



A DESCRIPTIVE STUDY TO ASSESS THE KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDE REGARDING INFERTILITY AMONG THE MARRIED WOMEN OF REPRODUCTIVE AGE GROUP IN SELECTED RURAL AREAS OF SONITPUR DISTRICT, ASSAM

Health Science

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ABSTRACT

Infertility is a world's most neglected public health issue. Infertility and sub fertility shows impact in proportion of human lives. In the year 2010, from 20–44 years of age group women who were prone to the risk of pregnancy, 1.9% were unable to attain a live birth (primary infertility). Researcher experienced that in the community setting many people are not aware of infertility. The women are mostly blamed for infertility. Many couples also end up their marriage without the treatment. With this context a study was carried out to assess the knowledge and attitude regarding infertility among the married women of reproductive age group in selected rural areas of Sonitpur District, Assam. The objective of the study was to assess the knowledge and attitude regarding infertility among the married women of reproductive age group. Data was collected from 142 samples by using convenience sampling technique. Socio demographic Proforma, Self structured questionnaire on Knowledge regarding infertility and Five point Likert scale to assess the attitude regarding infertility was used to collect data and data was analyzed using SPSS version 20. Results showed that that majority 48.6% had moderate knowledge level, 30.3 % had inadequate knowledge level and 21.1% had adequate knowledge. Majority 52.1% had moderately favorable attitude, 24.6% had unfavorable attitude and 23.2% had favorable attitude. The findings of the study shows that there was significant association between knowledge with education qualification ($P=0.001^{**}$) and religion ($P=0.002^{**}$). In the study it was concluded that majority of the participants 69 (48.6%) had moderate knowledge level whereas majority 74 (52.1%) had moderately favorable attitude so there is increase in need of awareness programs in the community level regarding infertility issues.

KEYWORDS

Knowledge, Attitude, Infertility, Women, Reproductive age group

"Every human being is the author of his own health or disease"

-Gautama Buddha

selected rural areas of Sonitpur District, Assam.

INTRODUCTION

Infertility is a world's most neglected public health issue. WHO has analyzed that about 10% of girls are thrust – women who have tried unsuccessfully, and have maintained during a steady relationship for five years or more. Data tells that in women who are trying for a two years, results in the rate of prevalence of infertility very high which values 2.5 times. The burden in men is unknown. The overall burden of sub fertility/infertility is very high which often remains underestimated, and has not decrease over a period of last 20 years.¹

Dealing with infertility can also make serious issues related to gender inequality. Although both women and men are the reason of infertility, women in a relationship with a man are often made responsible to suffer from infertility, regardless of whether they are infertile or not. Infertility has significant negative social impacts on the lives of infertile couples and particularly women, who frequently experience violence, divorce, social stigma, emotional stress, depression, anxiety and low self-esteem.²

As per studies the number of couples suffering from infertility increased from 42.0 million (39.6 million, 44.8 million) in 1990 to 48.5 million (45.0 million, 52.6 million) in 2010.² Nearly about 10-14 per cent of Indian couples are currently diagnosed with infertility, according to the Indian Society of Assisted Reproduction (ISAR) estimates. Number of cases of infertility is more as in urban areas as compared to rural areas and every one couple out of six couples is affected with infertility.³

The women are mostly blamed for infertility. As cases of infertility is increasing day by day in India. Without the correct knowledge people mostly takes some harsh decisions just like divorce, separation, etc. Majority of people are having less knowledge regarding fruitful treatment regimens of infertility as well as the preventive measures. And also there are very few studies related to infertility are done in Assam. Therefore as a first step towards this the researcher has planned to conduct a study to assess the knowledge and attitude regarding infertility among the married women of reproductive age group in selected rural areas of Sonitpur District, Assam.

Problem Statement

A descriptive study to assess the knowledge and attitude regarding infertility among the married women of reproductive age group in

OBJECTIVES

1. To assess the knowledge regarding infertility among the married women of reproductive age group.
2. To assess the attitude regarding infertility among the married women of reproductive age group.
3. To determine the association between the knowledge regarding infertility among the married women of reproductive age group and selected demographic variables.
4. To determine the association between the attitude regarding infertility among the married women of reproductive age group and selected demographic variables

METHODOLOGY

The research approach was Quantitative approach and descriptive research design was adopted. The setting for the study was conducted in selected rural areas i.e. Gotlong Gaon and Bhitorsuti Gaon of Sonitpur District, Assam. The sample for the study consists of the married women of reproductive age group residing in Gotlong Gaon and Bhitorsuti Gaon of Sonitpur District, Assam. The sample size was 142 which was calculated by standard statistical formula. Non probability convenience sampling technique was used for the study.

Tool consist of 3 parts, Tool I contained 6 questionnaire on socio-demographic variables, Tool II contained 20 questionnaire on knowledge regarding infertility and Tool III contained five point likert scale with 10 statements. Ethical consideration obtained on 10th November 2020 from the institutional ethical committee, Army Institute of Nursing, C/O 151 Base Hospital Guwahati, Assam to conduct the study. Formal written permission was obtained from the Joint Director of Health Services of Sonitpur District, Assam and S.D.M & H.O of Bihaguri Block PHC, Sonitpur, Assam. Informed consent was taken from the participant prior to data collection. Privacy was maintained during and after the data collection. Confidentiality and anonymity of participants were maintained throughout the study.

The period of data collection for main study was from 08/02/2021 to 06/03/2021. House to house survey was done. Both verbal and written consent was taken from the participants and after getting the consent data was collected through interview method

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

The result showed that 59(41.50%) were in 30 - 39 years, 43 (30.30%) were in 19 - 29 years and 40(28.20%) were in 40 - 49 years.

100(70.4%) were Hindu and 42(29.6%) were Muslim. 43 (30.3 %) had middle school education, 39 (27.5%) had primary school education, 26 (18.3%) had high school education, 20 (14.1 %) were illiterate, 12 (8.5%) had graduate/ post graduate and 2 (1.40%) had intermediate education. 48 (33.80%) had monthly family income of $\leq$ Rs.10,001 and Rs.10,002- 29,972, 35(24.60%) had monthly family income of Rs.29,973–49,961, 8 (5.6%) had monthly family income of Rs.49,962–74,755 and 3 (2.10%) had monthly family income of Rs.74,755 –99,930. 125(88.0%) are unemployed, 14(9.9%) had elementary occupation, 2 (1.4 %) had skilled worker and shop & market sale worker and 1(0.7%) had craft & related trade worker. 31.7 % sources of information regarding infertility was mass media , 30.3 % sources of information regarding infertility was friends , 26.1 % sources of information regarding infertility was medical professionals.

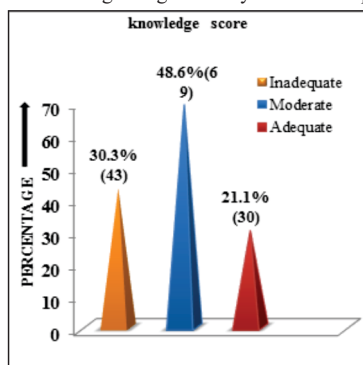


Figure 1: Distribution Of Knowledge Regarding Infertility Among The Married Women Of Reproductive Age Group

The result of the present study reveals that majority 69 (48.6%) had moderate knowledge level, 43 (30.3 %) had inadequate knowledge level and 30 (21.1%) had adequate knowledge with mean score of 6.93 ± 4.94 . Majority 74 (52.1%) had moderately favorable attitude, 35(24.6%) had unfavorable attitude and 33 (23.2%) had favorable attitude with a mean score 29.95 ± 7.70 .

And it was found that there is significant association between knowledge with relation to selected demographic variables education qualification ($P=0.001$) and religion ($P=0.001$). The calculated chi square test value is found to be 11.99 for religion and 30.20 for education qualification and there is no statistically significant association between attitude regarding infertility with selected demographic variables.

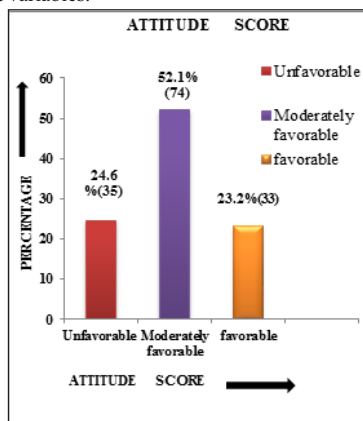


Figure 2: Distribution Of Attitude Regarding Infertility Among The Married Women Of Reproductive Age Group

DISCUSSION

The result indicates that maximum of have moderate knowledge i.e. 48.6 % and 30.3 % have inadequate knowledge and 21.1% have adequate knowledge which was supported by a study conducted by Mrs Kaur Mandeep and Mrs Kaur Amandeep among the females in selected area at Jandiala Guru Amritsar (2013) to assess the knowledge of female regarding female infertility. Study found that out of 40 female participants majority 26 (65%) females were having inadequate knowledge, 11 (27.5%) females were having moderate

knowledge and 3 (7.5%) were have adequate knowledge regarding infertility.⁴

The result of the study depicts that majority of the participants 52.1% have moderately favorable attitude , 24.6 % have unfavorable attitude and 23.2 % have favorable attitude which was supported by a study conducted by Samta, Manju Chhugani, Veena Sharma, Monika Gupta among 60 couples to assess the attitude regarding infertility among the couples . Study found that out of 60 females, 58.33 % have favorable attitude and 41.67 % have unfavorable attitude.⁵

The present study found that there is significant association of knowledge regarding infertility with religion ($p = 0.002^{**}$) and educational status ($p = 0.001^{**}$) which was supported by the study conducted by Gagandeep Kaur, Dr. Parvesh Saini and Dr. Karuna Sharma (2017) to assess the knowledge on Infertility among women attending Gynae OPD ,SRGD Hospital, Vallah, Sri Amritsar, Punjab and to find the association between knowledge score with selected socio demographic variables. Study was found significant association of knowledge and selected demographic variables such as educational status (p value = 0.000), occupational status (p value = 0.000) , occupational status of husband (p value = 0.000), monthly income (p value = 0.000) and age at marriage (p value = 0.000).⁶

The present study found that there is no significant association between the attitude regarding infertility among the married women of reproductive age group and selected demographic variables. The present study findings contrast with the study conducted by Taneja et al. (2020) to assess knowledge, attitude and practice of Infertility among adults in Indian population and to find association between the attitude regarding infertility among the married women of reproductive age group and selected demographic variables. The findings of the study showed that 62.6% of study participants had positive attitude in the age group of 15-35 years which was also found to be statistically significant (p value=0.009). It was found that there was significant association of attitude regarding infertility with respect to age.⁷

CONCLUSION

Infertility is serious issue which is creating havoc day by day in every corner of the world, but with adequate and favorable mindset it can be prevented to some extent and many stigmas related to it can be resolved. The study findings has shown that majority 69(48.6%) had moderate knowledge level, whereas majority 74 (52.1%) had moderately favorable attitude. From that it can be concluded that there is increase in need of awareness program me in the community level regarding infertility an d enhance knowledge and attitude on infertility issues and take necessary measures to prevent from infertility.

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