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## **A study to assess the knowledge regarding human rights of mentally ill patients among staff nurses**

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### **Abstract**

A descriptive cross sectional survey was undertaken in Vinayaka Mission Kirupananda Variyar Medical College and hospital, Salem to assess the knowledge regarding human rights of mentally ill patients among staff nurses. The data was collected from 30 staff nurses. From the study we concluded that the majority (50 %) of them staff nurses were in the age group of above 20 years and majority (75%) of them was female. (40%) of the staff nurses were Hindus, 47 % were from joint family. Highest percentage of (46%) was having primary education. Most of the staff nurses from the rural. (47%) of the staff nurse got previous information from health professional. From the findings it can be concluded that the most of the staff nurses were in the age group above 20 years which reveals that staff nurses had knowledge about human rights of mentally ill patients.

**Keywords:** A study, knowledge regarding human, patients among

### **Introduction**

#### **Purpose of the study**

The article number 25 of Universal Declaration Of Human Rights states that "Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and wellbeing of himself and of his family including food, clothing, housing, and medical care and necessary social services and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age, or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control" (WHO 2001)

Everyone has the basic Human Rights including those who are mentally ill. Mentally ill patients are one of the most vulnerable groups in society, It is the responsibility of the Health care providers specially those working in psychiatric setup to protect their human rights. In order to do so the health personnel mainly the psychiatric nurse must be aware of human rights of mentally ill patients. Incidence of violation of Rights Mentally 111 patients can be avoided if the nurse becomes aware of them.

#### **Need for the study**

Mental health today is recognized as an important aspect of one's total status. It is a basic factor that contributes to the maintenance of physical health as well as social effectiveness (Suresh KS 2009) [2].

The WHO in its world health report 2001 has drawn attention to fact that, nearly 45 crore people are estimated to be suffering from mental illness globally (WHO 2001)

In the world, the prevalence of psychiatric disorder is 58.2 per thousand which means that in India there are about 5.7 crore people suffering from some sort of psychiatric disturbances.

In many hospitals in India, there are anecdotal reports of violent persons with mentally ill. The dignity of persons with mental illness is not respected in mental health institution itself. Sometimes they are found in conditions which are deplorable for example being kept naked or in dirty or old cloths. They are placed in unhygienic condition and sometime women were found in dreadful condition, sometime parts of their bodies could be seen through ill-fitting clothes. They were not provided with dignity and items to maintain menstrual hygiene. These conditions qualify for human right violations.

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According to National Human Rights commission report 1999, there are two types of mental health hospitals. "The first type, do not deserve to be called as mental health hospitals. They are 'dumping grounds' of mentally ill". The living conditions in many of these settings are deplorable and violate an individual's right to be treated humanely and live a life of dignity. The second type "provide basic minimal provisions of food and shelter". Both these type violate rights of mental ill patients.

The incidence of mental disorder may increase in future due to the following causes, Increasing number of nuclear families, Increasing number of the elderly group, Increase incidence of substance abuse, Industrialization and urbanization (Mrs. Sreevani 2010) [3].

Mr. Dileep Kumar, Nursing advisor to govt, of India, in is article entitled 'Human Rights and Nurses Role', has focused on the values embodied in the code of ethics developed by INC, He also encouraged nurses to discuss and deliberate on following issues. How do nurses strive individually and collectively to promote protection of human rights, identify human rights violations and their impact on health. How nurses can advocate for the rights of there patients and ethical decision making process. What are the issues to be included in the curriculum with regard to Human Rights (Dileep Kumar 2005)

Therefore the investigator decided to take up a study to assess the knowledge of nursing students regarding human rights of mentally ill.

### Objectives

To assess the knowledge regarding human rights of mentally ill patients among nurses in selected hospitals.

To compare the knowledge regarding human rights of mentally ill patients among nurses in selected hospitals.

### Methods

**Design:** Non experimental descriptive design with cross sectional survey approach was used

**Setting:** Vinayaka Mission Kirupananda Variyar Medical College and hospital, Salem

**Sample:** The staff nurses who were working in Vinayaka Mission Kirupananda Variyar Medical College and hospital, Salem

**Sampling Technique:** Convenient sampling technique was used for selecting the sample

**Sample Size:** sample size of the study was 30

**Data Collection Procedure:** the data were collected by using closed ended questionnaire

### Findings and Discussion

A descriptive cross sectional survey was undertaken in Vinayaka Mission Kirupananda Variyar Medical College and hospital, Salem to assess the knowledge regarding human rights of mentally ill patients among staff nurses. The data was collected from 30 staff nurses. From the study we concluded that the majority (50 %) of them staff nurses were in the age group of above 20 years and majority (75%) of them was female. (40%) of the staff nurses were Hindus, 47 % were from joint family. Highest percentage of (46%) was having primary education. Most of the staff nurses from the rural. (47%) of the staff nurse got previous information from health professional.

**Table 1:** Scoring Procedure

Level of knowledge	Percentage	Actual score
Poor	0	0-10
Inadequate	85	11-20
Adequate	15	21-30

Percentage wise knowledge score of staff nurse regarding human rights of mentally ill patients shows that highest percentage (85%) of staff nurse have inadequate and (15%) of staff nurse have adequate. (0%) of staff nurse poor knowledge

### Conclusion

A descriptive cross sectional survey was undertaken in Vinayaka Mission Kirupananda Variyar Medical College and hospital, Salem to assess the knowledge regarding human rights of mentally ill patients among staff nurses. The data was collected from 30 staff nurses. From the study we concluded that the majority (50 %) of them staff nurses were in the age group of above 20 years and majority (75%) of them was female. (40%) of the staff nurses were Hindus, 47 % were from joint family. Highest percentage of (46%) was having primary education. Most of the staff nurses from the rural. (47%) of the staff nurse got previous information from health professional. From the findings it can be concluded that the most of the staff nurses were in the age group above 20 years which reveals that staff nurses had knowledge about human rights of mentally ill patients.

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