

A STUDY TO ASSESS THE KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDE REGARDING DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

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INTRODUCTION

Nurses serve a critical role in emergency preparedness at the local, state and national levels through planning, community and consumer education and direct care provided during disasters. Therefore, nurses should be adequately equipped with the knowledge and skill to respond to disaster, starting from their pre-service training to their in-service professional training. The aim of current study is to assess the knowledge and attitude of nursing students regarding disaster management and emergency preparedness.

METHODOLOGY

This was a cross-sectional study, included 130 nursing students. Data was collected using a self-structured questionnaire. Descriptive statistics was used to explore data. Chi-square test was used to study the association between categorical variable. A p-value of less than 0.05 was considered to be statistically significant.

RESULTS

The median age of 130 students was 22 (18-31) years. 96.9% of the students were females. Only 44.6% students had undergone mock-drill. The students have never experienced disaster before 72 (43.84%). The nursing student exhibits average knowledge (60.8%), poor knowledge 30 (23%) and only 21 (16.2%) have good knowledge. There was a significant association of knowledge level of students with their age and educational status (p value=0.001). The association between the knowledge and the previous educational status (attended workshop and mock drill) is also significant (p value=0.000). The students were having favourable attitude (89.2%) regarding disaster management and emergency preparedness.

CONCLUSION

The study concluded that the knowledge and attitude regarding disaster management and emergency preparedness among nursing students was adequate. However, due to lack of time and resources, present study was based upon a smaller number of participants. Larger studies are required to assess the knowledge and attitude of nursing students regarding disaster management and emergency preparedness.