A STUDY TO ASSESS THE LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE REGARDING EPILEPSY MANAGEMENTAMONG STAFF NURSES IN SELECTED HOSPITALS PUDUCHERRY.

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ABSTRACT:

A descriptive study to assess the level of knowledge regarding epilepsy management. To evaluate the knowledge basedon epilepsy management among staff nurses in selected hospitals Puducherry, a descriptive evaluativestudy was conducted, using Non-probability Convenient sampling technique was used to select 50 staff nurses working at selected hospital. Data was collected by using structured knowledge questionnaires and checklist. Based on the objectives and the hypothesis thedata was analyzed. The knowledge of staff nurses regarding epilepsy management was assessed by using self-structured questionnaire. The findings of the study revealed that majority of the staffnurses38(76%)had moderate knowledge,11(22%)had adequate knowledge and only 1(2%) had in adequate knowledge regarding epilepsy management.

Keywords: Staff Nurses, Knowledge regarding epilepsy management

INTRODUCTION

Globally epilepsy is one of the most frequently occurring neurological disorder affecting more than 60 million people irrespective of their age.About 80% of them are residents of middle- and low-income countries. Mortality risk in people with epilepsy is double than the general population. Epilepsy is a social disease accompanied by a stigma that is more debilitating than the disease itself. It creates distress among even those whose seizures are under control as they are constantly subjected to rejection, isolation and discrimination.

In India, epilepsy is often neglected due to lack of knowledge as well as the stigma attached to it. The incidence of epilepsy in children ranges from 41-187/100,000. Higher incidence is reported from underdeveloped countries, particularly from rural areas. The incidence is consistently reported to be highest in the first year of life and declines to adult levels by the end of the first decade.It is estimated that there are more than 10 million persons with epilepsy (PWE) in India. Its prevalence is about 1% in our population.

Indian Journal of Forensic Medicine & Toxicology, October-December 2020, Vol. 14, No. 4, 4173 resulted in epilepsy treatment gap of 80% -90%. In such resourcepoor settingsnurses can play a pivotal role in plugging the lacunae by providing continuum of care between settings . They are an essential, economic and rational assetwho provide information, support, counselling and care to people with epilepsy.

A seizure is a transient occurrence of signs and or symptoms due to abnormal excessive and synchronous neuronal activity in the brain. Seizures are the most common pediatric neurologic disorder. About 4%-10% of children will have at least one seizure in the first 16 years of life. The manifestations if seizure depends upon on region of the brain in which they originate and may include unconsciousness or altered consciousness, involuntary movements and changes in perception, behaviours, sensations and or posture

Seizures are a symptom of underlying disease process. They are individual events. Potential causes include infections, intracranial lesions or haemorrhage, metabolic disorders, trauma, brain malformations, genetic disorders or toxic ingestion.

Epilepsy is defined as two or more unprovoked seizures more than 24 hours apart and can be caused by a variety of pathologic process in the brain. A single seizure is not classified as epilepsy and is generally not treated with long-term antiepileptic drug. Some seizures may result from an acute medical or neurologic illness and cease after the illness is treated. In other cases, children may have one or more seizures without the cause ever being found.

When a child had a seizure, it is important to classify the seizure, according to the International Classification of Epileptic Seizures. Optimal treatment and prognosis require an accurate diagnosis and a determination of cause wherever possible.

Background:

In a resource constraint nation like India, nurses play an important role in bridging the epilepsy treatment gap. They are not only caregivers but also opinion leaders. So this study has been undertaken to study the knowledge, attitude and practices regarding epilepsy among the nursing staff

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:

"A study to assess the level of knowledge regarding epilepsy management among staff nurses in selected hospital at puducherry.

Objectives

➤ To assess the level of knowledge regarding epilepsy management among staff nurses.

➤ To find out the association between the level of knowledge regarding epilepsy management among staff nurses with selected demographic variable.

HYPOTHESIS:

1. **H₁:** There will be a significant association between level of knowledge regarding epilepsy management among staff nurses with selected demographic variable.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

Arvind N.et.al (2021) A study based cross-sectional study was conducted among 213 staff nurses in South India assess the level of knowledge, attitude and practice among staff nurses for a period of four months using a 50 item questionnaire In our study very few nurses (8%) had never witnessed an epileptic seizure .Most of them believed to have insufficient experience in taking care of such patients (86%) and were also reluctant to take care of them (28%). Certain negative beliefs like epileptics are sinners, contagious and under the impudence of supernatural power were still prevailing among them. They practiced administration of oxygen and giving a metallic object in the hands of the patient during an epileptic seizure. Half of them had average to poor knowledge, attitude and practice regarding epilepsy

MATERIALS AND METHODS:

This descriptive study was conducted in 2022among nurses in SVMCH &RC. Nurses in the neural section of the hospitals were excluded. Nurses were explained about the questionnaires before they were filled out and collected.

This study was approved by the ethics committee. Official permission was also obtained from the hospital ethics committees. In addition, all nurses were informed about the study and consent was obtained from all participating nurses. Participants were free to quit whenever they wanted. Questionnaires were answered by the nurses. All participants were ensured about the confidentiality of their responses.

The questions included eight demographic questions, 15 knowledge. Content validity of the questionnaires was evaluated. Test-retest method was used to calculate the reliability of the questions. 50 nurses among the subjects in the study answered the questions. Demographic information including about age, gender, educational level, marital status, job experience, income level, and the history of epilepsy among relatives and family members. Part two, level of knowledge about Epilepsy which includes 15 questions. Each part of the questionnaire was scored separately in a way that a wrong answer was scored 0, and correct answers were scored 1. Part three includes awareness questions regarding Epilepsy.

INCLUSION CRITERIA:

➤ Interested to participate in the study.

➤ Available during data collection.

EXCLUSION CRITERIA:

- Absent during data collection.
- Not willing to participate

RESULTS:

50 nurses from SVMCH & RI hospitals were selected. Among age 41(82%) were belongs to age group of <25 and 9 (18%) were 26-33. Female nurses were more 48 (96%) when compared to male nurses 2 (4%). Comparing the educational status most of them were bachelor's degree 33 (66%) and master's degree were 12 (24%) and DGNM were 5 (10%). Most of the nurses were single 41 (82%) and some are married 9 (18%). Majority of the nurses 45 (90%) were had <5 years professional experience and 6-10 years were 5 (10%) and no one is more than 10 Years. Majority of the nurses 41 (82%) monthly income was <10000 and 7 (14%) were Rs. 10001-20001 and >20000 were 2 (4%). Majority of the nurses 49 (98%) had no family history of epilepsy and only 1 (2%) had yes. Most of the nurses 41 (82%) had not witnessed about seizure attack and few nurses 9 (18%) had witnessed. Majority of the nurses 47 (94%) were hindu and 2 (4%) were Christian and 1 (2%) muslim. Urban residence 28 (56%) were more and rural residence 22 (44%) were less.

1.Age in years	frequency	tage
a. <25	41	82%
b. 26-33	9	18%
d. >34	0	0
2.Gender		
a. Male	2	4%
b. Female	48	96%
3. Education status		
a. DGNM	5	10%
b. Bachelor Degree	33	66%
c. Master's Degree	12	24%
4. Marital status		
a. Married	9	18%
b. Single	41	82%
5. Professional life duration		
a. <5	45	90%
b. 6-10	5	10%
c. >11	0	0
6.Monthly Income status		
a. <10000	41	82%
b. 10001-20000	7	14%
c. >20000	2	4%
7. Family history of epilepsy		
a. Yes	1	2%
b. No	49	98%
8. Have ever witnessed a seizure attack?		
a. Yes	9	18%
b. No	41	82%
9.Religion		

a) Hindu	47	94%
b) Christian	2	4%
c. Muslim	1	2%
10.Residence		
a. Urban	28	56%
b. Rural	22	44%

TABLE 2: LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE

Level of knowledge	Frequency	%	Mean	Standard deviation
Inadequate knowledge	1	2%		
Moderate Knowledge	38	76%		
Adequate knowledge	11	22%	9.26	2.16

DISCUSSION

Majority of the nurses 38 (76%) have moderate knowledge and adequate knowledge 11 (22%) and only 1 (2%) had inadequate knowledge. Calculate mean value was 9.26 and standard deviation was 2.16.

CONCLUSION : Care givers of mentally challenged children face varying level of burden and they should be supported with educational guidance to take at most care of these children.

Conclusion:

The study findings show that majority of nurse having moderate knowledge regarding epilepsy.

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