

A Study to Assess Knowledge Regarding Triage Among the Nursing Students at Selected Colleges of Ambala, Haryana

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ABSTRACT

Nurses function in a challenging environment where they are required to utilize various methods of learning to process, integrate, and disseminate information when appropriate. It is important for the nursing personnel to have good knowledge and skills regarding triage system.

Aims and Objectives: The aim of the study was to assess the knowledge regarding triage among nursing students.

Methodology: The research includes a quantitative approach and the design was non-experimental descriptive survey design. The study was conducted at MM College of Nursing Mullana, Ambala, Haryana. The setting was selected by purposive method. A sample of 190 nursing students was recruited as study participants by purposive sampling. The tool used for the study consisted of socio-demographic profile, structured knowledge questionnaire. The data collection was done during the period of May 2021. Structured knowledge questionnaire was administered to participants to assess their level of knowledge. Descriptive and inferential statistics were used to analyze the data by SPSS 20 version.

Results: The mean score of knowledge was 15.97 and there was no significant association of knowledge scores of nursing students with their demographic variables.

Conclusion: Findings of this study concluded that the nursing students were having less knowledge regarding triage.

Keywords: Nursing students, Triage, Knowledge, selected colleges

INTRODUCTION

Triage is the process of determining the priority of patient's treatment by the severity of their condition or likelihood of recovery with and without treatment. The ration patient treatment efficiently when resources are insufficient for all to

be treated immediately, influencing the order and priority of emergency treatment, emergency transport, or transport destination for the patient. Emergency department (ED) generally provides immediate care for 24 hours every day. The erratic numbers of patients coming to ED suffer from various

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conditions with unknown severity, urgency, and definite diagnosis. The patients who are suffering from life threatening conditions, such as cardiac arrest, airway obstruction, and shock should be prioritized to provide them an early immediate care to save their lives. Nevertheless, the crowding of patients visiting to ED can have an impact on the quality of care by diversifying the resources intended for patients, which are in need of emergency care compared to the individuals who have potentially less urgent needs.¹

Triage is putting the patient in the right place at the right time to receive the right level of care and the allocation of appropriate resources to meet the patient's medical needs'. This place of the hospital allows for assignment of the care taker to suitable assessment and treatment place.²

Various studies have investigated the nursing student's knowledge regarding the triage system; and most of studies have shown that nurses do not have enough knowledge about triage as they are involved in the triaging process up to some extent only. The result of the continuous increase in the number of patients admitted to the emergency department and lack of medical facilities, it is important to enhance nursing student's knowledge regarding triage. Therefore, it is essential to examine nursing student's triage knowledge including other related factors. Also there have been few studies and there is little information focusing on nurse's knowledge about triage. Moreover, the researcher has also experienced and observed the lack of knowledge among nursing student in selected colleges of Ambala.³

Thus, this study is aimed at assessing knowledge regarding triage among nursing students studying at selected colleges of Ambala, Haryana.

AIM

"A study to assess knowledge regarding Triage among the Nursing students at selected Colleges of Ambala, Haryana".

MATERIAL & METHODS

The present study is conducted in 2021 and it is a quantitative (non experimental) research approach and descriptive survey design. The population of the study included nursing students who study at M.M College of Nursing and M.M Institute of Nursing Mullana, Ambala Haryana. The sample of 190 nursing students was selected using the purposive sampling method. All participants signed informed consent. Inclusion criteria was Nursing students willingness and availability to participate in the study. And those who were not available during data collection were excluded.

Ethical Consideration

Ethical approval was obtained from the ethical committee of M.M.I.M.S.R & Hospital Mullana, Ambala to conduct the final study. Research participants were enrolled in the study after written informed consent and they were assured about the confidentiality of their response.

Data Collection

Formal Administrative approval was obtained from the principal of college of nursing to conduct the study on the sample subjects of Ambala, Haryana. Self Introduction and introduction, nature and purpose of the study were explained to the study subjects. The confidentiality of their responses was assured and verbal consent from the participants was taken prior to the study. Nursing Students were selected as sample. The data collection of the final study was done on May 18/05/21- 22/05/21. Demographic data was taken to collect the baseline data of nursing students. Structured knowledge questionnaire was used to assess the knowledge of nursing students regarding triage.

Content validity of tool was established by nine experts for its accuracy and relevancy and also to obtain their opinion and suggestions. Furthermore, the reliability of the structured

knowledge questionnaire was determined with KUDER RICHARDSON-20 and found to be 0.76.

Data Analysis

To analyze data, descriptive tests, including frequency, percentage, mean, and standard deviation (SD) and analytical tests were used.

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

In the present study, maximum of the nursing students were females (74.7%) and majority were from age group of 22-24 years. This finding was consistent with the result of study conducted by **Bereket Duko et al. (2019)**⁴ which showed that maximum number of

female students (142)²⁹¹ The finding was also similar with the study conducted by **Jina Kim et al. (2019)** in which majority of the subject belonged to 19-21 years age group and 25.5% of them were males.⁵

In this study, most of the nursing student i.e.24 (12.6%) had not attended any training program regarding triage. The result was contradictory with the finding of study conducted **Ayele Tilahun et al. (2018)**.⁶

The result was consistent with the study conducted by **Nosrat Bahrami et al. (2013)** which showed that the majority of nursing students were having below average level of knowledge regarding triage.⁷ The result was also consistent with the finding of study conducted by **Samira Delnavazet et al. (2018)** which showed that majority of nursing students were having below average level of knowledge regarding triage ($p < 0.05$).⁴⁷

Table 1: Frequency and Percentage Distribution in terms of level of Knowledge among Nursing Students regarding triage

N= 190

Level of knowledge	Range of scores	f (%)
Very Good	>25	9(4.7)
Good	20-25	21(11.1)
Average	17-19	70(36.8)
Below average	<17	90(47.4)

Minimum score= 0

Maximum score= 32

Table 2 Range, Mean, Median and Standard Deviation of knowledge Scores among Nursing Students

N= 190

Test	Range	Mean \pm SD	Median
Knowledge	5-13	15.97 \pm 5.733	16.00

Minimum score= 0

Maximum score= 32

Table 3: T Test Showing Association between Mean Score of Knowledge of Nursing students regarding triage

N=190

Demographic variable	Very Good	Good	Average	Below Average	df	P value	T value
1. Age (in years)							
1.1 19- 21	3	6	36	42	3	3.18	0.29NS
1.2 22- 24	7	14	37	44			
2. Gender							
2.1 Male	1	7	13	27	3	3.18	0.10NS
2.2 Female	9	13	60	59			
3. Attended any training program							
3.1 Yes	6	17	65	77	3	3.18	0.60NS
3.2 No	4	3	8	9			
4. Source of knowledge							
4.1 Book	3	11	42	56	6	2.45	0.30NS
4.2 Internet	5	6	16	20			
4.3 Lecture	2	3	15	10			

*Significant ($p \leq 0.05$) $t_{0.05(3)} = 3.18$, $t_{0.05(6)} = 2.45$

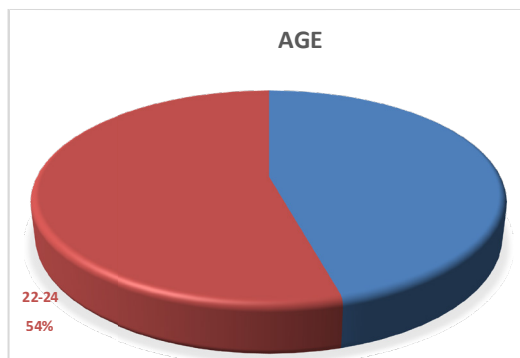


Fig. 1. Showing the frequency and percentage distribution in terms of age in years

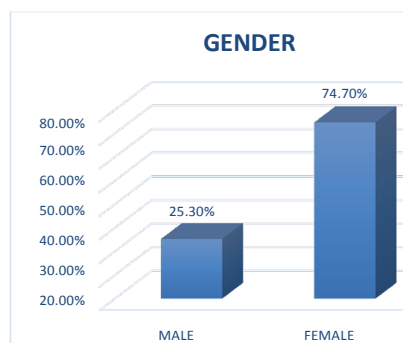


Fig. 2: Showing the frequency and percentage distribution in terms of gender i.e. male and female

The result was also similar with the finding of study conducted by **Ladan Arhagi et al. (2019)** which showed that majority of nursing students were having below average level of knowledge regarding triage.⁸

The result was inconsistent with the finding of the study conducted by **Bereket Duko et al. (2019)** which showed that there was significant association between knowledge scores with their selected variables.⁹ The result was also inconsistent with finding of the study conducted by **Bereket Duko et al. (2019)** which showed that there was no significant association between knowledge score regarding triage.¹⁰

CONCLUSION

The following conclusion were drawn from the findings of study

Maximum of student were having average knowledge regarding triage. There was no significant association of knowledge scores of nursing students with selected variables

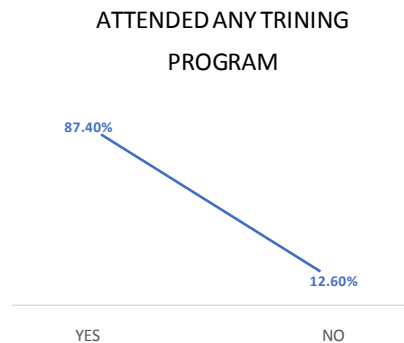


Fig. 3: Showing the frequency and percentage distribution regarding attended any training program i.e. yes and no

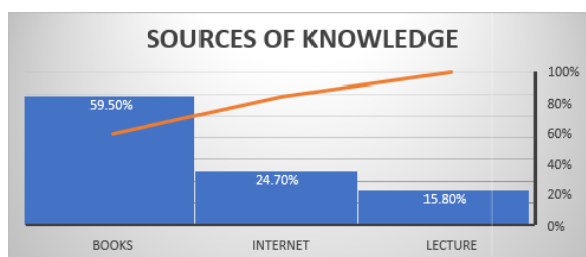


Fig. 4: Showing the frequency and percentage distribution according to the sources of knowledge i.e. in terms of books, internet and lecture

(source of knowledge and attended any training program). Hence, it can be recommended that interventions may be planned for Nursing personnel regarding knowledge and skills regarding Triage system.

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Conflicts of interest There are no conflicts of interest.

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