A STUDY TO ASSESS THE KNOWLEDGE REGARDING MONKEY POX AMONG STUDENTS OF SELECTED NURSING COLLEGES IN KOLLAM.

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Monkey pox is a zoonotic ortho pox virus that incidentally causes disease in humans similar to smallpox, although with notably lower mortality. Education of patients and healthcare workers in regions where the monkey pox virus is endemic is of the utmost importance .Improving patient recognition of this disease, reporting fidelity, and access to diagnostic capabilities are critical actions for collecting the data necessary to gain a deeper understanding of and strengthen defense against monkey pox. Nurses have a key role in responding to the monkey pox outbreak by delivering health education on prevention and infection control .The nursing students must possess a sound knowledge of monkey pox in order to make them identify, diagnose the patients with monkey pox and provide them proper medical care.

Materials and Methods: Non experimental descriptive research design was adopted for this study. The study was conducted among 200 nursing students in selected nursing colleges, Kollam. In order to assess the knowledge of nursing students regarding monkey pox, non- probability cohort sampling technique was used. The tool used for the data collection consisted of demographic proforma and structured knowledge questionnaire. The analysis of the data was based on the objectives of the study using descriptive and inferential statistics.

Results: The findings of the present study revealed that 52% had adequate knowledge, 47% had moderate knowledge and 1% had inadequate knowledge regarding Monkey pox and also revealed that there was no association between knowledge and the demographic variables, such as age, family income and source of information and there was association between knowledge and demographic variable 'gender".

Conclusion: The monkey pox epidemic, like any other pandemic and endemic, puts pressure on nurses working on the frontlines of care with infected patients.

The study finding revealed the importance in providing knowledge regarding Monkey pox among nursing student . More than 50% of the nursing students are having adequate knowledge regarding Monkey pox

Keywords: Assess, knowledge, structured questionnaire

INTRODUCTION

Monkey pox belongs to the family of Poxviridae .Monkey pox is a zoonosis and is spread from animals to humans. The animal reservoir for the disease is thought to include squirrels, rats, monkeys, primates, prairie dogs, hedgehogs, pigs, and mice found in the African regions from where Monkey pox was widely reported. The ongoing epidemic is, however, primarily driven by human-to-human transmission through respiratory droplets, fomites, and direct contact with lesions of an infected individual. Recent analysis has found that viral loads are high in bodily fluids, including urine, saliva, semen, and feces, as well as in swabs taken from the oropharynx and rectum, suggesting that sexual transmission is a major driver of transmission. Although human-to-human transmission has previously been limited, mathematical modeling in the context of decreasing herd immunity to ortho pox viruses reflects an increasing threat of disease spread between humans.

Education of patients and healthcare workers in regions where the monkey pox virus is endemic is of the utmost importance. Nurses have a key role in responding to the monkey pox outbreak by delivering health education on prevention and infection control and preventing stigma and discrimination. What is most important right now is that we must raise awareness about monkey pox among people who are most at risk and provide advice on how to limit further spread between people. It is also important that public health workers be able to identify, diagnose and care for patients. This will help us to end this outbreak and protect people's health.

OBJECTIVES

• To assess the knowledge regarding monkey pox among students of selected nursing colleges, Kollam.

• To find out the association between the knowledge regarding monkey pox and selected demographic variables.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Approach: Quantitative approach

Design: Non experimental descriptive design

Population: Nursing students

Sample: Students of selected nursing colleges in Kollam (1st year-2nd semester)

Sampling techniques: Non probability cohort sampling technique.

Setting: Bishop Benziger College of Nursing ,Holy Cross College of Nursing ,VNSS College of Nursing and Upasana College of Nursing in Kollam, Kerala

Data collection method: Using a structured knowledge questionnaire

Inclusion criteria

• Students who are studying 1st year BSc Nursing (2nd semester).

• Students who are willing to participate in the study.

Exclusion criteria

• Students who are not available during the time of data collection.

Data collection process

We communicated the significance of study with the participants through the college authority in advance and the data collection process was scheduled .The confidentiality of the data was assured to the participants. The structured knowledge questionnaire was given to the available 1st year BSc nursing students (2nd semester). The questionnaire consisted of 30 multiple choice questions and they were requested to go through the questionnaire and put tick mark on the appropriate answer in the relevant column.The completed questionnaires were collected for analysis.

Ethical consideration and informed consent

Permission was taken from concerned authorities of Bishop Benziger College of Nursing, Upasana College of Nursing, Holy Cross College of Nursing at Kollam, to conduct the study and consent was taken from participants before the data collection.

Tool

Section A

It deals with information regarding demographic variables including age in years, gender, education, family income, source of information.

Section B

Structured knowledge questionnaire which consisted of 30 questions regarding definition, etiology, clinical features, diagnostic evaluations, management and prevention of Monkey pox.

Reliability

Reliability was checked by Test retest method .The reliability of the tool was found to be 0.73 , indicating the tool as reliable .

Analysis

Descriptive statistics: Demographic variables were analyzed using frequency and percentage. Knowledge was analyzed using frequency and percentage.

Inferential statistics: Chi square test was used to find out the association between knowledge regarding prevention of monkey pox among nursing students and selected demographic variables.

Result

The data were collected from 200 nursing students who met the criteria for the study.

The data were interrupted on the basis of statistical analysis related to the objectives and need for the study.In the present study the demographic data revealed that 86% of nursing students belonged to the age of 19 years , 11% of nursing students belonged to the age of 18 years and 3% nursing students belonged to the age of 17 years. A vast majority of the nursing students were females (91.5%), and 8.5% were males.Regarding family income , 30.5% had an income between Rs 5000-Rs10000, 60% had an income between Rs10001-Rs50000 and 9.5% had an income above Rs 50000.Regarding their source of information, it was found that , 49.5% of the nursing students received information regarding Monkey pox from social media 42.5% had source of information through newspaper and 8% got information through friends.The association was found out by using chi square test. It was inferred that the present study showed association between knowledge and the demographic variable gender. (Calculated value was greater than table value at 0.05 level of significance) . There was no association between knowledge and the demographic variables such as age, family income, and source of information. (calculated values were lesser than table value).

Percentage distribution of participants as per demographic variables

Table No. 1: Demographic characteristics of study subject**.**

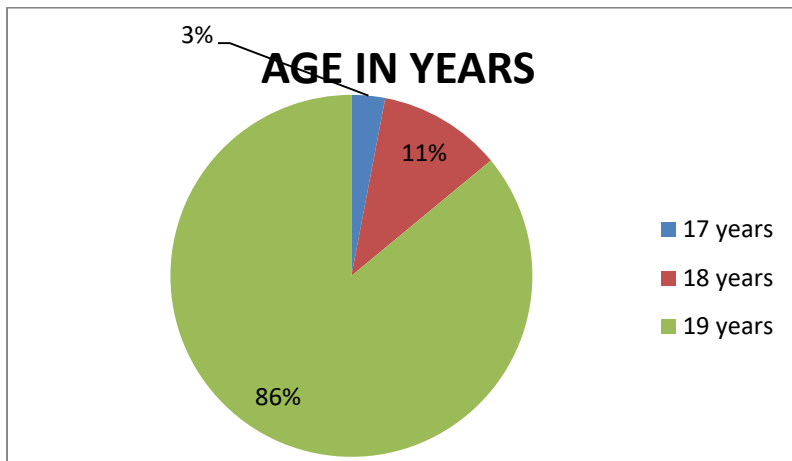| Sl.no	Demographic variables	frequency	Percentage (%)
1.	Age in years		
	17 years	6	3%
	18 years	22	11%
	19 years	172	86%
2.	Gender		
	Male	17	8.5%
	Female	183	91.5%
3.	Family income		
	5000-10000	61	30.5%
	10001-50000	120	60%
	> 50000	19	9.5%
4.	Source of Information		
	Social media	99	49.5%
	Newspaper	85	42.5%
	Friends	16	8%

Figure 1: Percentage distribution of students according to age.

The data in figure 1 shows that 6(3%) were 17 years old ,22(11%) were 18 years old and 172(86%) were 19 years old.
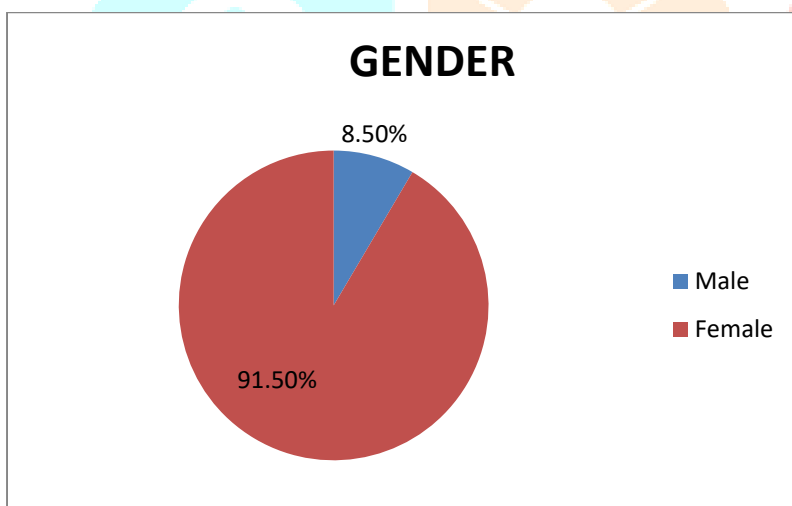

Figure: 2: Percentage distribution of students according to their gender.

The data in figure 2 shows that 17(8.5%) were males and 183(91.5%) were females.
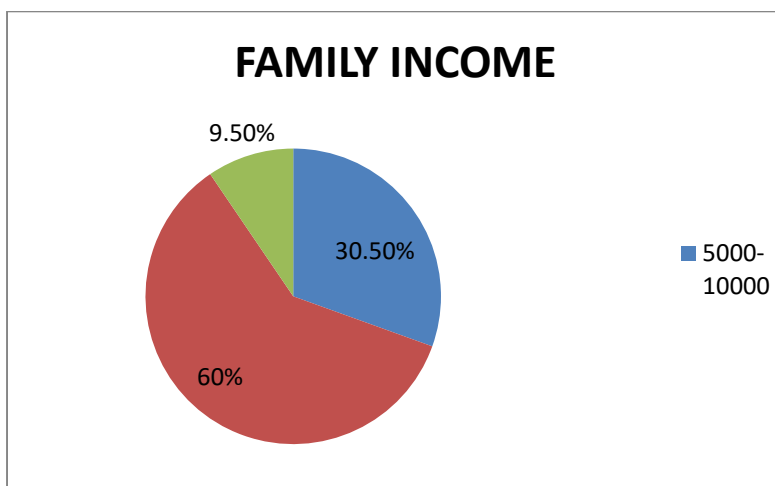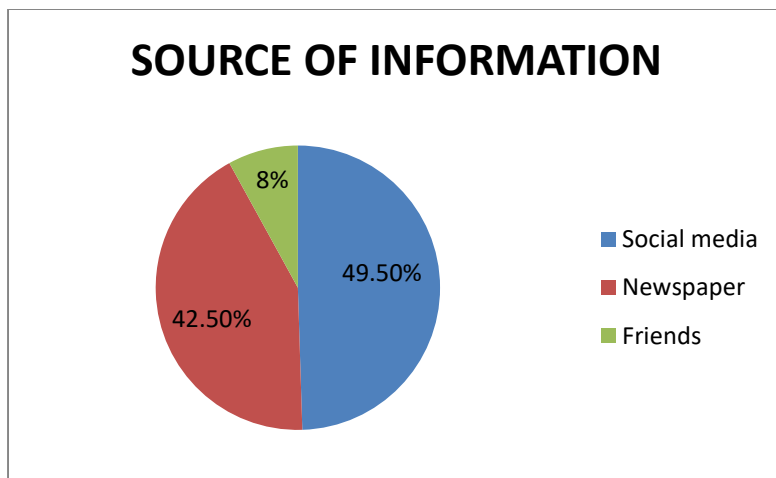
Figure 3: Percentage distribution of students according to family income.

The data in figure 3 depicts that 19(9.5%) had an income above Rs 50000, 120(60%) had an income between Rs 10001-Rs 50000 and 61(30.5%) had an income between Rs 5000-Rs 10000.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION

- Social media
- Newspaper
- Friends

49.50%
42.50%
8%

Figure 4: Percentage distribution of students according to source of information.

The data in figure 4 shows that 16(8%) of them had knowledge through friends, 85 (42.5%) of them received knowledge through newspaper and 99(49.5%) of them had knowledge through social media.

Table No.2: level of knowledge regarding monkey pox among participants of the study.

Sl. No	Knowledge	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Adequate	104	52%
2.	Moderately adequate	94	47%
3.	Inadequate	2	1%

The above table shows that 104(52%) students had adequate knowledge, 94(47%) students had moderately adequate knowledge and 2(1%) students had inadequate knowledge.

Table No.3: association between level of knowledge and selected demographic variables.

Sl. No	Selected Demographic Variables	Adequate knowledge	Moderately Adequate knowledge	Inadequate knowledge	Chi square	Table value	Level of Significance
1.	**Age in years**						
	17 years	1	3	1	5.55	9.4	NS
	18 years	12	10	1			
	19 years	90	82	0			
2.	**Gender**						
	Male	2	15	0	12.93	5.99	S
	Female	102	79	2			
3.	**Family income**						
	5000 – 10000	27	33	1	7.11	9.4	NS
	10001 – 50000	62	56	1			
	>50000	15	5	0			
4.	**Source of information**						
	Newspaper	45	40	0	4.05	9.4	NS
	Social media	48	49	2			
	Friends	11	5	0			

Discussion

The present study revealed that 104(52%) students had adequate knowledge, 94(47%) students had moderately adequate knowledge and 2(1%) students had inadequate knowledge regarding Monkey pox.These findings are supported by a descriptive study conducted to assess the knowledge regarding Monkey pox among health care providers in Bangladesh . A sample of 30 persons were selected. The finding of the study indicated that the majority of health care providers belonged to moderate level of knowledge (68%) and only 26% of them had adequate level of knowledge regarding Monkey pox.In the case of age, chi square value was 5.554 which is less than table value (9.49) at 0.05 level of significance. So, there was no association between age and knowledge . In the case of gender, chi square value was 12.93 which is greater than table value (5.99) at 0.05 level of significance. So, there was significant association between gender and knowledge. In the case of source of information, chi square value was 4.05 which is less than table value (9.4) at 0.05 level of significance. So, there was no significant association between source of information and knowledge. In the case of family income, chi square value was 7.113 which is less than table value (9.4) at 0.05 level of significance. So there was no significant association between family income and knowledge. The findings are supported by a cross sectional study among 500 participants of the Saudi population between 25 May to 15 July 2022 . An online survey questionnaire was used to assess participant's knowledge regarding Monkey pox. Age, marital status, residence, education, occupation and income had a

significant correlation with knowledge regarding Monkey pox. Most respondents got information regarding Monkey pox through health care workers, books and research articles had a significant association with higher knowledge compared to those who used TV and radio, family or friends. The overall knowledge regarding Monkey pox were slightly poor among Saudi population.

Conclusion

The present study was aimed to assess the knowledge regarding Monkey pox among students of selected nursing colleges, Kollam. The study was conducted on a sample of 200 nursing students in Kollam district.The knowledge of students regarding monkey pox was assessed using a structured knowledge questionnaire. The present study revealed that 52% had adequate knowledge, 47% had moderate knowledge and 1% had inadequate knowledge regarding Monkey pox. Association between knowledge regarding Monkey pox among students of selected nursing colleges and demographic variables were analyzed using chi-square test. There was no association between knowledge regarding Monkey pox among nursing students and demographic variables such as age, family income and source of information and there is association between knowledge regarding Monkey pox and demographic variable gender.The present study was conducted to assess the knowledge regarding Monkey pox among students of selected nursing colleges, Kollam. The nursing implications of the study were discussed under various areas such as nursing practice, nursing education, nursing administration and nursing research.

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