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RESEARCH ARTICLE

KNOWLEDGE ON DRUG ABUSE AMONG NURSING STUDENTS

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ABSTRACT

Drugs are the apt weapons for fighting ailments, but their improper use may lead to innumerable drug induced illnesses and dependence. Use and abuse of drugs is very common among adolescents and it can result in serious consequences. The study aimed to assess the knowledge on drug abuse among nursing students at a selected college. The research design adopted for this study was descriptive. 50 nursing students of III Year BSc Nursing Basic who fulfilled the inclusion criteria were selected as sample through non probability convenience sampling method. The study revealed that 5 (16%) had inadequate knowledge, 14 (47%) had moderate knowledge and 11 (37%) had adequate knowledge on drug abuse. It was found that the mean knowledge score was 12.3 with the standard deviation of 3.25. The study concluded that majority of students had moderate knowledge on drug abuse and its effects.

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INTRODUCTION

Adolescence is not the period considered as adulthood nor as childhood, so it is the period of experiencing conflicts and turmoil's. They are "Too young to go ahead but also too old to go back." Drug abuse has become a subject of global significance. It is estimated that between the age of 15 and 24 years, 50 % of death is due to accidents, homicide and suicide which involves alcohol abuse. This serves as the "Gate way drugs" for abusing the other forms of drugs. This has a serious impact on the physical, emotional, and the psychological wellbeing of an individual. It is a social problem and it is known that adolescent period is a high risk for substance abuse and dependence. Drug abuse is considered to be the most serious problem facing the country because it affects drug users, their families and the society as a whole.

Statement of the Problem

A descriptive study to assess the knowledge on drug abuse among nursing students at a selected college.

Objectives of the Study

- Assess the knowledge on drug abuse among nursing students.
- Associate the level of knowledge on drug abuse among nursing students with their selected demographic variables.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

It consists of two parts

PART- I: Empirical Literature

Section-A: Studies related to epidemiology of drug abuse.

Section-B: Studies related to the cause of drug abuse.

Section-C: Studies related to knowledge on drug abuse

PART- II: Conceptual Frame Work

Modified **Dunn's** high level wellness model had been applied for this study.

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

Descriptive research design was chosen for this study.

Setting of the study

The study was conducted at Faculty of Nursing, Sri Ramachandra University.

Population

Population consists of nursing students studying at Faculty of Nursing, Sri Ramachandra University.

Sample and sample size

50 nursing students of III Year BSc Nursing Basic who fulfilled the inclusion criteria were selected as sample.

Sampling technique

The sampling technique used for this study was non probability convenience sampling method.

Criteria for sample selection

Inclusion criteria

- Students both male and female
- Students those who are studying in III Year BSc Nursing Basic
- Students those who are willing to participate in the study

Exclusion Criteria

1. Students who are absent on that day of data collection.

Description of the Tool

The tool consists of two sections

Section - A

- Demographic variables - Gender, Religion, Type of family, Family’s monthly income, Place of stay, Part time job, monthly pocket money ,Educational status of the parents

Section - B

- Structured Self-administered questionnaire which consists of 25 multiple choice questions focusing on the areas of definition, causes, methods of taking drugs, effects, with drawl symptoms prevention and treatment of drug abuse.

Data collection Procedure

The investigator introduced herself and explained the purpose of the study. Assurance was made about the confidentiality about their responses. Privacy was maintained. Structured knowledge questionnaire was administered to the selected subjects along with adequate explanations and data were collected and analyzed.

Scoring

Maximum Score = 25

Classification of Score

- Above75% - Adequate knowledge
- 75 % to 50 % - Moderate knowledge
- Below 50% - Inadequate knowledge

Data Analysis and Interpretation

The collected data were grouped and the descriptive and the inferential statistics were used for analysing the data.

- The study revealed that 5 (16%) had inadequate knowledge, 14 (47%) had moderate knowledge and 11 (37%) had adequate knowledge
- It was found that the mean knowledge score was 12.3 with the standard deviation of 3.25.
- There is no significant association found between thelevel of knowledge on the ill effects of alcohol abuse among adolescents with selected demographic variables.

Findings

- The study revealed that 5 (16%) had inadequate knowledge, 14 (47%) had moderate knowledgeand 11 (37%) had adequate knowledge on drug abuse.
- It was found that the mean knowledge score was 12.3 with the standard deviation of 3.25.

- The findings revealed that religion, place of stay, type of family, educational status of parents and monthly family income are significant variables in determining student’s knowledge of drug abuse.
- Gender, part time job, and monthly pocket money are not significant variables in determining the students’ knowledge of drug abuse.

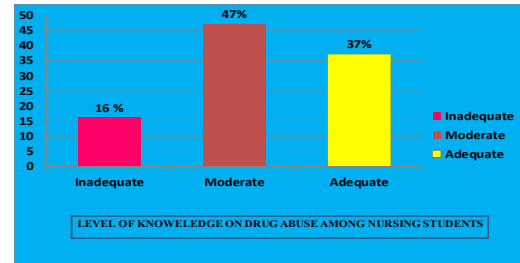


Fig 1 Percentage distribution of level of knowledge among nursing students

CONCLUSION

This study concluded that the students had moderate knowledge on drug abuse and its effects. Educating the youth and providing them with correct information can help them to avoid bad habits and develop as healthy citizens.It needs the teachers and health workers to strive for preventing and controlling of drug use among college students. The health education programme for students on drug abuse could help them to keep their personality and optimal health.

Recommendations

- The study can be done on the large samples to generalize the findings
- Interventionbased studies can be done.
- The study can be under taken at different Institutions
- A comparative study can be done to assess the knowledge between under graduate and post graduate nursing students.

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