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Effectiveness of awareness programme on COVID – 19 among attendants of admitted patients of a selected hospital, Guwahati

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Abstract
Background: COVID – 19 is a disease caused by virus (a new strain of coronavirus). 'CO' stands for corona, 'VI' for virus, and 'D' for disease. This disease has become a global pandemic by infecting people of almost all the world as it is highly transmissible disease. This disease can be prevented by strictly following hand hygiene and other effective preventive measures for COVID-19 disease.
Aim: The study aimed to assess the effectiveness of awareness programme on COVID-19 among attendants of admitted patients.
Materials and Methods: The study consist of quantitative study with pre - experimental one group pre-test post-test design which consisted of 60 patent's attendants of admitted patients in Rahman Hospitals Pvt. Ltd., Guwahati Assam were recruited as sample of the study using non-probability convenience sampling technique. Demographic Performa, structured knowledge questionnaire on prevention of COVID-19, awareness programme on COVID - 19 and structured observational checklist on practice to prevent COVID – 19 were used as tool for data collection. Statistical methods used for the data analysis were descriptive and inferential statistics.
Results: The finding revealed that majority of the attendants of admitted patients (63.30%) were female, (35%) belongs to the age group of <25 years, (35%) were under matric, (40%) of were self-employed, (63.30%) were married, (58.30%) were having children, (55%) were rural habitat, (55%) were having information regarding COVID – 19 from media, friends, and health worker, (56.7%) were not suffering COVID – 19, (81.7%) were fully vaccinated with 2 doses, (55%) were not infected with COVID-19, (83.3%) were not related to health professionals.
Conclusion: Based on the findings, this study not only assessed the level of awareness among patient's attendant but also highlighted the public knowledge gaps for prevention of COVID-19.It is concluded that awareness programme on COVID-19 improved the knowledge and practice on prevention of COVID-19 among attendants of admitted patients.

Keywords: Assess, effectiveness, awareness programme, patient's attendants

Introduction
COVID-19 is an infectious disease caused by SARS-CoV-2 virus, the disease that emerged in December 2019. The coronavirus can spread from an infected person's mouth or nose secretion (respiratory droplets or aerosols) when they cough, sneeze, breathe or speak. The best way to prevent or slow down transmission is to be well informed about the disease and how the virus spreads. Protect oneself and others from infection by staying at least 1 metre distance from others, wearing a properly fitted mask, washing the hands or using an alcohol-based rub frequently. Get vaccinated with two doses of vaccines and boosters when eligible. It is important to practice respiratory etiquette also.

Methodology
The objectives of the study were to assess the awareness programme on COVID-19 among attendants of admitted patients. To find out correlation between knowledge and practice on prevention of COVID-19 among patient's attendants and to determine the association between awareness on COVID-19 among patient's attendants with selected demographic variables. The research approach chosen for the study was a quantitative one with pre - experimental one group pre-test post-test design.

The study was conducted among patient's attendants of admitted patient in Rahman Hospitals Pvt. Ltd. Formal permission was obtained from each participant. Every participant was assured of his/her privacy and confidentiality.

Sample Size
The Sample Size consists of 60 patient's attendants of admitted patients in Rahman Hospital Pvt. Ltd.

Sampling Technique
Non-probability Convenience sampling technique

Tool for data collection
The tool used in the study were
Section I: Demographic variables
Section II: Structured knowledge questionnaire on prevention of COVID – 19
Section III: Structured observational checklist on practice to prevent COVID – 19
Section IV: Awareness Programme on prevention of COVID – 19
For the complete analysis of data in the study, descriptive and inferential statistical methods were used.

Method of data collection
A Demographic variable, Structured knowledge questionnaire on prevention of COVID – 19, Structured observational checklist on practice to prevent COVID – 19 and Awareness Programme on prevention of COVID – 19 were used for the collection of data in the study.

Procedure for data collection
Formal permission was obtained from the concerned authorities of Rahman Hospitals Pvt Ltd. The data were collected at Rahman Hospitals Pvt. Ltd, Guwahati, Assam in month of October, 2021. The investigator had given a self-introduction, explained the purpose of the study and ascertained the willingness of the subjects to participate in the study. An informed consent was obtained before pre-assessment. Pre – assessment of knowledge and practice on prevention of COVID – 19 among patient's attendants by using structured knowledge questionnaire on prevention of COVID – 19 and using structured observational checklist on practice to prevent COVID-19 respectively before the implementation of awareness programme. And implementation of the awareness programme through lecture, discussion and demonstration method by using lesson plan on prevention of COVID – 19 among patient's attendants. Post – assessment was done after the 7th day by using structured knowledge questionnaire on prevention of COVID – 19 and using structured observational checklist on practice to prevent COVID-19 respectively.

Data analysis
The data were analysed and interpreted in accordance with the objectives of the study by using descriptive and inferential statistical methods. Frequency and percentage distribution methods were used for the analysis of demographic variables in the study.

Results

Table 1: Frequency and percentage distribution of demographic variables among the patient's attendants n=60

Demographic Variables		Frequency (*f*)	Percentage (%)
Gender	Female	38	63.30%
	Male	22	36.70%
Age	< 25 years	21	35.00%
	> 25 - 30 years	18	30.00%
	> 30 - 35 years	14	23.30%
	> 35 years	7	11.70%
Educational qualification	Under matric	21	35.00%
	Graduate	13	21.66%
	High secondary	16	26.67%
	Postgraduate and above	10	16.67%
Working status	Employed	13	21.70%
	Self employed	24	40.00%
	Unemployed	23	38.30%
Marital status	Divorced /Widowed	2	3.30%
	Married	38	63.30%
	Single	20	33.30%
Having children	No	25	41.70%
	Yes	35	58.30%
Habitat	Rural	33	55.00%
	Urban	27	45.00%
Main source of information about COVID – 19	Family or Friends	13	21.67%
	Health worker	4	6.67%
	Media	10	16.66%
	All of the above	33	55.00%
Any of your relatives or family have suffered COVID - 19	No	34	56.70%
	Yes	26	43.30%
Have you got fully vaccinated with 2 doses?	No	11	18.30%
	Yes	49	81.70%
Have you been infected with COVID-19?	No	33	55.00%
	Yes	27	45.00%
Do you belong to health-related professionals?	No	50	83.30%
	Yes	10	16.70%

Table 2: Frequency and percentage distribution of knowledge on prevention of COVID-19 among patient's attendants before and after the implementation of awareness programme. n=60

	Pre – Test Knowledge		Post – Test Knowledge	
	Frequency (*f*)	Percentage (%)	Frequency (*f*)	Percentage (%)
POOR	45	75%	0	0%
AVERAGE	14	23.30%	5	8.30%
GOOD	1	1.70%	55	91.70%

Table 3: Frequency and percentage distribution of practice on prevention of COVID-19 among patient's attendants before and after the implementation of awareness programme n=60

Level of practice	Pre – Test Practice		Post – Test Practice	
	Frequency (*f*)	Percentage (%)	Frequency (*f*)	Percentage (%)
Adequate	15	25%	60	100%
Inadequate	45	75%	0	0%

Table 4: Comparison of knowledge on prevention of COVID-19 before and after the implementation of awareness programme among patient's attendants. n=60

Level of knowledge	Mean	SD	Mean Difference	*t*– value	*df*	*p*– value
Pre-test	10.67	3.15	10.28	24.03	59	<0.001**
Post-test	20.95	1.41				

(** - significant at 0.05 level of significance; p = 2.00)

Table 5: Comparison of practice regarding prevention of COVID-19 before and after the implementation of awareness programme among patient's attendants. n=60

Level of practice	Mean	SD	Mean Difference	*t*– value	*df*	*p*– value
Pre-test	4.5	1.26	2.55	15.26	59	<0.001**
Post-test	7.05	0.67				

(** - significant at 0.05 level of significance; p = 2.00)

Table 6: Correlation between pre-test knowledge and pre-test practice on prevention of COVID-19 among patient's attendants n=60

Pre – test	*r*– value	*p*– value
Knowledge	0.58	<0.001**
Practice		

(** - significant at 0.05 level of significance)

Discussion

The study revealed that the calculated '*t*' – value (*t* = 24.03, p = < 0.001) between pre – test knowledge on prevention of COVID-19 and post- knowledge on prevention of COVID-19was found statistically significant at 0.05 level of significances. Therefore it can be concluded that the awareness programme was found effective in increasing the knowledge on prevention of COVID-19 among the patient's attendants. In the other hand calculated *t*-value (*t* =15.26, p=<0.001) between pre – test practice on prevention of COVID – 19 and post -test practice on prevention of COVID-19 was found statistically significant at 0.05 level of significance. Therefore it can be concluded that awareness programme was found effective in improving the practice on prevention of COVID-19 among patient's attendants.

Similar study was conducted by a cross sectional study, conducted by Elayeh E, Aleidi SM, Ya'acoub R. Haddadin RN (2020) [3] to compare the knowledge, attitude and practice of the Jordanian population towards COVID-19 before and after the case reporting, where the study revealed that the main knowledge score of participants improved after case reporting. And also, participant's, practice had increase after reporting the 1st case of COVID-19.

Similar study was conducted by a cross-sectional study, conducted by Thakne SS, Thakne SB, Jadhao A, Das R, Dhole MA, Tiwari PN (2020) [4] to evaluate the effectiveness of COVID-19 training in tertiary health care workers, where there was a significant difference in mean pre-test and post test scores of all the participants.

Conclusion

From the findings of the present study the following conclusion were draw:

- Mean post-test knowledge score on prevention of COVID-19 after the implementation of awareness programme among patient's attendants was significantly higher than the pre-test knowledge score on prevention of COVID-19 before implementation.

Therefore, from the findings of the study it was clearly concluded that the awareness programme on COVID-19 was quite effective among attendants of admitted patients.

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