



ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

Nursing

“A DESCRIPTIVE STUDY TO ASSESS THE KNOWLEDGE OF GNM STUDENTS TOWARDS HUMAN RIGHTS OF MENTALLY ILL PERSON AT NINS, SANGRUR”.

KEY WORDS: knowledge, human rights, mentally ill person.

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ABSTRACT

A study was conducted to assess the knowledge of GNM students towards human rights of mentally ill person. The research design used in this study was descriptive design. Total 60 GNM students were selected by simple random sampling. The tool used for study was self-structured questionnaire on human rights of mentally ill person and socio-demographic variables conducted by structured interview schedule. Major findings of the study revealed that 34(56.6%) of the students had highly adequate knowledge, 26 (43.3%) had adequate knowledge and none of them had inadequate knowledge. There was no significant association found between the demographic variables and the level of knowledge except with the income.

INTRODUCTION

Mental illness is an age old problem of mankind as recorded in the literature of the oldest civilization world over. It imposes unique demands on both the patients and health care provider. Since the dawn of human civilization, mentally ill patient have received the inadequate care and concern of the community because of their unproductive value in the socio economic system¹.

Human rights are those rights inherited in every human being by virtue of being a person and are fundamental to our existence, without which we cannot live as human beings. It was only after the plea of progressive in cooperation of the norms of human rights and liberal jurisprudence in the respective legal system that has created the urgency and necessity of initiating appropriate steps for the care and treatment of mentally ill person.²

Psychiatric patients are least capable of protecting their rights because of their illness. Mentally ill patients have the same legal rights guaranteed to everyone by the constitution and other laws. As citizens, patients do not lose their rights by being hospitalized or receiving services. The rights may never be denied, although human rights in the mental health field have received some attention in the twentieth century, the actual implementation is limited.²

NEED OF STUDY

Violation of human rights is committed in hospitals where basic amenities and services are not provided, in humane and degrading treatment is very common and patient are subjected to ill treatment and abuse. The human rights violation starts from very beginning from their admission to treatment, rehabilitation and till their discharging from mental hospital.³

The mentally ill people usually are not being able to protect their basic rights due to their impaired insight and judgment. The nurses have to deal with and care for all type mentally ill and also they are responsible to protect the rights of mentally ill for the nurses must have adequate knowledge and positive attitude towards the rights of mentally ill person. The present study is proposed to assess the existing knowledge towards the human rights of mentally ill among GNM students which will help in the planning of curriculum and lessons to enhance their knowledge on particular topic leading to better quality of care in mentally patient

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

“A descriptive study to assess the knowledge of GNM students towards human rights of mentally ill person at NINS, Sangrur.”

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of study are:-

- To assess the knowledge among GNM students regarding human rights of mentally ill person.
- To associate the knowledge of GNM students with their selected demographic variables.

HYPOTHESIS

H₁: There will be significant association between levels of knowledge among GNM students and their selected demographic variables.

DELIMITATION

Study is delimited to:

- GNM students studying in National institute of nursing.
- GNM students who are willing to participate in the study.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

The research design used in this study was descriptive design. Total 60 G.N.M students were selected by simple random sampling. The tool used for study was self-structured questionnaire.

Part 1 consist 6 questions related to socio demographic variables such as Age, marital status, Religion, Education, Income and Domicile

Part 2 consists of self-structured questionnaire of 15 items. Content validity was done by seven experts which includes experts in the field of community health nursing, child health nursing, psychiatric nursing, and Medical surgical Nursing. The reliability coefficient of scale was found to be 0.9; hence, the tool was highly reliable.

RESULT AND FINDINGS

Findings related to demographic variables

It was found that majority 44(73.3%) of them belonged to age group of 17-21 years, 16 (26.6%) of them belonged to age group of 22-26 years and none of them belonged to age group of 27-31 and 32-36 years. Majority 51 (85%) of them were Sikh, 9 (15%) of them were Hindu and none of them were Christian. The educational status depicted that majority 58 (96.6%) of them had their secondary education, 2(3.3%) of them studied up to graduation and none of them were post graduate. Their marital status shown 55(91.6%) of them were un-married, 5 (8.3%) of them were married and none of them were divorced or separated. Their domicile reveals that 41 (68.3%) of students resided in rural area and 19 (31.6%) of them resided in urban area. 27(45%) of students had monthly income below Rs.5000, 13(21.6%) of them had monthly income between Rs.5001-10000, and 7(11.6%) of them had income between Rs.10001-15000 and 13 (21.6%) had income above Rs.15000.

Findings related to knowledge of GNM students regarding human rights of mentally ill person.

N= 60

Level of knowledge	Frequency	Percentage
Highly adequate	34	56.6
Adequate	26	43.3
Inadequate	0	0

The results revealed that 43(56.6%) of them had highly adequate knowledge, 26 (43.3%) had adequate knowledge and none of them had in adequate knowledge.

Finding related to association of level of knowledge and Socio-demographic variables.

There was significant association found between level of knowledge and demographic variables such as income where as age, religion, literacy status, marital status, domicile and education were found to be non-significant.

DISCUSSION

The present study revealed that 43(56.6%) of them had highly adequate knowledge, 26 (43.3%) had adequate knowledge and none of them had in adequate knowledge. It is supported by a study conducted by Ahmed et.al. to assess the knowledge and attitude of GNM students towards Human rights of mentally ill persons. Results of the study shown that the GNM students of one particular nursing school have satisfactory knowledge and attitude towards mentally ill. There was no correlation found between knowledge and attitude of the students which indicates that they are independent of each other⁴.

But the present study was contradictory to the findings of a study conducted by Vijayarani, et., al. To assess the knowledge regarding rights of mentally ill among ayurvedic interns, in a selected ayurvedic medical college. Bangalore, Karnataka, reveals that among 30 samples, majority of the participants i.e. 25 were not aware of the rights of mentally ill persons and only 4 of them are having highly adequate level of knowledge.⁵

CONCLUSION

The overall findings of the study clearly showed that 43 (56.6%) of them had highly adequate knowledge, 26 (43.3%) had adequate knowledge and none of them had in adequate knowledge. There was no significant association found between level of knowledge and demographic variables except with the income. The knowledge about human rights of mentally ill person is must among nursing students so that they can help mentally ill person to lead a good quality of life.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Author is thankful to Management, faculty and GNM Students of National institute of Nursing, Sangrur to carry this research project.

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