

A DESCRIPTIVE STUDY TO ASSESS THE KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICE OF NON-MEDICAL STUDENTS REGARDING HEPATITIS-B INFECTION IN A SELECTED COLLEGE IN SURAT

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ABSTRACT; The study was conducted to assess the knowledge and practice of non-medical students regarding hepatitis-B infection. The conceptual framework of the study was based on Jean Watson's Theory (1979). A convenient sampling technique was used to select the 50 samples. Data was obtained and analyzed in terms of mean, standard deviation, chi-square test and Z test. Findings revealed that majority of the non-medical students had poor knowledge and good practice regarding hepatitis-B infection.

INTRODUCTION

Hepatitis B is considered as a silent killer and does not get as much attention commanded by HIV awareness campaigns. Young people aging between 18 to 23 accounts for 71% of the total identified cases which show the enormity of the problem among the young population. Hepatitis B boasts of easy and dangerous transmission just by direct contact of the infectious agent without any visible bruises or lacerations in the body, thereby making the people more vulnerable to a potentially life threatening infection. The lifestyle changes in India due to the sudden economic growth has affected the young population in a big way, thereby bringing the practices of pre-marital sex, multiple sexual partners, homosexuality, addiction to drugs especially heroine gaining more acceptance at least in the social sphere of the young. These practices are direct risk factors for both Hepatitis-B and HIV along with a host of sexually transmitted diseases. The only way to put break on this dangerous phenomenon is by giving systematic and practical health education to the young generation. There should be coordination between the non-governmental organization and the government in making various health policies and its purposeful implementation for a meaningful change in this scenario.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

“A Descriptive Study To Assess The Knowledge And Practice Of The Of Non-Medical Students Regarding Hepatitis-B Infection In A Selected College In Surat “

Hepatitis –B: Injury to hepatic cells and infiltration of inflammatory cells into the liver caused by hepatitis-B virus

Knowledge: an acquaintance with facts and truths about the disease hepatitis –B regarding its presence, diagnosis and treatment.

Non-Medical Students: First, second and third year BBA students in a selected college in Surat.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To assess the knowledge of non-medical students regarding hepatitis-B infection.
2. To assess the practice of non-medical students regarding hepatitis-B infection.
3. To find out the correlation between knowledge and practice of non-medical students regarding hepatitis-B infection.
4. To find the association between knowledge and practice of non-medical students regarding hepatitis-B infection in relation to their demographic variables.

HYPOTHESES

H₀; There will be no significant difference in the knowledge and the practice of non-medical students regarding hepatitis B infection.

H₁; There will be a significant difference in the knowledge of non-medical students regarding hepatitis B infection.

H₂; There will be a significant difference in the practice of non-medical students regarding hepatitis B infection..

H₃; There will be a significant association between knowledge and the practice of non-medical students regarding hepatitis B infection.

Demographic Variables:

The variables are: age, gender, eating habits and primary source of information of the non-medical students.

SETTING OF THE STUDY:

The present study was conducted in METAS Adventist College, Surat.

POPULATION:

The population for the present study includes the Non-medical students.

SAMPLE:

The sample for the present study consists of first, second and third year BBA students between the age group 18-23.

SAMPLE SIZE:

The total sample of the study consists of 50 BBA students.

SAMPLING TECHNIQUE:

Stratified Random Sampling Technique was adopted for the present study.

SAMPLING CRITERIA:

Inclusion criteria:

1. Non-Medical Students who are willing to participate in the study.
2. Non-Medical Students between the age group of 18-23years.
3. Non-Medical Students who could read and write English.

The knowledge level has been arbitrarily divided into three categories based on structured questionnaire.

Adequate knowledge:	75% and above
Moderate knowledge:	between 50-74%
Inadequate knowledge:	49% and below

The level of practice has been arbitrarily divided into two categories:

Good practice	: 50% & above
Poor practice	: 49% & below

FINDINGS

Section I: Data on Demographic Factors of the Non-Medical Students Regarding the knowledge and practice on Hepatitis B infection.

TABLE-I:

FREQUENCY AND PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE NON-MEDICAL STUDENTS ACCORDING TO SELECTED DEMOGRAPHIC FACTORS:

(N=50)

S.NO	DEMOGRAPHIC FACTORS	NURSING STUDENTS	
		FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE (%)
1.	Gender		
	a. Male	28	56
	b. Female	22	44
2.	Age		
	a. 18-20 Years	14	28
	b. 20-22 Years	35	70
	c. 22-24 Years	01	02
	d. 24 Years & Above	00	00
3.	Source of information.		
	a. Television	08	16
	b. Newspaper	01	02
	c. Internet		

	d. All the above	04 37	08 74
4.	Eating habits		
	a. Home	06	12
	b. Outside	07	14
	c. Occasionally outside	37	74

Majority of the Non-Medical students were males 28 (56%) and the least of them were females 22 (44%). 14 (28%) of them were in the age group of 18-20years, 35(78%) were in the age group of 20-22years and 1(2%) were in the age group of 22-24 years. 8(16%) of the students get their information from television, 1 (02%) get their information from newspapers, 4 (08%) get their information from internet and 37 (74%) get their information from all the above sources. 6(12%) of the nonmedical students eat at home, 7(14%) of the nonmedical students eat outside and 37(74%) of the nonmedical students eat occasionally outside.

Section II: Data on Knowledge of the Non-Medical Students Regarding Hepatitis B infection.

TABLE-II

FREQUENCY AND PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE NURSING STUDENTS REGARDING THE USE OF BODY MECHANICS WHILE PERFORMING SELECTED NURSING PROCEDURES.

(N=50)

S.NO	LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE	NURSING STUDENTS	
		FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1.	ADEQUATE	13	26%

	(75% & above)		
2.	MODERATE (50% - 74%)	10	20%
3.	INADEQUATE (49% & below)	27	54%

13(26%) of the non medical had adequate knowledge, 10(21%) had moderate knowledge and 27(54%) had inadequate knowledge regarding hepatitis B infection.

LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE

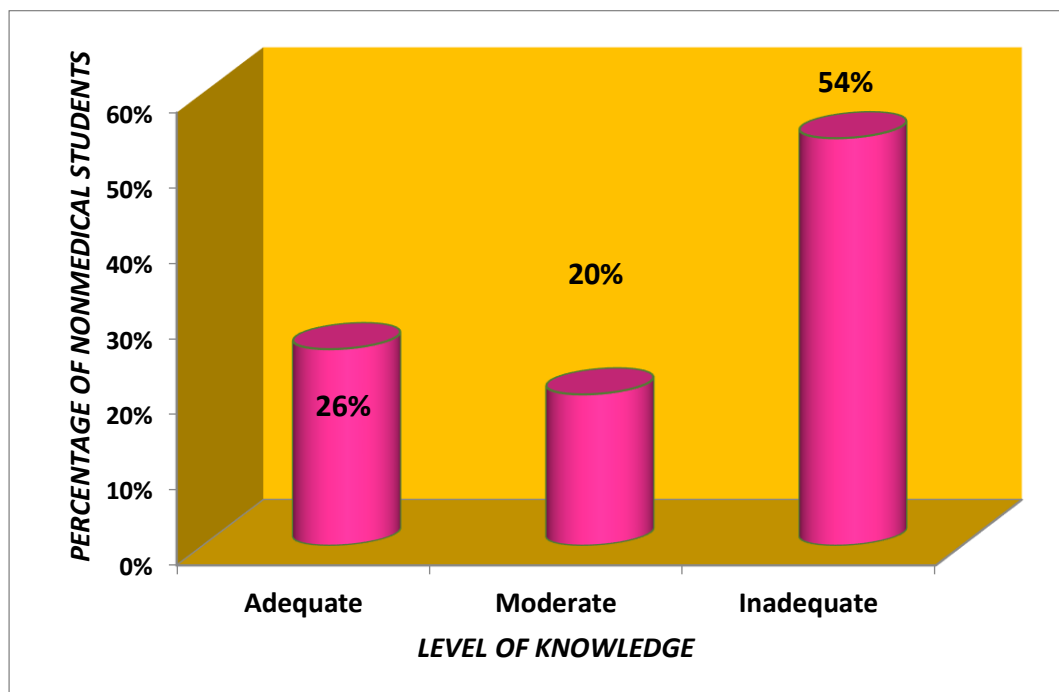


Figure: 6

Percentage distribution of the knowledge of the nonmedical students regarding hepatitis B infection.

Section III: Data on Practice of the Nursing Students Regarding the Use of Body Mechanics.

TABLE-III

FREQUENCY AND PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE NONMEDICAL STUDENTS IN RELATION TO THE PRACTICE REGARDING HEPATITIS B INFECTION.

(N=50)

S.NO	LEVEL OF PRACTICE	NURSING STUDENTS	
		FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1.	Good (50% & above)	45	90%
2.	Poor (49% & below)	05	10%

45(90%) of the nonmedical students had good practice and only 5(10%) had poor practice regarding hepatitis B infection.

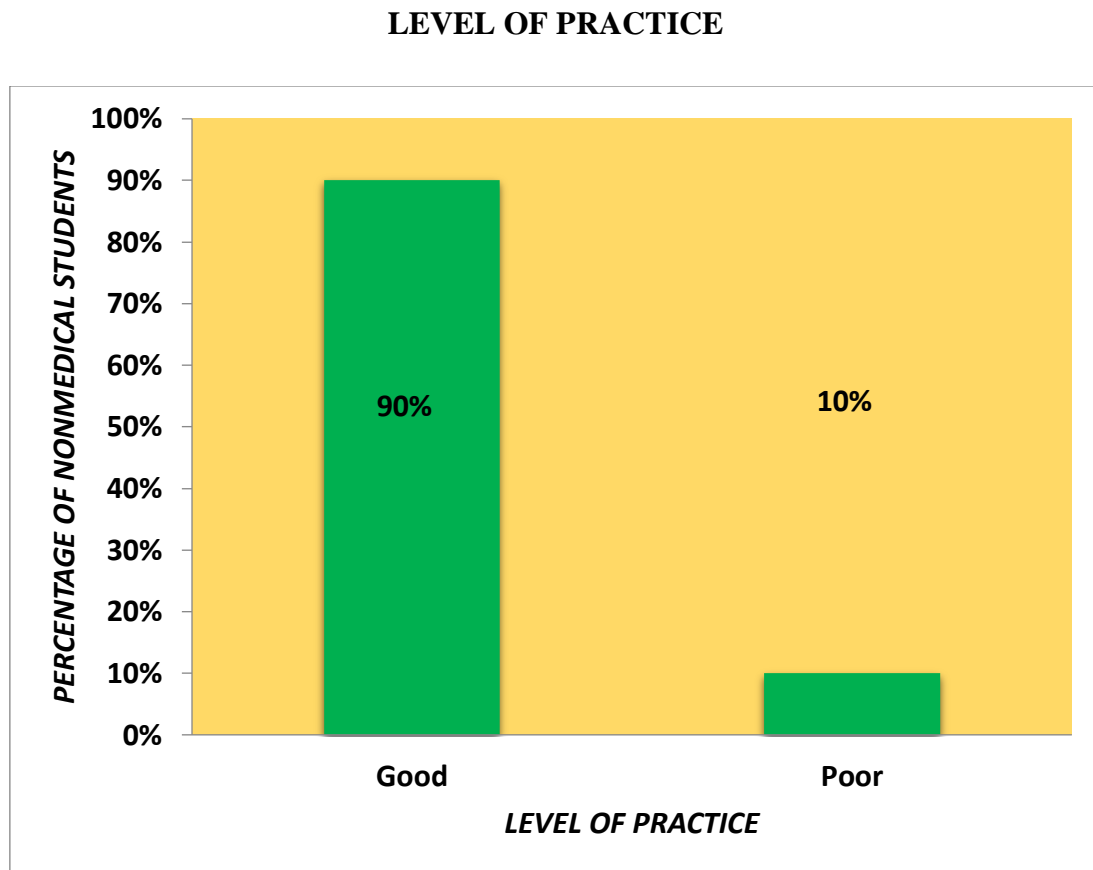


Figure: 7

Percentage distribution of the practice of the nonmedical students regarding hepatitis B infection.

Section IV: Data on Association between the Knowledge and practice of the Nonmedical Students regarding hepatitis B infection.

There was no significant association between knowledge and practice of the Nonmedical Students regarding hepatitis B infection. Therefore H3 hypotheses is rejected.

IMPLICATIONS

- For the effective prevention of hepatitis B infection among young adults between the age group of 18-23years.
- Young people practice efficient hepatitis B control measures, thereby may be encouraged to practice more advanced methods to keep up with the scientific pace in controlling the infection.

- Provision can be made for the young people between the age group 18-23years to gain more information and practice better standards regarding the control of hepatitis B infection.

CONCLUSION:

On the basis of the findings the following conclusions were made:

1. Nonmedical students have inadequate knowledge regarding hepatitis B infection.
2. Nonmedical students have good practice regarding hepatitis B infection.
3. There was no association between knowledge as well as the practice of the nonmedical students regarding hepatitis B infection.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- ✓ The study can be done on a larger sample.

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