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**A STUDY TO ASSESS THE KNOWLEDGE ON TRENDS AND ISSUES IN
GERIATRIC NURSING CARE AMONG THE STUDENTS OF SRM
COLLEGE OF NURSING**

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ABSTRACT

Globally, the ageing population is currently one of the main issues faced by international health care systems. It is a recognized fact that with advancing age, the likelihood of developing health problems and chronic disease will increase and the demand for health care resources will rise. A comprehensive education program on geriatric care for learners of different levels is fundamental to preparing future professionals to provide quality care for the elderly. The aim of the study was conducted to assess the knowledge of geriatric nursing care among the students of SRM college of nursing. Evaluative research approach with pre experimental one group pretest posttest was used. Total 95 samples were taken for the study. There was a significant improvement in post-test knowledge scores of the students regarding trends and issues in geriatrics nursing care

(M=17.55, SD=3.39) compared to the pre test scores (M=12.98, SD=4.56) with the 't' value of 17.461 at $p < 0.001$.

Keywords: Knowledge, Trends, Issues, Geriatric, Nursing care

INTRODUCTION

Population aging is an issue of global significance. Annually, about 58 million people around the world turn 60 years old, which equates to two people every second [3].

The global proportion of older adults (≥ 60 years), estimated at 11.5% in 2012, is expected to double by 2050 resulting in a greater number of older adults than children under 15 in the world [3].

Aging is often associated with multiple chronic diseases and reduced ability to independently perform activities of daily living. So collaboration between clinical health, public health, and social care systems will be required [5, 6].

Assessing nursing students' knowledge, attitudes, and perceptions about caring for older adults is very important in understanding their learning needs and identifying their potential misconceptions about older adults, which may, in turn, guide the development and refinement of gerontology nursing courses [7].

A study was done to assess the knowledge and attitude toward palliative care for the elderly among health professionals in a

tertiary geriatric hospital in Vietnam. Cross-sectional data were obtained on 161 geriatric health professionals. physicians and nurses showed insufficient knowledge about geriatric palliative care and no difference was found regarding the attitude. So there is a significant knowledge gap and preferable attitude toward palliative care for the elderly among physicians and nurses in the geriatric hospital [2].

A review was made to examine the published literature on nurses and nursing students' preparedness to care for older adults in lower and middle-income countries. MEDLINE, CINAHL, ERIC and SCOPUS were searched. Grey literature using Google Scholar and ProQuest were also searched. It was reported that the knowledge should to enhanced about health and nursing care in lower and middle-income countries and build on the positive attitudes towards older adults [1].

Previous study aimed to examine Nepalese undergraduate nursing students, knowledge of aging, attitudes towards older adults and perceptions of working with older adults, and to assess differences in these outcomes by socio-demographic characteristics as well as

type of nursing program. Compared to students pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN), students pursuing a Bachelor of Nursing (BN) had a significantly higher score on the knowledge, attitudes and perception of aging scales. Linear regression analyses showed that the students' knowledge of aging ($\beta = 0.55$; 95% CI = 0.25–0.86) and perceptions of working with older adults ($\beta = 0.22$; 95% CI = 0.05–0.38) had a significant positive association with their attitudes toward older adults [1].

METHODOLOGY

The research approach adopted for the present study is Quantitative approach, Evaluative in Nature.

The research design adopted for the present study is pre experimental design one group pretest posttest method. The study was conducted at SRM College of Nursing, Chennai. Convenient sampling technique was used.

A total of 95 students attended. The data collection instruments used in this study was the demographic variables and structured questionnaire regarding the trends and issues in geriatric nursing care. The structured questionnaire consists of 30 questions.

The Google form questionnaire are shared to the students through online. The data was collected through Google forms. The raw

data was collected in excel sheet and analysis was done.

The students attended the posttest through online after the educational programme.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The aim of the study to assess the knowledge on trends and issues in geriatric nursing care among the students of SRM College of Nursing.

The majority of the students had moderately adequate knowledge (57.89%) and 32.63% of them had inadequate knowledge in pretest. 83.16% of the students had moderately adequate knowledge and 16.84% had adequate knowledge after the educational programme.

There was a significant improvement in post-test knowledge scores of the students regarding trends and issues in geriatrics nursing care (M=17.55, SD=3.39) compared to the pre test scores (M=12.98, SD=4.56) with the 't' value of 17.461 at $p < 0.001$.

There was no significant association between the post test level of knowledge regarding the trends and issues in geriatrics nursing care and demographic variables such as age, gender, race, religion, type of family, father education, mother education, father occupation, mother occupation.

The distribution of the demographic variables of the students revealed that majority of the

students were aged between 19yrs to 20yrs (82.1%), 88(92.6%) of them are female and 7(7.4%) are male. 93(97.8 %) are Indians, 1 (1.1%) is African and 1(1.1) others. 72(75.8%) are Hindu, 23(24.2%) are Christian, 83(87.4%) are from nuclear family and 12(12.6%) belong to joint family. Most of the student's father and mother studied up to secondary level of education. Majority of the student's father occupation is agriculture and mothers are house wife. The students must need adequate knowledge regarding the geriatric care. They are educated to protect the geriatric health and balance the needs of the older people.

There was a significant improvement obtained after the educational programme. The maximum students gained knowledge on Geriatric nursing care.

Statistical Analysis

Table 1 depicts the frequency and percentage distribution of demographic variables of students.

The data in the **Table 2** depicted that majority of the students had moderately adequate knowledge (57.89%) and 32.63% of them had inadequate knowledge in pretest. 83.16% of the students had moderately adequate knowledge and 16.84 had adequate knowledge after the educational programme.

The findings from the **Table 3** indicates, there was a significant improvement in post-test knowledge scores of the students regarding trends and issues in geriatrics nursing care (M=17.55, SD=3.39) compared to the pre test scores (M=12.98, SD=4.56) with the 't' value of 17.461 at **p<0.001**.

Table 4 reveals that there was no significant association between the post test level of knowledge regarding the trends and issues in geriatrics nursing care and demographic variables such as age, gender, race, religion, type of family, father education, mother education, father occupation, mother occupation.

Table 1: Frequency and percentage distribution of demographic variables of students (N = 95)

| Demographic Variables | Frequency (f) | Percentage (%) |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Age of the students (in years) | | |
| 19 – 20 | 78 | 82.1 |
| 21 – 22 | 11 | 11.6 |
| 23 and above | 6 | 6.3 |
| Gender | | |
| Male | 7 | 7.4 |
| Female | 88 | 92.6 |
| Race | | |
| Indian | 93 | 97.8 |
| African | 1 | 1.1 |
| Others | 1 | 1.1 |
| Religion | | |
| Hindu | 72 | 75.8 |
| Christian | 23 | 24.2 |
| Muslim | - | - |
| Others | - | - |
| Type of family | | |
| Nuclear family | 83 | 87.4 |
| Joint family | 12 | 12.6 |
| Coextended family | - | - |
| Father's education | | |
| Secondary | 29 | 30.5 |
| Higher secondary | 30 | 31.6 |
| Graduate | 19 | 20.0 |
| Post graduate | 5 | 5.3 |
| Illiterate | 12 | 12.6 |
| Mother's education | | |
| Secondary | 30 | 31.6 |
| Higher secondary | 29 | 30.5 |
| Graduate | 16 | 16.8 |
| Post graduate | 8 | 8.5 |
| Illiterate | 12 | 12.6 |
| Father's occupation | | |
| Agriculture | 27 | 28.4 |
| Private employee | 20 | 21.1 |
| Govt. employee | 22 | 23.2 |
| Self employee | 26 | 27.3 |
| Mother's occupation | | |
| Agriculture | 9 | 9.5 |
| Private employee | 8 | 8.4 |
| Govt. employee | 9 | 9.5 |
| Self employee | 6 | 6.3 |
| House wife | 63 | 66.3 |

Table 2 (N = 95)

| Level of Knowledge | Pretest | | Post Test | |
|---|---------|-------|-----------|-------|
| | No. | % | No. | % |
| Inadequate Knowledge (0 - 10) | 31 | 32.63 | 0 | 0 |
| Moderately Adequate Knowledge (11 – 20) | 55 | 57.89 | 79 | 83.16 |
| Adequate Knowledge (21 – 30) | 9 | 9.48 | 16 | 16.84 |

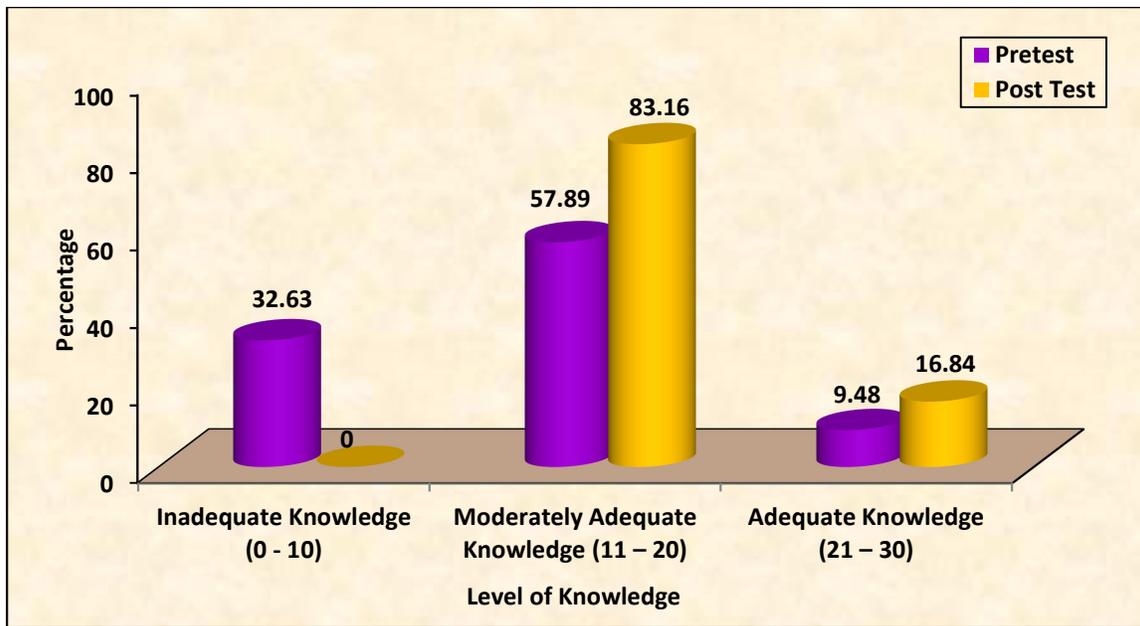


Figure 1: Percentage distribution of pretest and post test level of knowledge on trends and issues in geriatric nursing care among the students of SRM College of Nursing

Table 3: Comparison of pretest and post test level of knowledge on trends and issues in geriatric nursing care among the students of SRM College of Nursing

| Knowledge | Median | Mean | S.D | Mean Difference Score | Paired 't' Test & p-Value |
|-----------|--------|-------|------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Pretest | 12.0 | 12.98 | 4.56 | 4.57 | t = 17.461 p=0.000 S*** |
| Post Test | 17.0 | 17.55 | 3.39 | | |

N = 95

***p<0.001, S – Significant

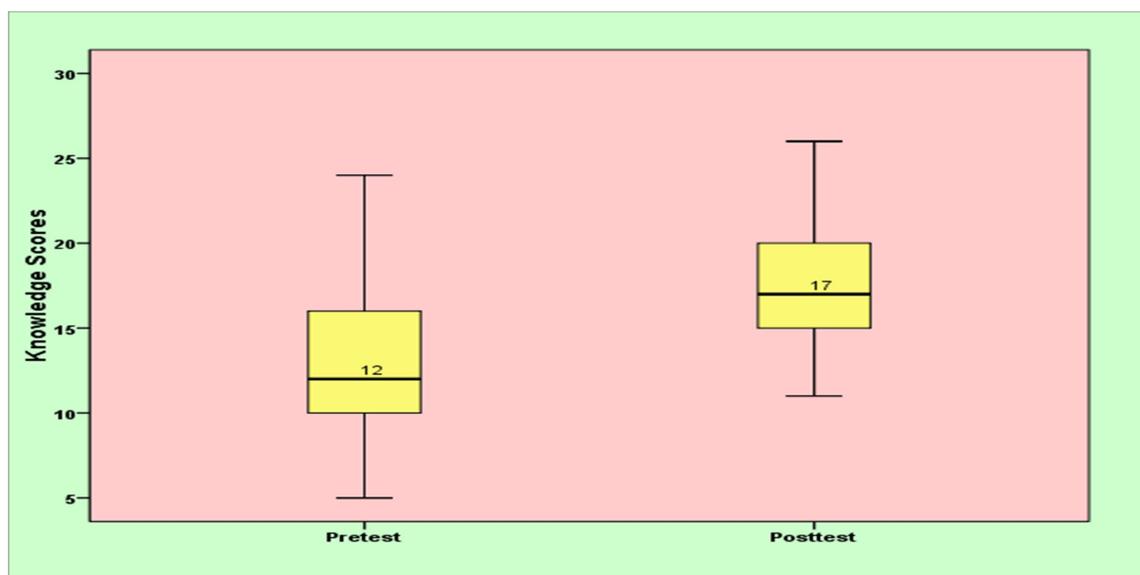


Figure 2: Boxplot showing the comparison of pretest and post test level of knowledge on trends and issues in geriatric nursing care among the students of SRM College of Nursing

Table 4: Association of post test level of knowledge on trends and issues in geriatric nursing care among the students of SRM College of Nursing with their selected demographic variables (N = 95)

| Demographic Variables | Inadequate | | Moderately Adequate | | Adequate | | Chi-Square Value |
|---------------------------------------|------------|---|---------------------|------|----------|------|---|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | |
| Age of the students (in years) | | | | | | | $\chi^2=0.016$ d.f=2 p = 0.992 N.S |
| 19 – 20 | - | - | 65 | 68.4 | 13 | 13.7 | |
| 21 – 22 | - | - | 9 | 9.5 | 2 | 2.1 | |
| 23 and above | - | - | 5 | 5.3 | 1 | 1.1 | |
| Gender | | | | | | | $\chi^2=0.742$ d.f=1 p = 0.389 N.S |
| Male | - | - | 5 | 5.3 | 2 | 2.1 | |
| Female | - | - | 74 | 77.9 | 14 | 14.7 | |
| Race | | | | | | | $\chi^2=5.174$ d.f=2 p = 0.075 N.S |
| Indian | - | - | 78 | 82.1 | 15 | 15.8 | |
| African | - | - | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1.1 | |
| Others | - | - | 1 | 1.1 | 0 | 0 | |
| Religion | | | | | | | $\chi^2=0.007$ d.f=1 p = 0.936 N.S |
| Hindu | - | - | 60 | 63.2 | 12 | 12.6 | |
| Christian | - | - | 19 | 20.0 | 4 | 4.2 | |
| Muslim | - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| Others | - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| Type of family | | | | | | | $\chi^2=0.653$ d.f=1 p = 0.419 N.S |
| Nuclear family | - | - | 70 | 73.7 | 13 | 13.7 | |
| Joint family | - | - | 9 | 9.5 | 3 | 3.2 | |
| Coextended family | - | - | | | | | |
| Father's education | | | | | | | $\chi^2=3.457$ d.f=4 p = 0.484 N.S |
| Secondary | - | - | 25 | 26.3 | 4 | 4.2 | |
| Higher secondary | - | - | 22 | 23.2 | 8 | 8.4 | |
| Graduate | - | - | 17 | 17.9 | 2 | 2.1 | |
| Post graduate | - | - | 4 | 4.2 | 1 | 1.1 | |
| Illiterate | - | - | 11 | 11.6 | 1 | 1.1 | |
| Mother's education | | | | | | | $\chi^2=2.757$ d.f=4 p = 0.599 N.S |
| Secondary | - | - | 23 | 24.2 | 7 | 7.4 | |
| Higher secondary | - | - | 25 | 26.3 | 4 | 4.2 | |
| Graduate | - | - | 13 | 13.7 | 3 | 3.2 | |
| Post graduate | - | - | 8 | 8.4 | 0 | 0 | |
| Illiterate | - | - | 10 | 10.5 | 2 | 2.1 | |
| Father's occupation | | | | | | | $\chi^2=0.747$ d.f=3 p = 0.862 N.S |
| Agriculture | - | - | 22 | 23.2 | 5 | 5.3 | |
| Private employee | - | - | 16 | 16.8 | 4 | 4.2 | |
| Govt. employee | - | - | 18 | 18.9 | 4 | 4.2 | |

| Demographic Variables | Inadequate | | Moderately Adequate | | Adequate | | Chi-Square Value |
|-----------------------|------------|---|---------------------|------|----------|------|---|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | |
| Self employee | - | - | 23 | 24.2 | 3 | 3.2 | $\chi^2=2.690$ d.f=4 p = 0.611 N.S |
| Mother's occupation | | | | | | | |
| Agriculture | - | - | 8 | 8.4 | 1 | 1.1 | |
| Private employee | - | - | 8 | 8.4 | 0 | 0 | |
| Govt. employee | - | - | 8 | 8.4 | 1 | 1.1 | |
| Self employee | - | - | 5 | 5.3 | 1 | 1.1 | |
| House wife | - | - | 50 | 52.6 | 13 | 13.7 | |

N.S – Not Significant

CONCLUSION

The findings of the study revealed that the educational programme on trends and issues in geriatrics nursing care was effective in enhancing the knowledge of the students.

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