

A STUDY ON ASSESSMENT OF KNOWLEDGE ON PRACTICE REGARDING FIRST AID MEASURES AMONG THE SELF HELP GROUPS IN SELECTED AREAS OF MANGALORE WITH A VIEW TO DEVELOP INFORMATION MODULE

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Abstract :

A descriptive study was conducted to assess the knowledge on first aid measures among self help group members. The study was conducted in selected community areas of Natekal PHC. The sample for the study comprised of 100 self help group members selected by purposive sampling technique. The data was collected between 2nd October 2011 and 13th November 2011 by using structured questionnaires. The data was analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. The study finding revealed that majority of the samples 55% were in the age group of 25-30 years, 64% were females, 44% of them were manual laborers and 39% received information from the teaching programs, 20% from mass media 13% from friends and 17% of them do not have exposure to any source of information about the first aid practices. The results showed that majority of the samples 62% had good knowledge, and 38% had average knowledge about the first aid practice. Among the seven areas of the knowledge assessment on first aid measures the mean percentage score of the samples were highest (70%) in the area of poisoning and lowest score (28.8%) in the area of bleeding. There is no significant association between knowledge and selected demographic variables like age, educational status, membership in any social organization, occupation, place of living, and source of information other than gender.

Keywords : Knowledge; self help group members; first aid

Introduction :

Long ago, Henry Sigerist, the medical historian stated that "the people's health ought to be the concern of the people themselves. They must struggle for it and plan for it. The war against disease and for health cannot be fought by physicians alone. It is a people's war in which the entire population must be mobilized permanently".¹ Many times, death results because of delay in reaching the casualty to appropriate medical care, and/or lack of knowledge regarding treatment. On

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the contrary, if help is provided to casualty as soon as possible following the accident or injury, a life could be saved. This helps lower mortality and morbidity rates,

complications due to injury or delay in the treatment and a lesser monetary burden on the casualty. Administration of first aid must not delay activation of the emergency medical services system or other medical assistance when required.¹

It is a common occurrence that whenever an accident takes place or any person gets injured, people around the casualty usually panic more than the casualty himself. This should not be the case. The First Aider should have a positive attitude and be prepared to help the casualty. The First Aider should also have adequate knowledge and skills about what he is doing, and be encouraging and reassuring to the victims. Besides learning First Aid, it is the sacred duty of each First Aider to publicize the movement till every citizen of the country learns the methods of First Aid.

Laypersons are important people for saving lives in

emergency situations. Life-Supporting First-Aid should be part of basic health education and all persons from the age of 10 yrs should learn Life-Supporting First-Aid -skills including Basic Life-Support and cardiopulmonary resuscitation. An important barrier and main concern of laypersons about giving first aid to acutely ill or injured people is the fear of making mistakes. Everyone has the potential to save lives. First aid education and practice are essential tools for saving the lives in emergencies. First aid is an act of humanity showing willingness to save lives with full respect for diversity and without discrimination. Building skills in first aid with the vulnerable people can help to build safer and healthier communities.

The studies related to the first aid showed that consciously and timely first aid applications lowered mortality rates significantly. Fifteen to eighteen percent of deaths as a result of injuries can be prevented by consciously applied first aid practices. For instance, it was reported that giving the patient right position could lower mortality rate as much as 10%.² In addition to life saving results of first aid, effective and timely first aid practices also prevent the disabilities. For these reasons whole community should be trained in a way that everybody can practice first aid.

Methods:

A typical descriptive research design was selected in this study. The study was conducted in selected community areas of Natekal PHC. The sample for the study comprised of 100 self help group members. Sample was selected by purposive sampling technique. The data was collected between 2nd October 2011 and 13th November 2011. Structured questionnaires were used for the data collection. The data was analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics.

Results:

Main findings are discussed under the following headings

Section 1: Description of Sample According To Demographic Characteristics

The study finding revealed that 55% of the samples were in the age group of 25-30 years, 64% were females, 44% were manual laborers and 39 % received information from

the teaching programs, 20% from mass media 13% from friends and 17% do not have exposure to any source of information about the first aid practices

n= 100

SL.NO	Sample characteristics	Frequency
1.	Age (yrs)	
	1. 25-30	55
	2. 31-40	22
	3. 41-50	15
2.	Gender	
	1. Male	36
	2. Female	64
	3.	Educational status
	1. Illiterate	0
	2. Primary	52
	3. High school	33
	4. Graduate	15
4.	Member of any social organization	
	1. Yes	85
	2. No	15
5.	Occupation	
	1. Laborer	44
	2. Private	37
	3. Government	4
	4. Un employed	15
6.	Lives in	
	1. Own house	83
	2. Rented house	17
7.	Source of information about first aid	
	1. No source	17
	2. Friends	13
	3. Mass media	20
	4. Teaching program	39
	5. Health persons	11

Section 2: Assessment of Knowledge of Self Help Group Members Regarding First Aid Practice

Knowledge score	Frequency	Percent
Poor	0	0
Average	38	38
Good	62	62
Excellent	0	0

Assessment of mean percentage knowledge of self help group members regarding first aid practice (Area wise)

Area	Max. possible score	Mean	S.D	Percentage mean
General	5	3.21	1.165	64.2
Choking	4	1.58	0.780	39.5
Wound	5	2.46	0.947	49.2
Bleeding	5	1.44	0.935	28.8
Burns	4	2.21	0.820	55.25
Foreign body	3	1.79	0.868	59.66
Poison	4	2.80	1.024	70
Overall knowledge	30	15.49	3.192	51.6

The results showed that majority (62%) of the samples had good knowledge, and (38%) average knowledge about the first aid practice. Among the seven areas of the knowledge assessment on first aid measures the mean percentage score of the samples were highest (70%) in the area of poisoning and lowest score (28.8%) in the area of bleeding.

Section 3: Association between Knowledge with Selected Demographic Variables

Variable	median(16)	>median(16)	c ²	Df	p- value	c ² tab
1. Age						
25-30	35	20	6.678	3	0.083	7.815
31-40	8	14			p>0.05	
41-50	6	9			NS	
51-60	3	5				
2. Gender						
Male	12	24	7.853	1	0.005	3.841
Female	40	24			P<0.05	
3. Educational status						
Illiterate	0	0	1.022	2	0.600	5.991
Primary	28	24			p>0.05	
High school	15	18			NS	
Graduate	9	6				
4. As a member of any social organization						
Yes	44	41	0.013	1	0.911	3.841
No	8	7			p>0.05	
					NS	
5. Occupation						
Laborer	26	18	7.243	3	0.065	7.815
Private	13	24			p>0.05	
Government	3	1			NS	
Un employed	10	5				
6. Place of living						
Own house	43	40	0.007	1	0.932	3.841
Rental house	9	8			p>0.05	
					NS	
7. Source of information						
No source of information	9	8	4.977	4	0.290	9.488
Friends	6	7			p>0.05	
Mass media	7	13			NS	
Teaching program	25	14				
Health persons	5	6				

S=Significant, NS=Not Significant,

The table depicts that Since the Chi-square for the demographic variable like gender (c²cal=7.853) the calculated value is greater than the table value (c²tab 3.84) and also since the p<0.05 the research hypothesis is accepted because there is a significant association between the gender and first aid knowledge of self help group members.

Discussion :

The study findings are consistent with the study conducted by Metin, C. Mutlu in a total of 134 university students to find out their knowledge about first aid. The mean age of the students participating in research was found to be 20 – 25yrs and 50% male, 50% female. It has been determined 65.7% students didn't get first aid knowledge before. Most of the students 98.5% feel it is necessity to have first aid education.³

Another study conducted by De Silva W DAS et al among PHC workers in Sri Lanka. The PHC workers had an average knowledge score of 60% on first aid for poisoning. Among them, 78 (76%) did not know the routes of entry of a poison into the body. None of them knew the appropriate first aid for swallowed poisons. Among the PHC workers, 58% had not studied first aid at all. Those who had previous training in first aid in poisoning (42%) had a higher knowledge score (70%) compared to the scores of those who had no previous training. 84% of the PHC workers suggested having first aid for poisoning as a compulsory subject in

their basic training.⁴

The above study result were supported by a study conducted by CH. Lavanya among adolescents about the CPR program the study result had revealed that there is no association between knowledge and selected demographic variables like age, gender, class studying, ordinal position, type of family, family income.⁵

Conclusion :

The findings of this study indicated the need for educating the self help group members about first aid practices. They must be motivated to adopt safety measures and practice first aid. There is a need of proper and regular educational programs to make awareness in the community about the importance of first aid practices.

There is a need for health personnel to take active part in education of the people regarding first aid. Many educational programs are successful in upgrading knowledge of layman during emergencies.

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