EFFECTIVENESS OF PLANNED AWARENESS PROGRAMME ON KNOWLEDGE REGARDING COVID 19 AMONG NURSING STUDENTS IN SELECTED COLLEGE IN TAMIL NADU

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ABSTRACT

COVID – 19 Pandemic isconsidered to be a major concern for the health care professionals. Themain aim of the present study was to create awareness on knowledge regarding COVID 19 among nursing students in SelectedCollege in Trichy, Tamil Nadu.A total of 55 respondents were selected through purposive sampling technique, a semi structure questionnaire was adopted based on current, interim guidance of W.H.O. & CDC. Soon after the pretest, the planned awareness program was implemented.Posttest was carried out with the same questionnaire. Descriptive and inferential statistics were used to analysis the data. During pretest 85% of their knowledge on COVID-19 were inadequate, after awareness program, posttest results showed that 76% of them had adequate knowledge & 24% were having moderately adequate knowledge. Findings from this study re-enforce the importance of conducting planned awareness programme and it was considered to be effective during this pandemic.

KEYWORDS: *Awareness Programme, Nursing Students, Covid-19*

INTRODUCTION

Coronaviruses, so named due to the outer fringe of envelope proteins resembling a crown ('corona' in Latin and Koruna-garland,), are a family of enveloped RNA viruses. [1] India reported its first covid-19 positive case on JAN 30, 2020.WHO announced a name for the new coronavirus disease: COVID-19,on 11th February 2020 and on 11th of March, WHO declared COVID-19 a pandemic as about 114 countries were affected by then [2].

Recent evidence suggests that individuals who are kept in isolation and quarantine experience significant distress in the form of anxiety, anger, confusion and post-traumatic stress symptoms due to lack of knowledge on its management and prevention.[3] The knowledge and attitudes of the public are expected to largely influence the degree of adherence to the personal protective measures and ultimately the clinical outcome.[4]Therefore, it is important to study these domains in the Indian population working in the health sector. Considering the relevance of all the above factors, it was aimed to assess the budding nursing student's knowledge to awareness of COVID19 Infection.

Hence, the present study to assess the Effectiveness of Planned awareness programme on knowledge regarding COVID 19 among nursing students was carried out in selected nursing college at Trichy,Tamil Nadu.

OBJECTIVES

- Assess the existing level of knowledge regarding COVID 19 among nursing students.
- Effectiveness of awareness programme on knowledge regarding COVID 19 among nursing students

HYPOTHESIS

There is a significant difference in the pretest and the posttest level of knowledge   on COVID 19 among nursing students at $p < 0.05$ level

METHODOLOGY

Research Approach & Design

Quantitative approach, pre - experimental one group pretest post test only design.

Variables

- **Independent Variable:** Awareness program on COVID -19
- **Dependent Variable:** Knowledge regarding COVID - 19 among the nursing students.

Setting

The study was conducted in selected nursing college in Trichy district. A total of 55 students pursuing first year B.Sc. Nursing in the college were participated in the study.

Target Population

Nursing students

Samples

1st year nursing students who fulfil the inclusion criteria from selected nursing college in Trichy.

Sample Size

55 first year B.Sc. Nursing Students

Sample Technique

Non- probability - purposive sampling technique

Sampling Criteria

Inclusion Criteria

- 1st year B. SC (N) students in the selected college.
- Willing to participate in the study.

Exclusion

- Students on leave
- Students who have already attended awareness programme

DATE COLLECTION TOOL

Section - A: Baseline variables (age, religion, types of family& place of living)

Section - B: Semi-structured knowledge questionnaire on COVID - 19. Totally 12 multiple choice questions in the aspect of signs and symptoms & mode of spread -4, prevention & management strategies - 8.

Scoring interpretation- total score was 12. 1-6(1-50%) Inadequateknowledge, 7 – 9 (51-75%) moderately adequate knowledge, 10 – 12 (76-100%) considered to be adequate knowledge.

DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURE

Informed consent was obtained from the study participants, after consent from higher authorities. The researcher introduced themselves to the samples then pre-test was carried out for the duration of 20 minutes. After that, awareness programme was implemented with the PPT for the duration of 45 minutes. Next day post -test was carried out with the same tool.

DATE ANALYSIS

Descriptivestatistics like frequency,percentage,mean and SD were used.

Inferential statistics like paired t-test and chi-square was used to analyse the data.The Paired t-test was used to find out the effect of awareness programme on knowledge regarding COVID-19.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Section A: Findings related to Background variables of participants.

Table 1: Background Variables of Participants (N = 55)

S. No	B Variables	Frequency	%
1	Age a) 17 – 18 b) 19 – 20	37 18	67% 33%
2	Types of family a) Nuclear family b) Joint family	36 19	65% 35%
3	Place of living a) Urban b) Rural	21 34	38% 62%
4	Religion a) Hindu b) Christian c) Muslim	4 10 01	80% 18% 02%

Background variables of participants revealed that in regard to age, majority (67%) of them were in the age group of 17 -18 years. Most of them (62%) of them are residing in rural area. 65% of the participants belong to nuclear families.85% of them following Hindu religion.

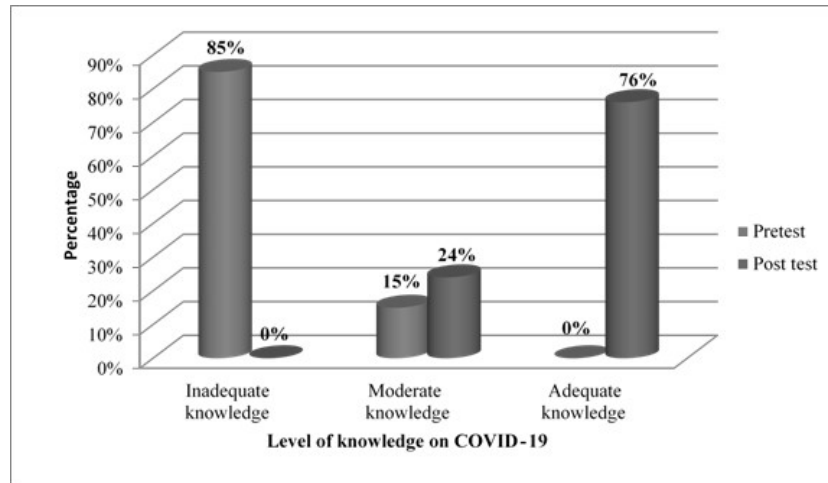**Section- B**: Findings related to Pre-test & posttest levels of knowledge on COVID - 19

Figure 1: Frequency & Percentage Distribution of Pre & Post Test Level of Knowledge on COVID - 19 among Nursing Students. (N = 55).

Figure-1 expressed that during pre-test 85% of the students having inadequate knowledge on COVID-19, after awareness programme 76% of them gained adequate knowledge and 24% of them showed modestly adequate knowledge on COVID-19.

Section-C: Findings related to effectiveness of the planned Awareness Programme:

Table 2: Mean score knowledge regarding COVID – 19 (N=55)

Test	Mean	SD	Paired t-value
Pre test	6. 35	2.319	*3.994
Post test	11.16	2.591	

Significant at P<0.05 level

The date presented in table-3 explicitthat the mean post test score on knowledge regard COVID -19 was11.16, it was higher than the pretestscore (6.35). The obtained t -value was 3.994, when compared to the table value (1.699) it was found to be significant at P<0.05 level. Hence, the Awareness Programme on knowledge of COVID -19 was found to be effective.

DISCUSSIONS

The present study was conducted with the aim of creating awarenesson knowledge regarding COVID -19 among nursing students in SelectedCollege in Trichy. Because creatingawareness on COVID-19 is a significant step in stopping the spread of infection. Present study pre-test knowledge was assessed among nursing students showed that 85% of them had inadequate knowledge, the result of the similar study carried out among health care workers in theKingdom of Saudi Arabia revealed that participants had poor knowledge regarding emerging infectious diseases.[5]

The present research study explicated that after planned awareness programme knowledge of the students was significantly increased from pre- test mean value of 6.35 to 11.16 during post-test. Hence the stated hypothesis, there is a significant difference in the pretest and posttest level of knowledge on COVID 19 among nursing students at p<0.05 level was accepted. This results supported by the study conducted in North India on the effectiveness of educational

interventions on knowledge regarding swine flu among medical students. It revealed after intervention 82.6% of the students' knowledge were improved from baseline knowledge [6]. It is evident that implementing an awareness programme on COVID-19 significantly improved the knowledge on COVID-19 among nursing students.

CONCLUSIONS

This study implies that there is a great need for device periodic awareness and training programs on COVID-19 across all healthcare settings to create awareness among budding professionals. Organizing periodic webinars on informational intervention on COVID-19could be useful in handling pandemic promptly.

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