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Bhanu Param Jyothi B
M.Sc(N), Assistant Professor,
Department of Community
Health Nursing, Sree
Narayana Nursing College,
Stonehouse pet, Nellore,
Andhra Pradesh, India

B Vanaja Kumari
Professor, Department of
Community Health Nursing,
Narayana College of Nursing

Dr. Indira S
Principal, Department of
Community Health Nursing,
Narayana College of Nursing

N Subhashini
Assistant Professor, Sree
Narayana Nursing College,
Stonehouse pet, Nellore,
Andhra Pradesh, India

Correspondence
Bhanu Param Jyothi B
M.Sc(N), Assistant Professor,
Department of Community
Health Nursing, Sree
Narayana Nursing College,
Stonehouse pet, Nellore,
Andhra Pradesh, India

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A study to assess the level of knowledge on Hepatitis-B among degree students at selected villages in Nellore district

Bhanu Param Jyothi B, B Vanaja Kumari, Dr. Indira S and N Subhashini

Abstract

Background: Hepatitis is an inflammation of the liver, most commonly caused by a viral infection. There are five main hepatitis viruses, referred to as types A, B, C, D and E. These five types are of greatest concern because of the burden of illness and death they cause and the potential for outbreaks and epidemic spread.

Objective: To assess the level of knowledge on hepatitis-B among degree students at selected villages in Nellore District.

Materials and Methods: Descriptive cross sectional design and simple random sampling technique was followed which included 30 samples. Data was collected using structured questionnaire. Data analysis was done with SPSS.

Results: Shows that with regard to level of knowledge on hepatitis-B among degree students, 1(3%) had adequate knowledge, 16(54%) had moderate knowledge and 13(43%) had inadequate knowledge.

Conclusions: In the present study concluded that majority 13(43%) of the degree students had inadequate knowledge regarding hepatitis B prevention and vaccination. Hence there is a need to educate the degree students regarding preventive measures of hepatitis B for prevention of further clinical cases.

Keywords: Hepatitis, prevention, control

Introduction

Hepatitis is an inflammation of the liver, most commonly caused by a viral infection. There are five main hepatitis viruses, referred to as types A, B, C, D and E. These five types are of greatest concern because of the burden of illness and death they cause and the potential for outbreaks and epidemic spread.

Hepatitis B is a potentially life-threatening liver infection caused by the hepatitis B virus. Hepatitis B (serum hepatitis) is an important form of both acute and chronic viral hepatitis. It is a major global health problem and success in the prevention of this disease with its fatal consequences depends to a large extent on the public level of knowledge and their awareness about it, as well as their attitude and different risk behaviors they might practice 66% of all the world population living in areas where there are high levels of infection.

Human hepatitis B virus is the prototype virus of the hepadna virus family and causes serum hepatitis.

Hepatitis B virus (HBV) is a very important public health problem affecting approximately 10% of the world population. According to World Health Organization report 2016, approximately 2 billion people were affected with HBV worldwide, >350 million suffered from chronic lifelong infection, and more than 1 million individuals die because of cirrhosis and liver cancer every year.

Objectives of the study

- To assess the level of knowledge on hepatitis-B among degree students.
- To find out the association between the level of knowledge on hepatitis-B with their selected socio-demographic variables of students.

Materials and Methods: Sampling and data collection: Descriptive cross sectional design, used to assess the level of knowledge on hepatitis-B among degree students at selected villages. Non-probability, simple random sampling technique was used. Degree students, who were eligible, can understand regional language, which were available during data collection and voluntarily willing to participate in the study. Who are not studying degree is avoided. Prior Permission was obtained from ethical clearance committee Participants signed an informed consent and were told they could withdraw from the study at any time for any reason.

Description of tool

Part I: Deals with demographic variables include like age, gender, religion, education, family income, source of information, whether you have taken Hepatitis-B vaccine.

Part II: Self-administered questionnaire which consists of 30 questions to assess the level of knowledge on Hepatitis-B among degree students. Each right answer carries 1 mark and each wrong answer carries 0.

Score Interpretation: The score was interpreted as follows:

Inadequate knowledge: 0-10

Moderately adequate: 11-20

Adequate knowledge: 21-30

Data Analysis

Data was analyzed by using descriptive and inferential statistics. Frequency, percentage, Item analysis, mean, standard deviation and chi-square test were done.

Results

The results shows that frequency and percentage distribution with regard to age 9(30%) degree students are 18 years and 21 (70%) are 19 year, gender 10(33%) degree students are males and 20 (67%) are females, religion 13(43%) degree students are Hindus and 17 (57%) are Christians. educational qualification 9 (30%) were studying 1st year degree, 10(33%) were studying 2nd year degree and 11 (37%) were studying 3rd year degree. Family income 6 (20%) earning Rs. < 5000, 11 (37%) earning Rs. 5001-7000, 6(20%) earning 7001-9000 and 7 (23%) earning 9001-11000,source of information 11 (37%) had from health personnel, 12 (40%) had from parents, 4 (13%) had from friends and 3 (10%), hepatitis B vaccinated 19 (63%) had vaccinated and 11 (37%) had not received the vaccine.

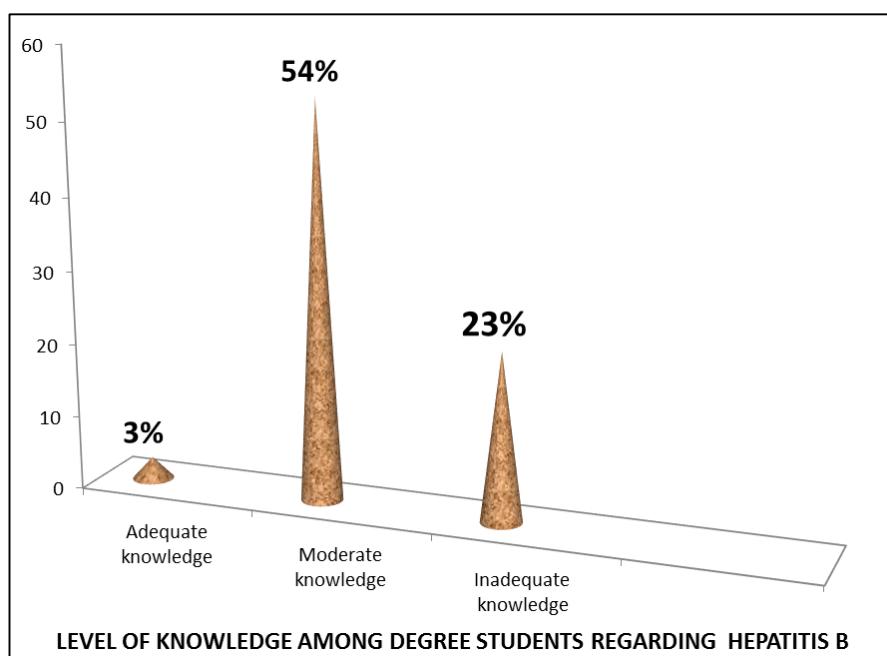


Fig 1: Percentage distribution of level of knowledge on hepatitis B among degree students

Table 1: The mean and standard deviation of knowledge scores of degree students

Category	Mean	Standard deviation
Degree students	11.5	3.39

There is a significant association between the level of knowledge and socio demographic variables like gender, religion, education and hepatitis B vaccination.

There are socio demographic variables like age, family income and source of information has shown non significance association with the level of knowledge.

Discussion

The discussion of the present study was based on the findings obtained from the descriptive and inferential statistical analysis of collected data. It is presented in the view of the objectives of the study. The level of knowledge

regarding hepatitis B among degree students, 1(3%) had adequate knowledge, 16(54%) had moderate knowledge and 13(23%) had inadequate knowledge. The study concluded that majority 13(23%) of the degree students had inadequate knowledge regarding hepatitis B prevention and vaccination.

Conclusion

The study concluded that majority 13(23%) of the degree students had inadequate knowledge regarding hepatitis B prevention and vaccination. Hence there is a need to educate the degree students regarding preventive measures of hepatitis B for prevention of further clinical cases.

Recommendations

- A similar study can be replicated on a large sample to generalize the findings.

- An experimental study can be conducted to assess the effectiveness of teaching program on prevention of Hepatitis B and its prevention.
- Similar study can be done on different hospital settings.

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