



ISSN Print: 2394-7500
ISSN Online: 2394-5869
Impact Factor: 5.2
IJAR 2017; 3(8): 524-525
www.allresearchjournal.com
Received: 14-06-2017
Accepted: 15-07-2017

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A study to assess the knowledge and attitude towards consanguineous marriages among adolescents in selected colleges of Tirupati

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Abstract

Consanguineous refers to union of individuals having a common ancestor or marriage between a man and woman related by blood. The most common form of consanguineous union contracted is between first cousins. Around the globe consanguineous marriages have been practiced by many societies from time immemorial due to socioeconomic, ethnic, cultural, and religious factors. Descriptive study was conducted to assess the level of knowledge and attitude, correlation between knowledge and attitude & association between the level of knowledge and attitude towards consanguineous marriage among adolescents. 100 adolescents were selected by purposive sampling technique. The study concluded that majority 48(48%) had moderate knowledge, 45(45%) adolescents had moderate Attitude, There is a positive correlation($r=0.864$) between knowledge and attitude regarding Consanguineous marriages among adolescents. The adolescent and youth should educate about the problems and consequences of the consanguineous through educational program in different grads focus on premarital care.

Keywords: Consanguineous marriages-knowledge-attitude-adolescents

Introduction

Health is maintenance of equilibrium between mind and body. It is important to have concept of birth of healthy child and maintenance of health throughout life as much as possible [1]. According to the world health organization guidelines, a consanguineous marriage is defined as a marriage between people who are second cousins or more closely related [2]. The Maternal age is important risk for consanguineous marriages. Overall risk in 10,000 populations 1:800 are affected adolescent girls [3]. There is a relatively high incidence of mental retardation and congenital malformation occur due to lack of care, diet, inadequate knowledge about pregnancy, inadequate facilities during adolescent period. An increased risk of premature death is also noted in such offspring [4]. The highest rates of consanguineous marriages have been associated with low socioeconomic status, literacy, and rural residence [5]. Consanguineous marriages have been described as an important factor contributing to increased congenital malformations [6]. Globally about 20% of the human population live in communities with a preference for consanguineous marriage, and that at least 8.5% of children have consanguineous parents [7].

Objectives of the Study

1. To assess the level of knowledge and attitude towards consanguineous marriage among adolescents.
2. To identify the correlation between knowledge and attitude towards consanguineous marriage among adolescents.
3. To identify the association between the level of knowledge and attitude with the selected socio-demographic variables towards consanguineous marriage among adolescents.

Hypothesis

1. H_0 1: There will not be any correlation between knowledge and attitude towards consanguineous marriages among adolescents.
2. H_0 2: There will not be any association between knowledge towards consanguineous marriages among adolescents.

3. H_0 3: There will not be any association between attitude towards consanguineous marriages among adolescents.

Material and Method

Non-experimental approach, cross sectional descriptive study was adopted for 100 adolescents, who were selected by purposive sampling technique. Data were collected by using structured questionnaire includes socio-demographic characteristics, knowledge of adolescents about the consanguinity, and attitude about it.

Results

Out of 100 respondents, majority 48(48%) had moderate knowledge and 37(37%) had inadequate knowledge and 15(15%) had adequate knowledge. Out of 100 adolescents, 45(45%) adolescents had moderate Attitude, 30(30%) adolescents had inadequate Attitude and 25(25%) adolescents had adequate Attitude. Overall Mean Knowledge score of adolescents was 19.65 and SD was 2.634. Overall mean Attitude score obtained by adolescents was 18.04 and SD was 2.309. There is a positive correlation($r=0.864$) between knowledge and attitude regarding Consanguineous marriages among adolescents.

Level of Knowledge	Frequency	Percentage
Inadequate (<50%)	37	37.0
Moderate (51-75%)	48	48.0
Adequate (>75%)	15	15.0

Level of Attitude	Frequency	Percentage
Inadequate	30	30.0
Moderate	45	45.0
Adequate	25	25.0

Variables.	Mean	Std. Deviation	N	Correlation
Knowledge	19.6500	2.63379	100	$r = + 0.864^{**}$
Attitudes	18.7700	2.63180	100	

Conclusion

The overall findings of the study clearly showed that adolescents had moderate knowledge and moderate attitude regarding consanguineous marriage. There is a significant association between educational status of the mother and level of knowledge at $p<0.01$ level and age, occupation of mother, presence of parental consanguinity, source of information and level of knowledge at $p<0.05$ level. There is a significant association between residence, educational status of father, parental consanguinity and level of attitude at $p<0.05$ level and there is no significant association at $p<0.01$ level. The adolescent and youth should educate about the problems and consequences of the consanguineous through educational program in different grads focus on premarital care.

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