A DESCRIPTIVE STUDY TO ASSESS THE LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE REGARDING HAND WASHING TECHNIQUE AMONG NURSING STUDENTS OF KHALSA COLLEGE OF NURSING, AMRITSAR, PUNJAB.

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ABSTRACT

Background of study: Hand hygiene is the act of cleaning the hands with or without the use of water with another liquid or soap, for the purpose of removing soil, dirt and micro-organisms which plays a central role among staff nurses in preventing the transmission of various nosocomial infections. Staff nurses and

nursing students' knowledge regarding handwashing effect their practice. Therefore, the study titled "A descriptive study to assess the level of knowledge regarding handwashing technique among nursing students of Khalsa College of Nursing, Amritsar, Punjab" had conducted. Aim: To assess the level of knowledge regarding handwashing technique among nursing students. Methodology: A descriptive study was conducted on 230 nursing students studying in Khalsa College of nursing, Amritsar. Non-probability convenient purposive sampling technique was used. Structured tools were used to collect the data. A socio-demographic sheet, self-structured questionnaire was used to assess knowledge of nursing students regarding hand washing. Results: The findings of study revealed that nursing students have average knowledge regarding handwashing. Chi-square is applied to find statistically significant; The demographic variables Age of students, Previous source of information was significant at p<0.05 and all other demographic variables were non-significant i.e., gender, course. Conclusion: The findings of study concluded that majority of students come under average knowledge with 139(60.4%), Good 70(30.4%), Poor 21**(9.1%) with Mean 11.95, S.D 3.446 with minimum and maximum values 3 and 20 respectively.**

Keywords: handwashing, nursing students,knowledge.

INTRODUCTION

Infection is the invasive of an organism's body tissue by disease-causing agents, their multiplication & the reaction of host tissue to the infectious agents & the toxins they produce. The invasion & multiplication of micro-organism such as bacteria, viruses & amp; parasites that are not normally present within the body. Infections associated with healthcare was targeted by world alliance for the patient's safety during the first biennial global patients' safety challenge, 'clean care is safety care'.

Nurses constitute the largest percentage of the health care workers and they are the "nucleus of the healthcare system". Because they spend more time with patients than any other HCWs, their compliance with hand washing guidelines seems to be more vital in preventing the disease transmission among patients. Hospital acquired infections are infections acquired in hospital by a patient who was admitted for a reason other than that infection. Hospital acquired infections are one of the important public health problems in many countries.

Despite the fact that health care provider hands might be a source of infection, environment where the healthcare providers is working, another probable source of infection transmission .For example, the use of computers and electronic instruments is increasing in all fields of healthcare, where many professionals may use the same keyboard .Additionally, the fact that professionals eat at their workstation, where food crumbs remaining on the keyboard may form a medium favoring the growth of microbes .Furthermore, there were droplets of saliva that undoubtedly fell on the keyboard during talking, sneezing, and coughing, creating a probable vehicle for infection transmission, implying that all the surrounding things that we touch may serve as a vehicle for HCAIs .Therefore, it is advisable to observe the general rules of hygiene and to clean hands before and after each healthcare procedure.

Research methodology:

Aim of the study:

Aim of the study is to assess the level of knowledge regarding hand washing technique among nursing students.

General objective of the study:

To assess the level of knowledge regarding hand washing technique among nursing students.

Specific objectives of the study:

1. To assess the level of knowledge regarding hand washing technique among nursing students.
2. To determine the association between the research finding and selected socio-demographic variables.

Operational definitions:

Handwashing: It refers to the act of cleansing the hands with water and soap for the purpose of removing soil or microorganisms (germs) in order to prevent cross-contamination and to prevent nosocomial infections.

Nursing student: It refers to an individual who is enrolled in a professional nursing or vocational nursing education program.

Knowledge: It refers to the state or fact of knowing about hand hygiene by student nurses.

Assumptions:

- Hand hygiene is imperative in hospital setting.
- Student nurses may not have adequate knowledge on hand hygiene.
- Student nurses are not following adequate hand hygiene & technique for safety of themselves and patients.

DELIMITATIONS:

The study was limited to:

1. Nursing students only.

2. 230 sample sizes.

3. Nursing students who were available during the time of data collection.

RESEARCH APPROACH

A quantitative research approach was chosen for the present study in order to assess the level of knowledge regarding hand washing technique among nursing students of Khalsa college of nursing, Amritsar.

RESEARCH DESIGN

Descriptive research design was adopted in this study to assess the level of knowledge regarding hand washing technique among nursing students of Khalsa college of nursing, Amritsar.

TARGET POPULATION

The target population for the study were Nursing students of Khalsa Nursing College, Amritsar.

SAMPLE SIZE

The sample size for present study was 100 nursing students of Khalsa Nursing

College, Amritsar.

SAMPLING TECHNIQUE

The sampling technique for the present study was non-probability convenient purposive sampling technique.

DESCRIPTION OF THE TOOL

Section A: Demographic Variables

This section consists of 6 items for obtaining personal information about rural people i.e., age, gender, course of Nursing, Year in Nursing, Exposure in clinical area, previous source of Information.

Section B: Self Structured questionnaire regarding the techniques of Handwashing.

Questions were framed to assess knowledge of nursing students regarding the the techniques of Hand washing. It consisted of total 30 questions; each question had 4 options out of which 1 was correct. Each item carried a one (1) mark for correct answer and zero (0) mark for incorrect answer. Maximum knowledge score was 30 and minimum knowledge score was zero (0).

SECTION I

DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES

Table 1

Frequency and percentage distribution of students according to sample characteristics

N=230

S.No.	Variables	f	%
1.	**Age**		
	17-19	98	42.6
	20-22	112	48.7
	23-25	20	8.7
2.	**Gender**		
	Male	27	11.7
	Female	203	88.3
3.	**Course**		
	B.Sc. Nursing	210	91.3
	Post Basic	20	8.7
4.	**Previous source of Information**		
	Mass Media	65	28.3
	Lecture	140	60.9
	Peer Group	25	10.9

Table 1 revealed that the demographic variables of the 230 nursing students.

The result showed that, majority of the students, 112 (48.7%) were in the age group of 20-22 years, 98(42.6%) students were in the age group of 17-19 years, 20(8.7%) students were in the age group of 23-25 years.

According to Gender, 203(88.3%) students were female and 27(11.7%) were male.

According to Course, 210(91.3%) students were studying in B.Sc. Nursing and 20(8.7%) were in post basic nursing.

According to Previous source of information, 140(60.9%) get Information from lecture, 65(28.3%) from mass media and 25(10.9%) students get information from Peer group.

SECTION II

Objective 1: To assess the level of knowledge regarding hand washing technique among nursing students.

Table 2

Frequency and percentage distribution of level of knowledge regarding hand washing technique among nursing students.

N=230

Level of Knowledge	n	%	Mean	Std. Deviation
Good (14-20)	70	30.4		
Average (8-13)	139	60.4	11.95	3.446
Poor (0-7)	21	9.1		

Maximum score =20

Minimum score = 0

Table 2: depicts shows the level of knowledge of nursing students regarding Hand washing. It depicts that majority of students comes under average knowledge with 139(60.4%), Good 70(30.4%), Poor 21(9.1%) with Mean 11.95, S.D 3.446 with minimum and maximum values 3 and 20 respectively.

Objective 2: To determine the association between the research finding and selected socio-demographic variables.

Table 3

Frequency and percentage distribution of the association between the research finding and selected socio-demographic variables

N=230

S.No.	Variables	f	Level of knowledge			Chi square	df	P value
1.	**Age**		**Good**	**Average**	**Poor**			
	17-19	98	19	67	12			
	20-22	112	43	63	6	**12.537[a]**	**4**	**.014**
	23-25	20	8	9	3			
2.	**Gender**							
	Male	27	12	11	4			
	Female	203	58	128	17	5.019[a]	2	.081
3.	**Course**							
	B.Sc. Nursing	210	64	129	17	3.230[a]	2	.199

	Post Basic	20	6	10	4			
4.	**Previous source of Information**							
	Mass Media	65	10	45	10			
	Lecture	140	50	81	9	**12.091[a]**	**4**	**.017**
	Peer Group	25	10	13	2			

Maximum score = 20 **S = Significant at p<0.05**

Minimum score = 0 **NS = non-Significant**

Table 3, depict that association between the research finding and selected socio-demographic variables. Here chi-square is applied to find statistically significant; The demographic variable Age of student, Previous source of information was significant at p<0.05 and all other demographic variables were non-significant i.e., Gender, Course and previous source of information.

DISCUSSION:

The findings of the study revealed that the level of knowledge of nursing students regarding Hand washing, comes under average knowledge with 139(60.4%), Good 70(30.4%), Poor 21(9.1%) with Mean 11.95, S.D 3.446 with minimum and maximum values 3 and 20 respectively. The findings of the study revealed that the association between the research finding and selected socio-demographic variables. Here chi-square is applied to find statistically significant; The demographic variable Age of student, Previous source of information was significant at p<0.05 and all other demographic variables were non-significant i.e., Gender, Course.

CONCLUSION:

Majority of students comes under average knowledge with 139(60.4%), Good 70(30.4%), Poor 21(9.1%) with Mean 11.95, S.D 3.446 with minimum and maximum values 3 and 20 respectively.

The demographic variable Age of student, Previous source of information was significant at p<0.05 and all other demographic variables were non-significant i.e. gender, course.

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