



A STUDY TO ASSESS THE KNOWLEDGE AMONG TEACHERS REGARDING FIRST-AID MANAGEMENT OF EPILEPSY IN CHILDREN AT SELECTED PRIMARY SCHOOLS

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ABSTRACT

Background: Epilepsy was one of the first brain disorders to be described in which clusters of nerve cells or neurons, sometimes signal abnormally. The cause of epilepsy in most cases is unknown, although some people has epilepsy as the result of brain stroke, brain cancer and drugs etc. Epilepsy is associated with fear and social stigma.

Objectives: To find out the association of knowledge of primary school teachers regarding first-aid management of epilepsy in children with related demographic variables.

Methodology: Descriptive research design was used to assess the knowledge among teachers regarding first-aid management of epilepsy in children. A total 50 teachers were selected from selected schools of district Shri Muktsar Sahib. Convenience sampling technique was used to select the subjects and schools. Structured questionnaire was used to assess the knowledge of teachers regarding epilepsy in children.

Results: it was found that 44% of the teachers were in age group 21-30 years, 68% were females and only 32% were male. There were 56% of the teachers were M.A. B.Ed. and only 6% were M.Sc. B.Ed. Majority 44% of the teachers had 0-5 years of teaching experience and only 8% had 11-15 years of teaching experience. Only 2% teacher's parents had history of epilepsy. The 46% of the teachers got information from the mass media and only 6% got information from parents. There was no significant association of knowledge of primary school teacher's regarding first-aid management of epilepsy in children with related demographic variables.

Conclusion: It was concluded that 19 were having good knowledge, 25 were having average knowledge and 6 were having poor knowledge. Knowledge score was 0-9, 10-18 and 19-27

Key words: Epileptic fit, Knowledge, Children, Teachers, Primary school and First-aid management.

INTRODUCTION

"Epilepsy imposes enormous physical, psychological, social and economic burdens on individuals, families and countries, especially due to misunderstanding, fear and stigma. While these problems are universal, they are greatest in the developing world" (Dr.Wang Xiandong, 2004).

The nervous system detects and responds to change inside and outside the body. Together with endocrine system, it controls important aspects of body functions and maintain homeostasis.¹ In epilepsy, normal pattern of neuronal activity become disturbed, causing strange sensations, emotions & behavior or sometimes convulsions, muscle spasm & loss of consciousness.² WHO (2004), over 50 million people worldwide suffer from epilepsy. In

USA, in year 2000 about 2 million people suffered from epilepsy & among them 300,000 were under age of 14. The incidence of epilepsy in children & adolescents seems relatively consistent across all populations. Studied, ranging from 0.5 to 1.0 per 1000, of the general population. In India, the prevalence of epilepsy among children ranges from 64-177 per 1,00,000.⁵

OBJECTIVES

- 1) To assess knowledge of primary school teachers regarding first aid management of epilepsy in children.
- 2) To find out the association of knowledge of primary school teachers regarding first-aid management of epilepsy in children with selected demographic variables.

METHODOLOGY

A descriptive research design was used to conduct the study i.e. to assess the knowledge of primary school teachers regarding first-aid management of epilepsy in children at selected primary schools of district Shri Muktsar Sahib. A total 50 teachers were taken using Convenience sampling technique. Structured questionnaire was used to assess the knowledge of primary school teachers. Analysis of data was done in accordance with the objectives of the study by using descriptive and inferential statistics.

RESULTS

It was found that the maximum (44%) of the teachers were in age group (21-30 & 31-40). Majority (68%) of the primary school teachers were female only 32% were male. Maximum i.e. 56% of the primary school teachers were M.A./ B.Ed, 24% of the primary school teachers were B.A. / B.Ed., 6% of M.Sc. / B.Ed. Majority (44%) of the primary school teachers had teaching experience of 0-5 years. Primary school teachers, who had teaching experience of 6-10 years, 11-15 years and above 15 years were 38%, 8% and 10% respectively. Only 26% of the primary school teachers had previous experience with epilepsy and 74% had no previous experience of epilepsy. Majority (86%) of the primary school teachers had family history of epilepsy regarding others. Primary school teachers, who had family history of parents and close relatives, were 2% and 12%. None of the primary school teachers had family history of siblings and self. Majority of the primary school teachers got information from mass media i.e. 46%. Primary school teachers who got information from friends, parents and other sources were 10%, 6% and 38% respectively.

TABLE 1: Frequency and percentage distribution of primary school teachers (21-60 years) by their demographic characteristics

N=50			
S.NO.	VARIABLES	FRQEQUENCY	PERCENTAGE (%)
1	AGE IN YEARS		
	21-30	22	44
	31-40	22	44
	41-50	5	10
	51-60	1	2
2	GENDER		
	MALE	16	32
	FEMALE	34	68
3	QUALIFICATION		
	B.A./B.Ed.	12	24

	M.A./ B.Ed.	28	56
	B.Sc./B.Ed.	0	0
	M.Sc./B.Ed.	3	6
	OTHERS	7	14
4	TEACHING EXPERIENCE		
	0-5 YEARS	22	44
	6-10 YEARS	19	38
	11-15 YEARS	4	8
	ABOVE 15 YEARS	5	10
5	PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE		
	YES	13	26
	NO	37	74
6	FAMILY HISTORY		
	PARENTS	1	2
	CLOSE RELATIVES	6	12
	SIBLINGS	0	0
	SELF	0	0
	OTHERS	43	86
7	SOURCE OF INFORMATION		
	MASS MEDIA	23	46
	FRIENDS	5	10
	PARENTS	3	6
	ANY OTHER SOURCE	19	38

N=50

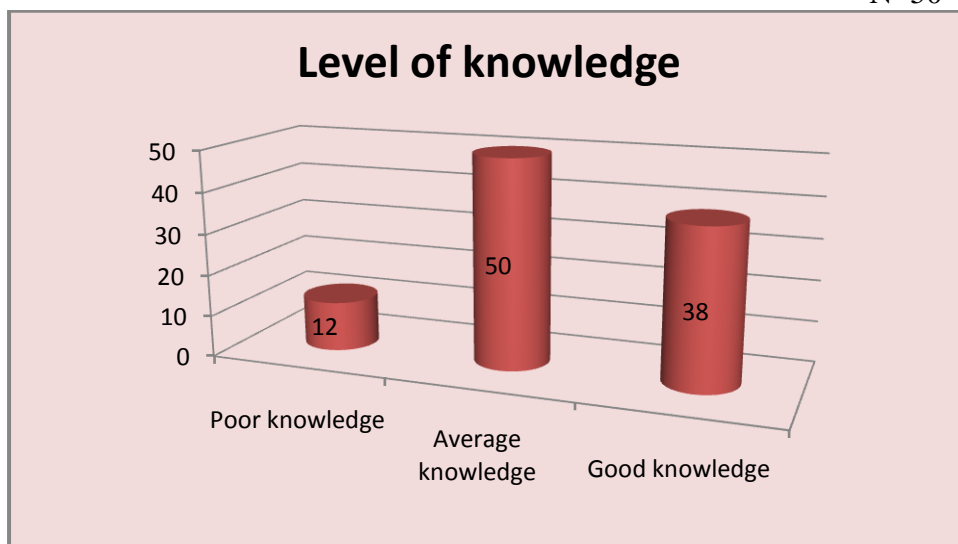


FIG1: Percentage of teachers as per their level of knowledge

The above fig. shows that there were total 50 teachers included in the study. Out of them, 19 (38%) were having good knowledge, 25 (50%) were having average knowledge and 6 (12%) were having poor knowledge regarding the first-aid management of epilepsy in children.

TABLE 2: Chi-square value showing the association between selected demographic variables (Age, gender, qualification, teaching experience, previous experience, family history and source of information) with knowledge of primary school teachers regarding first-aid management of epilepsy

N= 50

S. No.	Selected variables	Poor level of knowledge	Average level of knowledge	Good level of knowledge	df	Chi-square (X^2) Value
1.	Age in years				6	9.30 ^{NS}
	21-30	3	12	7		
	31-40	3	11	8		
	41-50	0	1	4		
	51-60	0	1	0		
2.	Gender				2	0.96 ^{NS}
	Male	2	7	7		
	Female	4	18	12		
3.	Qualification				8	6.30 ^{NS}
	B.A. / B.Ed.	1	9	2		
	M.A. / B.Ed.	4	12	12		
	B.Sc. /B.Ed.	0	0	0		
	M.Sc. / B.Ed.	0	1	2		
	Others	1	3	3		
4.	Teaching experience in years				6	4.11 ^{NS}
	0-5	4	11	7		
	6-10	2	10	7		
	11-15	0	1	3		
	Above 15	0	3	2		
5	Previous experience				2	0.63 ^{NS}
	Yes	1	6	6		
	No	5	19	13		
6.	Family history				8	2.83 ^{NS}
	Parents	0	0	1		
	Close relatives	1	4	1		
	Siblings	0	0	0		
	Self	0	0	0		
	Others	5	21	17		
7.	Source of information				6	4.16 ^{NS}
	Mass media	3	10	10		
	Friends	1	2	2		
	Parents	0	3	0		
	Any other source	2	10	7		

df (2) = 5.99, df(6) = 12.5, df (8) = 15.51 at 0.05 level of significance.

NOTE :- NS – Not significant at 0.05 level.

It was found that, there was no significant association of knowledge of primary school teacher's regarding first-aid management of epilepsy in children with related demographic variables.

DISCUSSION

It was found that total 50 teachers included in the study. Out of them, 19 (38%) were having good knowledge, 25 (50%) were having average knowledge and 6 (12%) were having poor knowledge regarding the first-aid management of epilepsy in children. Where as Abulhamil As et al. indicated that age ranging between 21 and 59 years. Maximum (79%) teachers were of Saudi Arabian nationality and (66%) had a college or university degree. Only 17% of teachers felt very well informed about epilepsy. Teachers with higher education were likely to have good knowledge. Similarly Homi Bhesania et al. revealed that out of the total sampling size 99.9% had heard about epilepsy, 14.5% teachers considered epilepsy to be contagious while 72.7% teachers were of the view that epileptics can succeed as other normal children and 62.7% teachers were willing to help a child experiencing a fit. Though, only 15.5% received the knowledge about epilepsy during training years. It was concluded that knowledge and attitude of teachers towards epileptic children was negative. Another study conducted by Alkhamra H et al. shows that average knowledge of epilepsy and generally favourable attitude toward student with epilepsy, although participants revealed knowledge about the causes and symptoms of epilepsy. They demonstrated poor knowledge about methods of dealing with seizures. However participants scored high on items relating to equality of right and need for further support findings indicated that although participants should favourable attitude, more information and awareness about epilepsy should be provided to teachers within the school system of Jordan.¹²

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