

A Study to Assess the Level of Knowledge and Attitude Regarding COVID-19 Care among Staff Nurses Worked in COVID-19 Ward at a Selected Hospital in Tirunelveli District

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ABSTRACT

Aim: Nurses play a major role in caring for patients in the coronavirus disease-2019 (COVID-19) ward. Hence, the nurse should be updated and gain knowledge regarding COVID-19. So, the current study was carried out to assess the level of knowledge and attitude regarding COVID-19 care among staff nurses who were working in COVID-19 wards.

Objectives: (A) To assess the level of knowledge regarding COVID-19 care among the staff nurses working in the COVID-19 ward; (B) To assess the level of attitude regarding COVID-19 care among staff nurses working in the COVID-19 ward; (C) To find out the association between the selected demographic variables and the level of knowledge and attitude among staff nurses working in the COVID-19 ward.

Methodology: Non-experimental descriptive design was used to assess the level of knowledge and attitude of staff nurses worked in COVID-19 ward. Fifty samples were selected by using purposive sampling technique.

Results: On assessing of knowledge score of staff nurses who provided care in COVID-19, 14% of them had adequate knowledge in the range of 16–20, 74% of staff nurses had moderate knowledge between the range of 11–15, and 12% of staff nurses had the inadequate knowledge between the range of 0–10. On assessing the attitude of staff nurses who provided care during COVID-19, 46% of staff nurses had a satisfactory attitude, 40% of staff nurses had a desirable attitude, 4% of staff nurses had an unsatisfactory attitude, and 10% of staff nurses had undesirable attitudes. The mean knowledge score was 13.38, the standard deviation was 0.4, the mean attitude score was 7.28, and the standard deviation was 0.6.

Conclusion: The study concluded that from the basis of the findings, the staff nurses had a moderate knowledge of COVID-19 care and also had a desirable attitude toward COVID-19 care.

Keywords: Assess, Attitude, Coronavirus disease-2019, Knowledge.

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INTRODUCTION

The coronavirus was found in Wuhan, China on 31 December 2019. Later, it was spread to other countries. The WHO declared the outbreak of coronavirus to be a Public Health Emergency of International Concern on 30 January 2020 and recognized it as a pandemic on 11 March 2020.

In India, the first case of coronavirus disease-2019 (COVID-19) was registered in Kerala on 27 January 2020 in a 20-year-old female with a painful throat and dry cough that started 1 day ago. There was no prior history of shortness of breath, rhinitis, or fever. Tamil Nadu, India reported the first incidence of the COVID-19 pandemic on 7 March 2020 in Kanchipuram.¹

The total cases registered in India from January 2021 to August 2021 is over 3 million. In Tamil Nadu, the total cases include 26.3 lakhs. Tamil Nadu reached its peak value on 13 May 2021 with 39,483 cases. The state was again under lockdown from April 2021 and relaxed to an extent from August 2021. The total cases in Tirunelveli recorded over 690 cases in April 2021. There are several complications of COVID-19 such as pneumonia and trouble in breathing, organ failure, heart problems, a several lung conditions which have a great risk of death. Nearly 73% of people are cured without the need for the hospital and the other 27% of people may require hospital treatment. In this,

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nearly 8% of people who needed ICU care, 14% of people are cured in a ward and 5% of people require ventilation support. Due to carelessness and self-administration of medication, it result in increased use of ventilators. The nurses play a major role in caring for patients in the COVID-19 ward. Hence the nurse should be updated and gain knowledge regarding COVID-19. The staff nurses have to provide care to the COVID-19 patients without any fear and should not have an unfavorable outlook when dealing with COVID-19 patients.²

PROBLEM STATEMENT

A study to assess the level of knowledge and attitude regarding COVID-19 care among Staff Nurses who worked in the COVID-19 ward at a selected hospital in Tirunelveli district of Tamil Nadu, India.

OBJECTIVES

- To assess the level of knowledge and level of attitude regarding COVID-19 care among the staff nurses who were working in the COVID-19 ward.
- To correlate between the levels of knowledge and attitude regarding COVID-19 care among staff nurses who were working in the COVID-19 ward.
- To associate knowledge and level of attitude among staff nurses who were working in the COVID-19 ward with the selected demographic variables.

HYPOTHESES

H1: There is a significant correlation between the level of knowledge and the level of attitude.

H2: There is a significant association between the level of knowledge and attitude with the selected demographic variables.

METHODOLOGY

Non-experimental descriptive design was used to assess the level of knowledge and attitude of staff nurses who were working in the COVID-19 Ward. Fifty samples were selected by using a purposive sampling technique. After getting initial permission from the study participants. The investigator collected the data for the research structured questionnaire through the Google Forms. The WhatsApp numbers of staff nurses were collected. The link to Google Forms was sent to their WhatsApp numbers when they were convenient during the period of data collection and they were asked to submit the answers within 25–30 minutes. They had to log in to Google Forms using their e-mail address. After their submission, the responses will be collected from the respondents.³

RESULTS AND FINDINGS

Table 1 denotes the frequency and percentage distribution of the samples based on Demographic Variables. While considering the age in the group out of 50 staff nurses 31 (62%) of them were between the age-group of 25–30 years, with regard to gender, out of 50 staff nurses, 42 (84%) were female. Based on education among 50 staff nurses, 35 (70%) of them were BSc (Nursing). Based on years of experience, 29 (58%) of them were less than 5 years. Based on whether vaccinated, it was found that 48 (96%) of them were vaccinated. Based on the duration of care provided on COVID-19 duty, 24 (48%) of them were given care for 5 months and above.

The first objective of the study was to assess the level of knowledge and level of attitude regarding COVID-19 care among the staff Nurses working in the COVID-19 ward.

Figure 1 showed that the frequency percentage distribution of the knowledge score regarding COVID-19 care among staff nurses working in the COVID-19 ward. The results showed that 7 (14%) of staff nurses had the adequate knowledge level range from

Table 1: Frequency and percentage distribution of the samples based on demographic variables of staff nurses. N = 50

S. No.	Demographic variables	Group	
		F	%
1.	Age (years)		
	a) 25–30	31	62
	b) 31–35	12	24
	c) 36–40	5	10
	d) >40	2	4
2.	Gender		
	a) Male	8	16
	b) Female	42	84
3.	Educational status		
	a) DGNM	10	20
	b) BSc (Nursing)	35	70
	c) MSc (Nursing)	5	10
4.	Experience (years)		
	a) <5	29	58
	b) 5–10	17	34
	c) >10	4	8
5.	Whether vaccinated		
	a) Yes	48	96
	b) No	2	4
6.	Duration of care provided in COVID-19 ward		
	a) <1 month	6	12
	b) 1–4 months	20	40
	c) 5 months and above	24	48

DGNM, Diploma in General Nursing and Midwifery

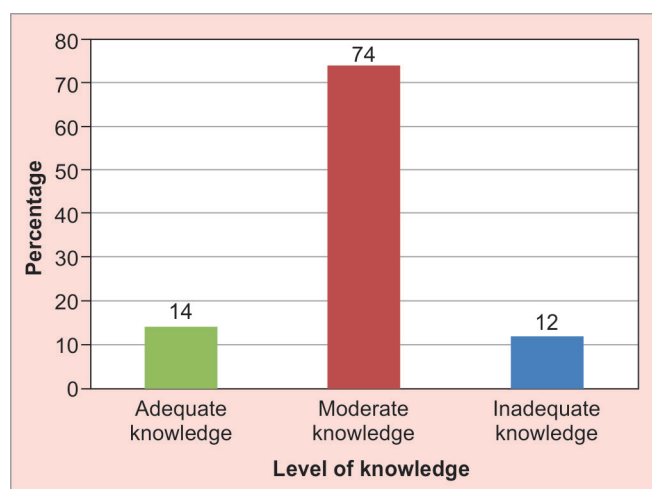


Fig. 1: The level of knowledge regarding COVID-19 care among staff nurses who were working in COVID-19 ward

16–20, 37 (74%) of staff nurses had moderate knowledge between the ranges of 11–15, 6 (12%) of staff nurses had the inadequate knowledge between the range of 0–10. According to the level of attitude, it revealed that 46% of staff nurses had satisfactory

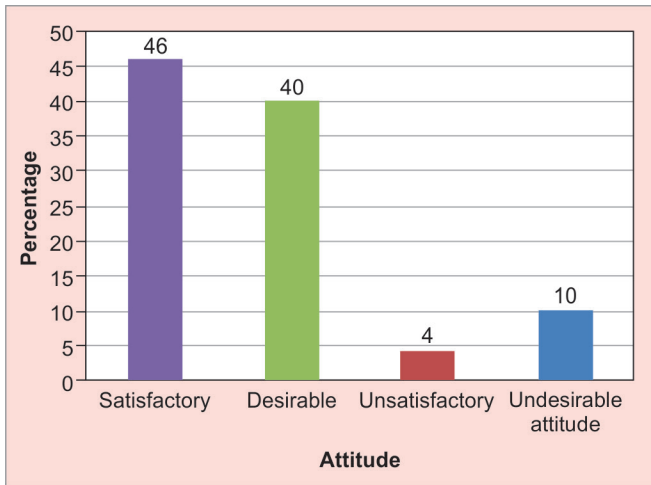


Fig. 2: The level of attitude regarding COVID-19 care among staff nurses working in COVID-19 ward

attitudes, 40% of staff nurses had desirable attitudes, 4% of staff nurses had unsatisfactory attitudes and 10% of staff nurses had undesirable attitudes.

The objective was to find out the association between the level of knowledge and level of attitude among staff nurses who were working in the COVID-19 ward with the selected demographic variables [Figure 2](#).

Shows the level of knowledge of COVID-19 care among staff nurses who worked in COVID-19 with selected demographic variables such as age, gender, educational status, years of experience, whether vaccinated, and duration of care provided in COVID-19 duty. While analyzing the data ($p < 0.05$), it showed that there was no significant association between level of the knowledge with the selected demographic variables at $p < 0.05$.

DISCUSSION

The study assessed the level of knowledge and skill among staff nurses working in COVID-19 wards. The results of the current study indicate that there was a positive correlation (0.5) between knowledge and attitude but no association between knowledge and attitude with selected demographic variables.

RECOMMENDATION

- The same study can be conducted on other COVID-19 care staff nurses who worked in COVID-19 wards.
- A comparative study can be conducted between the other staff nurses worked in the COVID-19 wards.
- A larger sample can be recruited for generalization.

CONCLUSION

The study concluded that from the basis of the findings, the staff nurses had a moderate knowledge of COVID-19 care and also had a desirable attitude toward COVID-19 care.

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