

KNOWLEDGE OF SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES AMONG MARRIED WOMEN



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ABSTRACT :

Women are not only susceptible to infection, but are also socially and economically in a disadvantageous position. Factors like poverty, early marriage, migration, illiteracy, lack of health and nutritional care, gender, discrimination and domestic violence put them at a high risk of acquiring the reproductive health problems. This study is conducted to assess the knowledge on causes signs and symptoms, treatment and prevention of STD among married women. 80 women were selected by purposive sampling technique. Semi structured interview was conducted to assess the knowledge. Results showed that 90% women had inadequate and 10% had moderately adequate knowledge.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM :

A study to assess the knowledge on causes, signs and symptoms, treatment and prevention of sexually transmitted diseases among married women in Government Head Quarters Hospital, Namakkal.

OBJECTIVES :

1. To assess the knowledge of married women regarding sexually transmitted Diseases.
2. To determine the association between knowledge score with their demographic Variables.
3. To prepare a health education module on knowledge of sexually transmitted Diseases.

HYPOTHESIS :

There will be a significant association between the level of knowledge regarding sexually transmitted diseases among married women with their selected demographic variables.

METHODOLOGY

- ❖ Research approach - Quantitative approach
- ❖ Research design - Descriptive method
- ❖ Setting of the study - Government Head Quarters Hospital, Namakkal.

- ❖ Sample - 80 Married Women who fulfilled sampling criteria.
- ❖ Sample technique - Convenient Sample technique

TOOL :

The tool was divided into two sections :-
☞ Section A: Included items seeking information on demographic variables (Age, Religion, Educational Status, Occupation, Family income, Type of family, Place of residence etc.,)

☞ Section B: Consisted of Semi structured interview on knowledge regarding STD.

DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURE :

Before starting the study, permission was obtained from concerned hospital authority for the study. The purpose of the interview was explained to the sample with self introduction consent was obtained from those who are willing to participate in the study. Then the semi Structured interview schedule was administered to married women. The collected data was kept confidential and participants are allowed to

clarify their doubts. Health education pamphlet regarding knowledge on Sexually Transmitted Diseases among married women was given in order to improve their knowledge.

MAJOR FINDINGS : 55% were in the age group of 25 years and above, 69% were Hindus, 47.5% were studied up to primary school, 62.5% were House wives, 58.75% were in the income of Rs. 1001 – 2001 per month, 58.75% were belongs to nuclear family 61.25 %, were got married below the age of 20 years of age, 63.75% were coming from urban area, 66.25%

were having only one child, 81.25% were having no history of previous abortion, 97.8% were not suffering from any of the sexually transmitted diseases.

Table No - 1: Knowledge Level of married women on sexually transmitted diseases:

Knowledge Level	Respondent	
	Number	Percent
Inadequate (<50%)	72	90
Moderate	8	10
Adequate (>78%)	0	0
Combined	80	100

Results Indicates that 72 (90%) were belongs

to inadequate knowledge level, 8 (10%) had moderate level of knowledge and none of them had adequate level of knowledge.

Table No - 2: ASSOCIATION OF KNOWLEDGE ON SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES AMONG MARRIED WOMEN WITH THEIR DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES:

S. No.	Character	Category	Knowledge				χ^2 Value
			Inadequate %	Moderate %			
1	Age	≤ 25	32	40	4	5	1.045 ^{NS}
		> 25	40	50	4	5	
2	Religion	Hindu	62	77.5	7	8.75	0.011 ^{NS}
		Others	10	12.5	1	1.25	
3	Education	Illiterate & Primary	32	40	6	7.5	5.36*
		Higher secondary above	40	50	2	2.5	
4	Occupation	House wife	49	61.25	7	8.75	2.35 ^{NS}
		Others	23	28.75	1	1.25	
5	Monthly Income	1001–2000	44	55	3	3.75	5.03*
		2001–3000 > 3000	20 8	25 10	3 2	3.75 2.5	
6	Type of family	Nuclear	42	52.50	5	6.25	0.035 ^{NS}
		Joint	30	37.5	3	3.75	
7	Age at Marriage	< 20	49	61.25	-	-	0.011 ^{NS}
		21–25 >25	7 16	9.75 20	8 -	10 -	
8	Place Residence	Rural	26	32.5	3	3.75	0.004 ^{NS}
		Urban	46	57.5	5	6.25	
9	Number Children	1	48	60	5	6.25	0.044 ^{NS}
		< 1	24	30	3	3.75	
10	History abortion	Yes	15	19.75	-	-	0.53 ^{NS}
		No	57	71.25	8	10	
11	Suffering any STD	Yes	2	2.5	-	-	0.025 ^{NS}
		No	70	87.5	8	10	

CONCLUSION :

Over all knowledge of married women regarding sexually transmitted diseases was inadequate. Since present study revealed that, socio demographic variables like education and monthly family income had influence on knowledge scores of mother. Other variables such as Age, Religion, Occupation, type of family place of residence, number of children, History of abortion and suffered from any of the sexually transmitted diseases has no influence on the knowledge scores of married women.

So, the health care personnel must take the responsibility to improve the knowledge of married women regarding risk factors, mode of transmission and its preventive measures.

IMPLICATIONS FOR NURSING :

NURSING EDUCATION :

The institute of nursing education should pay an active role in conducting in-service education programmes, workshops and continuing education programmes to educate nursing personnel on sexually transmitted diseases. Nurses should be equipped with up to date knowledge on sexually transmitted diseases.

NURSING SERVICE :

Nursing and other health team members have the responsibility to promote health information among the public. A community health nurse must take initiative steps to educate the married women on sexually transmitted disease regarding risk factors, mode of transmission, signs and symptoms and its preventive measures. Health education session may be organized to improve women’s knowledge regarding sexually transmitted diseases. Nursing personnel should provide individual teaching regarding sexually transmitted diseases and should create awareness among the women.

NURSING RESEARCH :

The study revealed that there is a lack of knowledge regarding the sexually transmitted disease. It emphasis a great need for research in awareness and effectiveness of teaching programme on sexually transmitted diseases among public.

NURSING ADMINISTRATION :

Health personnel are playing vital role in improving the nursing practices. Nurse administrator should be prepared to take leadership in educating the nurses.

Creating the knowledge regarding sexually transmitted disease can be brought about without any additional budget or special instrument or other resources and with existing number of personnel.

RECOMMENDATIONS :

- ❖ A similar study can be replicated using a large sample, there by findings can be generalized.
- ❖ A similar study can be done as a comparative study to assess knowledge regarding sexually transmitted diseases among married women residing in selected urban and rural area.
- ❖ A quasi experimental study can be conducted with a structure teaching program on preventive measures of sexually transmitted diseases.
- ❖ Observational study can be conducted to find out the preventive measures of sexually transmitted disease among women in community setting.

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