

Knowledge and Attitude of Nursing Students Toward Community-Based Immunization

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Introduction: Community-based immunization programs are critical to avoiding vaccine-preventable diseases and improving public health outcomes. Nursing students have an important role in promoting immunization awareness, delivery, and advocacy. Nursing students must have adequate information and a positive attitude in order to successfully execute immunization programs.

Materials and Methods: A descriptive cross-sectional study was undertaken with 100 nursing students from Saint Florence College of Nursing, Jaipur, Rajasthan. A non-probability convenience sampling technique was utilized. A structured knowledge questionnaire and an attitude scale were used to collect data on community-based immunization initiatives. Data was analyzed using both descriptive and inferential statistics.

Results: The study found that 38% of nursing students had adequate understanding, 45% had intermediate knowledge, and 17% had poor awareness about community-based immunization programs. Regarding attitude, 62% of students had a positive attitude, 28% were indifferent, and 10% had a negative attitude. A significant positive correlation was found between knowledge and attitude scores ($r = 0.46, p < 0.05$).

Conclusion: The study found that nursing students had intermediate understanding and a generally positive attitude toward community-based immunization initiatives. Improving immunization-focused education and practical experience is recommended to improve students' competency.

Keywords: Immunization programs; Nursing students; Community health; Knowledge; Attitude.

Introduction

Immunization is one of the most cost-effective public health strategies for lowering childhood morbidity and mortality globally.¹ Community-based immunization programs ensure equal access to vaccines while also making major contributions to disease prevention at the population level.²

Nurses play an important role in the design, administration, and evaluation of vaccination services, especially at the community level.³ Their tasks include vaccination administration, health education, cold chain maintenance, and dealing with vaccine hesitancy.⁴ Nursing students must have the necessary knowledge and attitudes to support national immunization goals.⁵

Studies have demonstrated that healthcare staff knowledge gaps and misconceptions can have a negative impact on immunization coverage and public trust.⁶ Community acceptability and advocacy for vaccines are heavily influenced by attitudes towards immunizations.⁷ Assessing nursing students' knowledge and attitudes towards community-based immunization programs is critical for developing educational tactics and increasing public health services.

Objectives

1. To assess the level of knowledge of nursing students regarding community-based immunization programs.
2. To assess the attitude of nursing students toward community-based immunization programs.
3. To determine the relationship between knowledge and attitude of nursing students.
4. To find the association between knowledge and attitude scores with selected demographic variables.

Hypotheses

H₁: There is a significant relationship between knowledge and attitude of nursing students toward community-based immunization programs.
H₂: There is a significant association between knowledge scores and selected demographic variables.
H₃: There is a significant association between attitude scores and selected demographic variables.

Materials and Methods

Research Design: A descriptive cross-sectional research design was adopted for the study.

Setting: The study was conducted at Saint Florence College of Nursing, Jaipur, Rajasthan.

Population and Sample: The population comprised undergraduate nursing students. A sample of 100 nursing students was selected using non-probability convenience sampling technique.

Inclusion Criteria

- Nursing students available during data collection
- Students willing to participate

Exclusion Criteria

- Students absent during data collection
- Students who did not give consent

Data Collection Tools

- **Section A:** Demographic proforma
- **Section B:** Structured knowledge questionnaire on community-based immunization programs
- **Section C:** Attitude scale using a 5-point Likert scale

Data Collection Procedure

Permission was obtained from the institutional authority. Informed consent was taken from participants. Data were collected using self-administered questionnaires.

Data Analysis

Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics (frequency, percentage, mean, SD) and inferential statistics (chi-square test and Pearson correlation). Level of significance was set at $p < 0.05$.

Results

The data collected from 100 nursing students were organized, tabulated, and analyzed to achieve the objectives of the study. The results are presented under the following sections.

Table 1: Distribution of Nursing Students According to Demographic Variables (n = 100)

Variable	Category	Frequency (%)
Age	18–20 years	44 (44%)
	21–23 years	46 (46%)
	>23 years	10 (10%)
Gender	Female	70 (70%)
	Male	30 (30%)
Year of Study	II Year	35 (35%)
	III Year	33 (33%)
	Final Year	32 (32%)

Table 2: Level of Knowledge on Community-Based Immunization Programs

Knowledge Level	Frequency (%)
Poor	17 (17%)
Moderate	45 (45%)
Adequate	38 (38%)
Mean ± SD	16.8 ± 3.6

Table 3: Level of Attitude toward Community-Based Immunization Programs

Attitude Level	Frequency (%)
Negative	10 (10%)
Neutral	28 (28%)
Positive	62 (62%)
Mean ± SD	66.4 ± 8.1

Table 4: Correlation between Knowledge and Attitude Scores

Variable	r value	p value
Knowledge & Attitude	0.46	<0.05*

*Statistically significant

Discussion

The current study found that the majority of nursing students had moderate to acceptable understanding on community-based immunization programs. Previous studies have found similar results, with nursing students demonstrating average knowledge levels that might be improved.^{8,9}

A generally positive attitude toward immunization was found, showing a readiness to support vaccination initiatives. This conclusion is consistent with previous research showing that nursing students generally favor immunization but may lack detailed technical understanding.¹⁰

The considerable positive connection between knowledge and attitude shows that more information promotes good attitudes about immunization programs. Educational interventions centered on community-based immunization can enhance nursing students' preparation.

Conclusion

The study found that nursing students at Genius Nursing College had modest understanding and a positive attitude toward community-based immunization initiatives. However, deficits in detailed

knowledge underscore the need for further immunization-focused education and community-based practical experience.

Recommendations

1. Incorporate thorough immunization topic into nursing curriculum.
2. Provide frequent workshops and training programs for community-based immunizations.
3. Encourage students to participate in outreach immunization activities.
4. More studies with bigger sample sizes and diverse settings are recommended.

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Conflicts of interests: There is no conflict of interest

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