



KNOWLEDGE REGARDING TELEHEALTH AMONG PARAMEDICAL STUDENTS.

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Telehealth is a great buzzword describing the new digital means of enhancing healthcare. The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services defines telehealth as the use of electronic information and telecommunications technologies to support and promote long-distance clinical health care, patient and professional health-related education, public health and health administration. Technologies include videoconferencing, the internet, store-and-forward imaging, streaming media, and terrestrial and wireless communications. It is a key concept in this modern times in the field of medical science & healthcare. As it stands today, most telehealth hospital facilities fall into the category of teaching hospitals, but it is easy to foresee a future where telehealth is the primary arbiter of health care. With this in mind, it's interesting to think that one day a generation will think of a hospital waiting room as an antiquated technology.

Methods: The research approach adopted was the Quantitative approach. Non experimental descriptive survey method was used to conducted the study to check the awareness regarding telehealth among paramedical students studied in different paramedical colleges of Pune city , data was collected using a self structured questionnaires. 100 students were choosen for study through non probability sampling technique. The results were analyzed using frequency percentage.

Result: In the study following results were drawn out from findings of the study. Among 100 paramedical students , 24% were having Poor knowledge , 72% of paramedical students were having Average knowledge and only 4% of students having Good knowledge regarding telehealth. As the p value 0.95 , 0.99 and is greater than the significance value 0.05 so the factors ; age , gender and education respectively are not associated with the knowledge.

Conclusion: It is concluded that majority of participants had an average knowledge regarding telehealth among paramedical students.

Keywords: Knowledge, telehealth , paramedical students.

INTRODUCTION:

Tele health is an application to deliver medical care at a distance through computer and tele communication. It includes long distance patient care, advice, education, intervention, monitoring and remote admission. It could include two types of clinicians by video conference and remote accessing. It is based on primary care provider. It can be accessed through smart phones and laptops. Tele health breaks away traditional health care delivery. The integration of tele health is done in India through National Medical College Network.

Tele health has many advantages like remote monitoring, real time interaction between patient and provider, avoid transportation charges, providing quality of care, increases practice revenue, reduce practice overhead, improves patient satisfaction, reduce cross infection, time consuming.

The disadvantage of telehealth is expense is based on the setup, not getting a chance to bond with doctors, connectivity problem, no physical assessment.

In the year 2013 Wojciech Glinkowski, Katarzyna Pawlowska, Lena Serafin were conducted a study in Poland. The study was conducted to know about telehealth and telenursing perception and knowledge among university students of nursing.

Nowadays the integration of smart phone and technology is growing in the industry so health care system is also adapting the use of technology to increase the transformation of health care to a new system and in this telehealth plays an important role.

METHODOLOGY

Research Approach – Quantitative Approach

Research Design – Non-Experimental Descriptive Research Design

Total 100 samples were selected from the selected paramedical colleges of Pune city. The Non-probability convenient sampling technique used for the present study. Population selected for current study is students belongs to the age group from 18 to 21 years. Research tool consists of two sections.

1. Demographic Data – Age, gender, education and previous knowledge regarding telehealth
2. Self structured questionnaire.

RESULTS

SECTION –I

Analysis of the data related to the demographic variables of the samples under study. IN AGE 73% of the sample were from 18—19 years of age, 18% of the sample were from 20—21 years of age and 9% of the sample was above 21—22 years of age, IN GENDER 55% of the sample are females and 45% of the sample was males, IN EDUCATION 31% of the sample were from Lab technician, 29% of the sample were from radiology, 28% from dialysis and 0% of sample from physiotherapy.

SECTION-II

To assess the knowledge regarding telehealth among the paramedical students in selected colleges of pune city.

This section deals with the distribution of samples based on the score obtained from the self structured questionnaires.

Test consist of 15 multiple choice questions

The score for each correct answer is '1' and wrong answer is '0'

In this MCQ test based on mark obtained it is classify into three grades :

POOR = score 0 to 5

AVERAGE =score 6 to 10

GOOD =score 11 to15

Shows 72% of the paramedical students were having average knowledge , 24% of the students having poor knowledge and only 4% of the paramedical students having good knowledge regarding telehealth.

SECTION-III

Association of the knowledge regarding telehealth among paramedical students with the selected demographic variables. For identify the significance of association researcher has decided the significance level is 0.05.

DISCUSSION

A study was done to assess the knowledge regarding telehealth among paramedical students in selected colleges of Pune city. The sample size is 100 paramedical students. The researcher used mean, standard deviation for the assessment. The mean value found is 7.23 and the standard deviation is 6.7721.

In the present study 72% of the paramedical students were having the average knowledge, 28% of the having poor knowledge and only 4% of the paramedical students having good knowledge regarding telehealth.

CONCLUSION

The study was conducted among 100 paramedical students in selected paramedical colleges of Pune City. It is found that paramedical students have average knowledge about telehealth .

Overall, 4% paramedical students having good knowledge about telehealth ,72% paramedical students having average knowledge about telehealth, 24% paramedical students having poor knowledge about telehealth

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