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RESEARCH ARTICLE

ATTITUDE AND AWARENESS ABOUT EPILEPSY AMONG THE RURAL PEOPLE AROUND THE SUTTURE VILLAGE, MYSORE

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ABSTRACT

Epilepsy is a common problem among the people and it is a disorder of brain characterized by repeated seizures. It is having social discriminations due to lot of stigma and misconceptions about the disease with fear and anxiety. This stigma presents in many countries today also and we can see the impact on the quality of life for people with the disease and their families. The objective of the study to assess the attitude and knowledge among the people resides around the Suttur village, Mysore. The methods was used a descriptive study designs was adopted and random sampling technique was used to select the sample. Among 100 samples 60% were male and 40% were female. Their majority age around 18 to 45 years, 47% people were agreed with Epilepsy is caused by punishment of god, 88% people were dis agreed with Epilepsy caused by Evil spirit. 72% people were dis agreed with Epilepsy only seen in poor people. 88% people were dis agreed with Epilepsy person should isolate from family. 55% people were dis agreed with Epilepsy person can lead healthy lifestyle. The result suggests that still stigma was present There are no significant difference in the attitude scores of with misconception and gaps. There is a need for multi educational programme improving the awareness of the Epilepsy and can remove this stigma and discrimination.

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INTRODUCTION

Epilepsy is one among the major illness causing danger to the persons. It can be observed in all groups of people like children's, adults and pregnant women's also; it can be prevented by occurrence of complication with proper treatment and follow up care. Epilepsy is a chronic non communicable disease of the brain and it affects the all age groups of people, epilepsy is characterized by recurrent seizures and involuntary movement that involve a part of the body (partial) or entire body (generalized).Epilepsy is one of the world's oldest recognized conditions with written records dating back to 4000 BCE. In the world around 50 million people were having epilepsy. Nearly 12 million are expected to reside in India. 80% of people with epilepsy live in low and middle income countries. The high incidence of road traffic injuries, birth related injuries we can see, but through proper education and awareness programme around 25% of risk we can be prevented like road accidents, reducing falls, and adequate perinatal care. Epilepsy is the second most common and frequently encountered neurological condition that imposes heavy burden on individuals, family, society and also on health care system.

The social discrimination mainly affects school children as they are in Developmental period. Here the health workers and school teachers play a vital role in the removal of stigma towards any disease through providing health awareness education among the school children and community. Particularly in the rural area, teachers, social workers and health workers play an important role as political leaders.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A descriptive study designs was adopted for this study and random sampling technique was used to select the people around Suttur Village, Mysore. Structure questionnaire was used to evaluate the tool. The participants were free to express their attitude and knowledge, the data was analysed and conclusion by Descriptive statistics.

RESULTS

Section 1; Data on demographic variable: Among the 100 participants the majority of the participants are male and in the age group of 60 years and also Majority of the participants are unmarried and the education is above degree.

Table 1. Frequency and percentage distribution of according to the demographic variables (n=100)

Sl No	variables	Frequency	Number (%)
1. Sex	Male	60	60%
	Female	40	40%
2. Age	18 to 45	92	92%
	46 to >60	08	8%
3. Marital status	Married	68	68%
	Unmarried	32	32%
4. Education	Illiterate to 10	45	45%
	11 to >degree	55	55%

Table 2. Frequency and Percentage of distribution of Attitude among rural people in Suttur village, Mysore n=100

Sl no	Attitude	Frequency	percentage
1. Epilepsy caused by punishment of god	Agree	47	47%
	Neutral	01	01%
	Disagree	52	52%
2. Epilepsy caused by Evil spirit.	Agree	04	04%
	Neutral	08	08%
	Disagree	88	88%
3. Epilepsy only seen in poor people.	Agree	20	20%
	Neutral	08	08%
	Disagree	72	72%
4. Epilepsy will be seeing in only children.	Agree	28	28%
	Neutral	12	12%
	Disagree	60	60%
5. Epilepsy is a contagious disease.	Agree	06	06%
	Neutral	20	20%
	Disagree	56	56%
6. Epilepsy is not curable.	Agree	50	50%
	Neutral	20	20%
	Disagree	30	30%
7. Epilepsy person has low IQ level.	Agree	60	60%
	Neutral	25	25%
	Disagree	15	15%
8. Epilepsy person can't manage their family	Agree	20	20%
	Neutral	10	10%
	Disagree	70	70%
9. Epilepsy can be cure by marriage.	Agree	05	05%
	Neutral	30	30%
	Disagree	65	65%
10. Epilepsy can spread one person to another.	Agree	10	10%
	Neutral	02	02%
	Disagree	88	88%
11. Epilepsy children can go to special school.	Agree	03	03%
	Neutral	00	00%
	Disagree	97	97%
12. Epilepsy children should have a special attention.	Agree	85	85%
	Neutral	00	00%
	Disagree	15	15%
13. Epilepsy person should isolate from family.	Agree	10	10%
	Neutral	02	02%
	Disagree	88	88%
14. Epilepsy person can have children.	Agree	55	55%
	Neutral	10	10%
	Disagree	35	35%
15. Epilepsy person can lead healthy life style.	Agree	45	45%
	Neutral	0	00%
	Disagree	55	55%

Among 100 participants 88% were disagree with Epilepsy caused by Evil spirit, 56% were disagree with Epilepsy is a contagious disease, 88% were disagree with Epilepsy can spread one person to another, 45% were agree with Epilepsy person can lead healthy life .

CONCLUSION

This study helped the investigator to understand the attitude of epilepsy among the people; it also helped to correlate between demographic variables and main study. The study also helped to bring insight that every people should know the knowledge of epilepsy.

RECOMMENDATIONS

On the basis of this present study, the following Recommendations can be made

- A similar study can be done in larger sample to generalize findings.
- A similar study can be conduct in different settings.
- Comparative study can be conducted among rural and urban settings.
- Study recommended to conducting health education programmes on epilepsy and its management to bring healthy life styles.

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