnaire was used to collect the knowledge, attitude and practices towards COVID 19. Convenience sampling technique was used for data collection. Formal permission was obtained from concerned authority for data collection. The analysis of the data was done by using descriptive statistics. **Result:** The results showed that most of the nursing staff 62% was from 21 – 30 years of age and majority 94% was females. Maximum nursing staff were completed their RGNM. 81% of nursing staff had previous knowledge regarding COVID 19. Most of the nursing staff gained information from social media, family and friends and training programme. Majority of the nursing staff were having excellent knowledge, positive attitude and had good practices towards COVID 19. There was no significant association found between the findings with selected demographic variables among nursing staff. **Conclusion:** The study showed that about 88% of nursing staff have excellent knowledge regarding COVID 19. Majority of the staff had good practices and positive attitude towards COVID 19. Finding of the study suggest that, nursing staff demonstrated excellent knowledge, good practices and positive attitude towards COVID 19.

KEYWORDS

Knowledge, Practices, Attitude, COVID, Nursing Staff, Nurses

INTRODUCTION

The novel Corona virus, officially known as SARS-CoV-2 or Corona virus disease 2019 (COVID-19) was first reported in December 2019, as a cluster of acute respiratory illness in Wuhan, China, from where it spread rapidly to over 198 countries. It was declared as a global pandemic by WHO on 12th March 2020.¹

COVID-19 is defined as an illness caused by a novel corona virus, now called Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Corona virus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). COVID-19 is an emerging respiratory infection that was first discovered in December 2019, in Wuhan city, Hubei Province, China.²

SARS-CoV-2 belongs to the larger family of ribonucleic acid (RNA) viruses, leading to infections, from the common cold, to more serious diseases, such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-CoV) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS-CoV). The main symptoms of COVID-19 have been identified as fever, dry cough, fatigue, myalgia, shortness of breath, and dyspnoea.³

COVID-19 is characterized by rapid transmission, and can occur by close contact with an infected person. The details on the disease are evolving. As such, this may not be the only way the transmission is occurring. COVID-19 has spread widely and rapidly, from Wuhan city, to other parts of the world, threatening the lives of many people.⁴

In India, by early April 2020, country officials had identified several areas as hotspots of COVID-19 infections in the country. India faces threat of a serious outbreak due to deep challenges in practicing social distancing and access to water and soap for hand washing, with densely populated urban areas and a highly mobile population in some states.⁵

A cross-sectional survey was conducted on healthcare workers' knowledge, practices, and attitudes regarding COVID-19 from February 4th to February 8th, 2020, involving a total of 1357 HCWs across 10 hospitals in Henan, China. Of those surveyed, 89% of HCWs had sufficient knowledge of COVID-19, more than 85% feared self infection with the virus and 89.7% followed correct practices regarding COVID-19. In addition to knowledge level, some risk factors including work experience and job category influenced HCWs' attitudes and practice concerning COVID-19. Measures must be taken to protect HCWs from risks linked to job category, work experience, working hours, educational attainment, and frontline HCWs.⁶

A study conducted on to assess knowledge, attitude and practice among healthcare workers in Pakistan regarding corona virus disease 2019. A self administered validated questionnaire was used to collect

data. Findings showed that healthcare workers have good knowledge (93.2%, $N=386$), a positive attitude [mean 8.43 (standard deviation 1.78)] and good practice (88.7%, $N=367$) regarding COVID-19.⁷

Nurses play a vital role in health care system and health team. All health care providers especially nurses are on the frontline battling against this pandemic and providing services to patients which is helpful to prevent and control COVID-19 pandemic.

OBJECTIVES

1. Assess the knowledge of nursing staff towards COVID 19.
2. Assess the attitude of nursing staff towards COVID 19.
3. Assess the practices of nursing staff towards COVID 19.
4. Associate the findings with the selected demographic variables.

METHODS AND MATERIAL

A cross sectional web based survey method was designed for present study. The study was conducted in August 2020. The study comprised of 100 nursing staff of selected hospital. The survey questionnaire was used to collect the knowledge, attitude and practices towards COVID 19. It covered the demographic variables, knowledge questionnaire regarding COVID 19, attitude and practice checklist regarding COVID 19. Convenience sampling technique was used for data collection. The survey was conducted through a link shared on social networking sites. Google Form was created and participants were invited to complete and submit the form. Reliability of the instrument was calculated by using Karl Pearson Correlation Coefficient formula and significance of correlation was tested using Spearman Brown prophecy formula and the tool was found reliable. Formal permission was obtained from concerned authority for data collection. The analysis of the data was done by using descriptive statistics.

RESULT

Analysis and interpretation is based on the objectives of the study. The analysis was done with the help of descriptive and inferential statistics.

Table 1: Percentage wise distribution of nursing staff according to their demographic characteristics

n=100		
Age in years	Frequency	Percentage
21-30 yrs	62	62
31-40 yrs	28	28
41-50 yrs	10	10
Above 51 years	00	00
Gender		
Male	06	06

Female	94	94
Educational Qualification		
RGNM	63	63
Basic B. Sc. Nursing	13	13
Post Basic B. Sc. Nursing	19	19
M. Sc. Nursing	05	05
Previous knowledge		
Yes	81	81
No	19	19
Source of Information		
Social Media	70	70
Books and Journals	00	00
Family and Friends	18	18
Workshop, Seminar, Training Programme	12	12

The above Table 1 shows that distribution of nursing staff according to age, gender, educational qualification, previous knowledge and source of information. Sixty two percentages of the nursing staff were in the age group of 21-30 years and majority 94% were females. 63% of nursing staff were completed their RGNM and 19% of nursing staff completed Post Basic B. Sc. Nursing. 81% of nursing staff had previous knowledge regarding COVID 19. Most of the staff 70% gained information from social media, family and friends and training programme respectively.

Table 2: Level of knowledge score of nursing staff towards COVID 19

n=100

Level of Knowledge Score	Frequency	Percentage
Poor	0	0
Average	0	0
Good	12	12
Excellent	88	88

The above table 2 shows that, 12 % of the samples had good level of knowledge score and 88% had excellent level of knowledge score regarding COVID 19.

Table 3: Assessment of knowledge score of nursing staff towards COVID 19

n=100

Category	Minimum score	Maximum score	Mean	Standard deviation	Mean percentage
Knowledge	10	13	11.58	0.80	89.07

The above table 3 indicates that most of the nursing staff was having excellent knowledge towards COVID 19. Mean knowledge score of nursing staff towards COVID 19 was 11.58.

Table 4: Assessment of attitude score of nursing staff towards COVID 19

n=100

Category	Minimum score	Maximum score	Mean	Standard deviation	Mean percentage
Practices	2	4	3.12	0.72	78.00

The above table 4 depicts that the mean attitude score of nursing staff towards COVID 19 was 3.12. The mean percentage score was 78. This indicates that most of the nursing staff was having positive attitude towards COVID 19.

Table 5: Assessment of practice score of nursing staff towards COVID 19

n=100

Category	Minimum score	Maximum score	Mean	Standard deviation	Mean percentage
Practices	5	7	6.83	0.53	97.57

The above table 5 depicts that the mean practice score of nursing staff towards COVID 19 was 6.83. The mean percentage score was 97.57. This indicates that most of the nursing staff was having good practices towards COVID 19.

DISCUSSION

The present study shows that, 62% of nursing staff was from 21 – 30 years of age group and majority 94% was females. Maximum 63% of nursing staff were completed their RGNM. 81% of nursing staff had previous knowledge regarding COVID 19. Most of the nursing staff gained information from social media, family and friends and training programme. Mean knowledge score of nursing staff towards COVID

19 was 11.58. Mean attitude and practices score of nursing staff towards COVID 19 was 3.12 and 6.83 respectively. There was no significant association found between the findings with selected demographic variables among nursing staff.

A cross sectional study conducted on to determine the knowledge, attitude, practice, and psychological response among nurses toward the COVID-19. Study shows that, nurses had nearly three-fourth good knowledge and favorable attitude regarding COVID-19. More than two-thirds of the nurses had good infection prevention practices towards COVID-19. Nurses had an almost disturbed psychological response to COVID-19. WHO and the Ministry of Health still must provide more information for better control of the infectious disease.⁸

CONCLUSION

The aim of this study was to assess the Knowledge, attitude and practices of nursing staff towards COVID 19. Finding of the study suggest that, nursing staff demonstrated excellent knowledge, good practices and positive attitude towards COVID 19.

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