

A Descriptive Study to Assess the Knowledge and Attitude Regarding Epilepsy Among Students of Shridevi High School at Tumkur With A View to Prepare Self Instruction Module.

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Abstract

Epilepsy is a group of conditions characterized by recurrent and usually unpredictable seizures. Study to assess the knowledge and attitude of high school students regarding epilepsy. A descriptive research approach with descriptive correlation design was used for 100 students drawn through purposive sampling technique from Shridevi English Medium High School Tumkur. The level of knowledge scores shown that, Majority (56%) of students have average knowledge, 36% students were found to be had very poor knowledge, and hardly 8% students had good knowledge. And results of attitude scores have shown that only 6% of the respondents have good attitudes towards the epileptic children's where as 71% of the respondents have negative attitudes towards the epileptic children. The study concluded that there was there is no significant relationship between knowledge of epilepsy and attitudes towards epilepsy.

Key words: Epilepsy, Knowledge, Attitudes, High school students, and Self-Instructional Module.

Introduction

The word Epilepsy is derived from the Greek word called 'epilepsia', meaning "seizure". In early times epilepsy was viewed as being of divine origin and was called the "sacred disease" because someone who has epilepsy was to be "seized" or stuck down by the God. An epileptic syndrome is composed of paroxysmal neurologic dysfunction causing recurrent episodes of one or more of the following manifestations; loss of consciousness, convulsive movements or

other motor activities, sensory phenomenon and behavioral abnormalities. Epilepsy is a group of conditions characterized by recurrent and usually unpredictable seizures. They affect 1% of the population at some time in life, with the pick incidences in childhood and elderly. (Hauser et.al.1993).¹ Studies done on various age group of epileptic patient shows a significant concern regarding the school going children. The impact of epilepsy on the intellectual ability in children is another

problem in this competitive world. In addition, it is well documented that epilepsy in children is associated with problem in multiple areas, including academic achievement and emotional adjustment.² Once epilepsy is diagnosed, it is important to begin treatment as soon as possible. For about 80 percent of those diagnosed with epilepsy, seizures can be controlled with modern medicines and surgical techniques. Some anti-epileptic drugs can interfere with the effectiveness of oral contraceptives. In 1997, the FDA approved the vagus nerve stimulator for use in people with seizures that are not well-controlled by medication.³

Need for Study

It is known that even in today's modern era the epilepsy is considered as stigma or the disease which has contagious nature. People are more conscious about people with epilepsy, they still avoid their socialization, the children are even not sent to the schools by their own parents. Studies shows that, the level of knowledge about epilepsy among pupils is insufficient. The youth do not know the causes of epilepsy, provocative factors of convulsions, and symptoms and the rule of giving first aid during the epileptic fit. The main sources of information about the disorder are television programs. The majority of school graduates expressed willingness to make friends with epileptic people and acceptance of the ill.⁴

The study was conducted to determine the familiarity with, knowledge of, misunderstandings & attitudes toward epilepsy among the Kuwaiti population. A pretested questionnaire was used to collect data from a sample of 784 Kuwaiti individuals, selected from five governorates in Kuwait using a

Multistage stratified clustered sampling. The result shows that seven hundred fifty-five subjects were interviewed and 97.6% reported their awareness about epilepsy. 60.4% reported that "all epileptic fits manifest symptoms of generalized tonic-clonic seizure," 88.3% indicated that putting an object into the patient's mouth to prevent tongue biting during a seizure is appropriate, and 57.1% stated that drug therapy was the only treatment available for epilepsy. Objections to shake hands with, working with, marrying, and employing epileptic patients were reported by 16.0%, 24.8%, 71.6%, and 45.2%, respectively. Childbirth by epileptic women and allowing children to play with an epileptic child were opposed by 56.3% and 27.7%, respectively. A total of 370 (50.2%) agreed that epilepsy is equivalent to psychiatric disorder.⁵

A survey on the public awareness, attitudes and knowledge toward epilepsy in Kota Bahru, Kelantan, Malaysia performed which was based on a questionnaire conducted as one-to-one interview by medical students in the public places. There were 839 respondents, the mean age was 27 years. The respondents have high awareness of epilepsy, with 91% having heard or knew about epilepsy and 56% knew an epileptic person. The attitude towards epilepsy is more negative than similar studies done earlier among Malaysian Chinese. Only 30% identified epilepsy as a brain disease or disorder, and 69% identified hereditary as the cause. In conclusion, the survey of a predominantly Malay population in Malaysia showed that the respondents were familiar with epilepsy, but many maintained a negative attitude and had poor knowledge on causation and treatment of epilepsy.⁶

Objectives of the study:

- To assess the knowledge of high school students regarding epilepsy.
- To assess the attitudes of high school students towards epilepsy.
- To find out the association between knowledge and attitudes of the high school students with socio-demographic variables.
- To find out association between knowledge and attitudes of high school students with selected demographical variables.
- To distribute SIM to high school students regarding epilepsy.

Hypothesis:

H1: There will be significant relationship between knowledge and attitudes of high school students regarding epilepsy.

H2: There will be significant association between selected demographic variables and knowledge of epilepsy among high school students.

Methodology:

The present study attempts to assess the knowledge and attitudes of epilepsy among high school students, studying in VIII, IX, and X standard of Shridevi English Medium High School, Tumkur. Further it aims to prepare a self-Instructional Module for these students.

Research design: descriptive correlation design was considered as the appropriate design for the study which enables the investigator to assess the knowledge & attitude of high students regarding epilepsy. Research variable: knowledge and attitudes towards epilepsy

Demographic variables: Gender, Age, Standard of studying in, Religion, Place of living, source of information regarding Epilepsy, family history of epilepsy, encountering patients with seizures
Setting of the Study: The study was conducted on English Medium High School Students, Tumkur. Population: the population includes VIII, IX and X standard high school students studying in Shridevi high school, Tumkur. Sample and Sampling Technique: The sample comprised of 100 students, selected by using Purposive sampling technique. Instrument: Structured Knowledge questionnaire & Three Point Likert Scale was selected as a tool for the present study. Data Analysis: Data analyzed using both descriptive and inferential statistics.

Results:

Socio-demographic variables:

Gender and age: Majority (54%) of students were Female and 39% students were belongs to age group of 14 – 15 years. Standard of studying in: Student's studying in VIII, IX and X standard were selected for the study. Students from X and IX standard were found to be more interested in participating in the study. Religion: It is seen that majority of students were belongs to Hindu religion (80%), among which (46) were female and 34 were male, Among Muslim religion six students were male and females were also six. Christian students were only 8. Place of living: 71% students were belongs to urban area where as 29% were belongs to rural area. Previous knowledge of epilepsy: Out of 100 respondents 39 were having some knowledge of epilepsy through T.V. programmes,

33 were reported source of knowledge as News Paper articles, 9 respondents had knowledge through radio programme and 19 were not reported any source of knowledge of epilepsy. Any family member having epilepsy: Among 100 respondents only 4 reported that one of their family members is

suffering with epilepsy. Earlier experience of seeing a person with fits: 14 respondents have reported that they have seen people with fits, whereas 86 respondents have reported that they have not seen any person with epilepsy/ fits.

Table No 1. Distribution of sample according to demographic characteristics.

Sl.No	Variables	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
1	Gender		
	Male	46	46%
	Female	54	54%
2	Age		
	12 – 13 yrs	25	25%
	14 – 15 yrs	39	39%
	16 yrs & above	36	36%
3	Standard of studying in		
	VIII std.	28	28%
	IX std.	36	36%
	X std.	36	36%
4	Religion		
	Hindu	80	80%
	Muslim	12	12%
	Christian	8	8%
	Other	0	
5	Place of living		
	Rural	29	29%
	Urban	71	71%
	Orphanage	0	
6	How did you receive any information regarding Epilepsy?		
	Radio	9	9%
	T.V.	39	39%
	News Paper	33	33%
	I don't know	19	19%
7	Anybody at home have problem of fits/ epilepsy		
	Yes	4	4%
	No	96	96%
8	Have you seen any person with fits?		
	Yes	14	14%
	No	86	86%

Level of Knowledge on Epilepsy

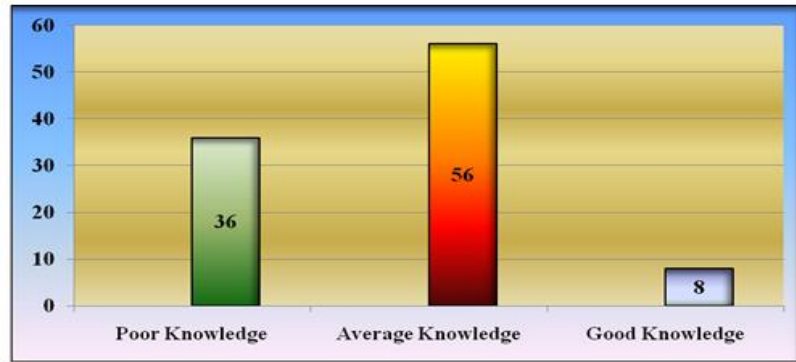


Fig.1: Bar Diagram indicating the level of knowledge of students regarding Epilepsy: Majority (56%) of students have average knowledge regarding epilepsy, 36% students were found to be had very poor knowledge of epilepsy, and hardly 8% students had good knowledge of epilepsy.
Level of attitudes towards epilepsy

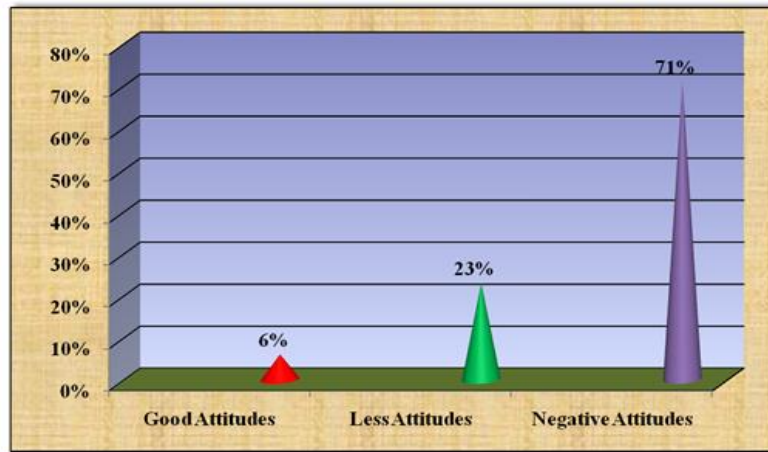


Fig.2: Pyramid diagram showing the level of attitudes among respondents towards the epilepsy. The figure shows that only 6% of the respondents have good attitudes towards the epileptic children’s where as 71% of the respondents have negative attitudes towards the epileptic children.

Table No-2. Correlation between knowledge and attitudes of epilepsy among high school students

Selected Variables	Co-efficient of correlation.	d.f.
Level of knowledge and Attitudes	0.0488	99

P= 0.195, p < 0.05

The findings in the table No 2 show that there is no correlation between knowledge of epilepsy and attitudes towards the epilepsy.

The ‘r’ value computed was 0.0488 which is not significant at 0.05 levels so the researcher rejected the null hypothesis and accepted research hypothesis.

Hence it is interpreted that knowledge of epilepsy is independent of level of attitudes towards epilepsy

Discussion:

A survey on the public awareness, attitudes and knowledge toward epilepsy in Kota Bahru, Kelantan, Malaysia performed which was based on a questionnaire conducted as one-to-one interview by medical students in the public places. There were 839 respondents, the mean age was 27 years, and 65% were married. Sixty-eight percent had received secondary education or above. The respondents have high awareness of epilepsy, with 91% having heard or knew about epilepsy and 56% knew an epileptic person. The attitude towards epilepsy is more negative than similar studies done earlier among Malaysian Chinese. Twenty percent objected to their children associating with a person who sometimes had seizures, 48% objected to their children marrying someone who sometimes had seizures, and 58% thought that people with epilepsy should not be employed in jobs like other people. Only 30% identified epilepsy as a brain disease or disorder, and 69% identified hereditary as the cause. The respondents were not familiar with non-convulsive form of epilepsy with only 18% identified transient change of behavior, and 16% identified loss of memory as manifestations of epilepsy. As for treatment, 52% advocated prayer, 44% asked for an alternative medicine practitioner, and 9% thought that epilepsy need not be treated or was untreatable. As compared to this study Majority (56%) of students have average knowledge regarding epilepsy, 36% students were found to be had very poor knowledge of epilepsy, and hardly 8% students had good knowledge of epilepsy.

Conclusion:

The study concluded that there was no significant relationship between knowledge of epilepsy and attitudes towards epilepsy ($P=0.195$, $p < 0.05$).

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