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### A study to assess the knowledge and attitude among teacher trainees about epilepsy in school children at selected teacher training institutes, at Bangalore, with a view to develop informational guide sheet

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#### **Abstract**

Background of the study: Epilepsy is a chronic condition characterized by uncertainty. It affects more than 50 million people worldwide and is an important public health problem (WHO, 2004). Some studies in developing countries suggest the prevalence of epilepsy to be more than 10 per 100 (WHO 2003) [2]. In India, there are 30 million people affected by epilepsy in 2004. According to Meadow and Smithells (2005) about 1 in 200 school children are affected with epilepsy about 1 person in 20 has a seizure of some type during life, and in the population at large about 1 in 200 has epilepsy. There are approximately 5 million people with epilepsy in India, and economic burden due to epilepsy to the nation is Rs. 13.500 million. According to this report there are only 400 Neurologists in India i.e., 1 Neurologist for 13.500 persons with epilepsy [8].

**Approach:** The research approach adopted for this study was non-experimental descriptive survey approach.

**Design:** The research design selected for this present study was descriptive research.

**Setting:** The study was conducted at teacher training institutes at Bangalore, Karnataka.

**Participants:** 60 teacher's trainees were selected by purposive sampling technique, as non-probability sampling method.

**Methods:** The data was generated by using the structured questionnaire. Purposive non-probability sampling techniques were adopted to select 60 subjects. The data was obtained from the study subjects were analyzed and interpreted in terms of the objectives and hypothesis of the study. Descriptive and inferential statistics were used for the data analysis and the level set at 0.05.

**Results:** Data collected were analysed by using descriptive statistics. Results of the study revealed that, majority of the teacher trainees i.e. 76.67% had inadequate knowledge and 23.33% of teacher trainees had moderate knowledge. None of them had adequate knowledge. The Range knowledge of teacher trainees was 4-21. The Mean and Mean percentage of knowledge of teacher trainees was 14.44 and 48.13% respectively, with standard deviation 3.16. In the same way, majority of the teacher trainees i.e. 80% had unfavorable attitude. And 20% of teacher trainees had moderate attitude. None of them had Favorable attitude. The Range Attitude of teacher trainee's was 40-92. The Mean and Mean percentage of attitude of teacher trainees was 77.5 and 51.67% respectively, with standard deviation 4.5. The correlation co-efficient value of knowledge and attitude of teacher trainees was + 0.19 that shows that there was positive correlation exists between knowledge and attitude of teacher trainees about epilepsy in school children. It indicates that this means more the knowledge better the attitude.

**Interpretation & Conclusion:** On the basis of the study we can draw the following conclusions. The majority of the teacher trainees had inadequate knowledge and unfavorable attitude. The correlation co-efficient value of knowledge and attitude of teacher trainees was + 0.19 that shows that there was positive correlation exists between knowledge and attitude of teacher trainees about epilepsy in school children. It indicates that this means more the knowledge better the attitude.

**Keywords:** Knowledge, attitude, teachers trainees, epilepsy, informational guide sheet

#### **Introduction**

Preventive and promotive measures are essential particularly for children. Home based preventive management techniques i.e., counseling parents on general principles of child and usage of behavioral management techniques are effective in reducing clinical disorders in the risk children.

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The term "Epilepsy" is derived from the Greek word "Epilambanain" meaning is "to seize or to take hold of". To the Greeks, epilepsy was a sacred disease of the brain. In later ages it became known as "the falling sickness" and was viewed as a form of mental illness, with victims being consigned to a symptoms for the insane. Regardless of the insights gained into epilepsy, stigma and fear are still associated with this problem. Public awareness of the true nature of epilepsy is needed to dispel the misconceptions and fears associated with this health problem [1].

Epilepsy is a chronic condition characterized by uncertainty. It affects more than 50 million people worldwide and is an important public health problem (WHO 2004). Some studies in developing countries suggest the prevalence of epilepsy to be more than 10 per 100 (WHO 2003). In Zimbabwe country in southern Africa, available estimates show the prevalence at 1%-2% (Epilepsy support foundation of Zimbabwe, 2001). Quality of life will suffer because of the social consequences of epilepsy which may include active discrimination in employment, stigma, problems in family relationships, reduced participation in community and civic activities [2].

Epilepsy is a chronic seizure disorder of the cerebral tissues characterized by recurrent paroxysmal episodes of disturbed skeletal motor function, sensation autonomic visceral function, behavior or consciousness. The disorder, characterized by recurring seizures commonly referred to as epilepsy represents one of the most common neurological problems affecting individuals, irrespective of geographical location's and race [3].

A study reported in the third congress held in Delhi by the Asian and ocean epilepsy organization in November 2000. Those in India around 5000,000 persons have epilepsy at any given point of time (in an estimated population of 1,000,000,000). Epilepsy is a peculiar neurological disorder because people can develop seizures at any given point of time in their life. Further those who develop epilepsy tend to be at risk to develop seizures for many years despite appropriate treatment, which makes epilepsy a chronic disease. Therefore "life time prevalence" of epilepsy would be many times more than the "point prevalence" rates in any population [4].

There are approximately 5 million people with epilepsy in India, and economic burden due to epilepsy to the nation is Rs. 13.500 million. According to this report there are only 400 Neurologists in India i.e., 1 Neurologist for 13.500 persons with epilepsy. The prevalence of epilepsy in the Parsee community of Bombay is high [8].

In many settings nurses and teachers focus on individual's treatment but interventions with the teachers will greatly assist not only the individual but also the rest of family members. The role of the teachers in the management and education of parents with an epileptic child and their families is most important. Teachers are highly valued for providing care, advice and support in explaining the social aspects of epilepsy [9].

Epilepsy is largely a disease of younger people approximately three fourth of the sufferers have seizures it is always a shock when a teacher learns that a child has epilepsy. But attitudes may also be affected by the frightening experience of having seen a child during a severe seizure, by the belief that mental deterioration always occurs in epilepsy and by the fact that the tendency to develop epilepsy may be inherited [10].

One in 100 American teens has epilepsy [seizure disorder]. survey by the Epilepsy Foundation revealed that more than two-thirds of teens [68percent] said they would not know how to help if a friend or acquainting has made seizure education its focal point of and is entitled to respect public information campaigns, which seeks to raise awareness of epilepsy among all teens and "teens" [10-12 year olds], give them the knowledge to help in a seizure [1].

### Objectives

1. To assess the knowledge about, epilepsy in school children among teacher trainee's at selected teacher training institutes, at Bangalore.
2. To assess the attitude about, epilepsy in school children among teacher trainee's at selected teacher training institutes, at Bangalore.
3. To correlate the knowledge and attitude about, epilepsy in school children among teacher trainee's at selected teacher training institutes, at Bangalore.
4. To associate the knowledge and attitude with selected demographic variables among teacher trainee's at selected teacher training institutes, at Bangalore.
5. To develop an informational guide sheet regarding management of epileptic children.

### Hypothesis

1. H<sub>1</sub>: There is significant relationship between the knowledge and attitude among teacher trainees.
2. H<sub>2</sub>: There is significant association between selected demographic variables with the knowledge and attitude among teacher trainees.

### Methodology

Research Approach: Descriptive survey approach.

Research Design: Descriptive design.

Sampling technique: Non Probability; Purposive Sampling Technique

Sample size: 60.

Setting of study: Teachers training institutes, Bengaluru.

### Results

#### Organization and presentation of the data

**Section I:** Socio-demographic characteristics of sample.

**Section II:** Assessment of knowledge of teacher trainees about epilepsy in school children.

**Section III:** Assessment of attitude of teacher trainees about epilepsy in school children.

**Section IV:** Correlation between knowledge and attitude about epilepsy in school children.

**Section V:** Association between socio-demographic variables and knowledge and attitude about epilepsy in school children.

#### Section I: Socio-demographic characteristic of sample

Frequency and percentage distribution of socio-demographic variables of participants. N=60.

The majority of teacher trainees 46.67% belongs to 20-22 years of age group and 25% and 18.33% of teacher trainees belongs to 18-20 years and 22-24 years of age group respectively. Only 10% of teacher trainee's belongs to 24 years and above age group.

The majority of teacher trainees are females i.e. 61.67% and 38.33% are males.

The study shows that 53.33% of teacher trainees were Hindus, 33.33% Christians and 13.3% Muslims.

The majority of teacher trainees are single i.e. 80% and 20% are married.

The majority of teacher trainees 63.33% are handling lower primary classes and 36.67% are handling higher primary classes.

Present study shows that Majority of teacher trainees had studied Kannada medium i.e. 61.67% and 33.33% had studied in English medium. Only 5% are from Hindi medium.

**Section II: Assessment of knowledge of teacher trainees about epilepsy in school children**

The knowledge of teacher trainees about epilepsy was assessed by questionnaire. There are 30 questions which assess the knowledge about teacher trainees about epilepsy. The correct answer was given 'one' mark. And for wrong answer '0' mark was given. The level of knowledge was classified into 3 categories based on percentage.

1. Inadequate knowledge (< 50%).
2. Average knowledge (50-75%).
3. Adequate knowledge (> 75%).

**Table 1.1:** Frequency and percentage distribution of knowledge level of teacher trainees about epilepsy in school children

N=60			
Level of Knowledge	Scores	No.	%
Inadequate	< 50 %	46	76.67
Moderate	50-75%	14	23.33
Adequate	> 75%	00	00

**Table 1.2:** Mean, SD and Mean percentage of knowledge level of teacher trainees about epilepsy in school children, N=60

Domain	Max. Statement	Max. Score	Range	Mean	SD	Mean %
Knowledge	30	30	4-21	14.44	3.16	48.13

The above table shows that, the Range knowledge of teacher trainees was 4--21. The Mean and Mean percentage of knowledge of teacher trainees was 14.44 and 48.13% respectively, with standard deviation 3.16.

**Section III: Assessment of attitude of teacher trainees about epilepsy in school children**

The level of attitude was classified into 3 categories based on percentage.

1. Unfavourable attitude (< 50%)
2. Moderate attitude (50-75%)
3. Favourable attitude (> 75%)

**Table 2.1:** Frequency and percentage distribution of attitude level of teacher trainees about epilepsy in school children

N=60			
Level of Attitude	Scores	No.	%
Unfavorable	< 50%	48	80
Moderate	50-75%	12	20
Favorable	> 75%	00	00

**Table 2.2:** Mean, SD and Mean percentage of attitude level of teacher trainees about epilepsy in school children

Domain	Max Statement	Max Score	Range	Mean	SD	Mean %
Attitude	30	150	40-92	77.5	4.5	51.67

The above table shows that, the Range Attitude of teacher trainee's was 40--92. The Mean and Mean percentage of attitude of teacher trainees was 77.5 and 51.67% respectively, with standard deviation 4.5.

**Section IV: Correlation between knowledge and attitude of teacher trainees about epilepsy in school children**

**Table 3:** Mean, SD and Mean percentage and Correlation of knowledge and attitude of teacher trainees about epilepsy in school children

Domain	Mean	SD	Mean %	Correlation
Knowledge	30	3.16	48.13	0.19 N.S
Attitude	77.5	4.5	51.67	

The above table shows that, the Mean and Mean percentage of knowledge of teacher trainees about epilepsy in school children was 30 and 48.13 respectively, with standard deviation 3.16. The Mean and Mean percentage of Attitude of teacher trainees about epilepsy in school children was 77.5 and 51.67% respectively, with standard deviation 4.5.

The correlation co-efficient value of knowledge and attitude of teacher trainees was + 0.19 that shows that there was positive correlation exists between knowledge and attitude of teacher trainees about epilepsy in school children. It indicates that this means more the knowledge better the attitude.

**Section V: Association of Knowledge and Attitude of teacher trainees about epilepsy in school children with selected socio-demographic variables**

**Table 4.1:** Association of knowledge level of teacher trainees with selected socio demographic variables such as age, gender, religion, marital status

S. No	Demographic variables	No	%	Level of knowledge				Chi Square
				< Median (32)		≥ Median (28)		
				No	%	No	%	
				N=60				
1	Age (in Years)							
	a. 18-20	15	25	10	66.67	5	33.33	2.8
	b. 20-22	28	46.67	12	42.86	16	57.14	DF 3
	c. 22-24	11	18.33	7	63.64	4	36.36	N.S
	d. 24 and above	6	10	3	50.00	3	50.00	
2	Gender							
	a. Male	23	38.33	17	73.91	6	26.09	6.34
	b. Female	37	61.67	15	40.54	22	59.46	DF 1S
3	Religion							
	a. Hindu	32	53.33	13	40.63	19	59.38	4.58

	b. Muslim	8	13.3	5	62.50	3	37.50	DF 2
	c. Christian	20	33.33	14	70.00	6	30.00	N.S
	d. Others	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	
4	<b>Marital status</b>							
	a. Single	48	80	27	56.25	21	43.75	0.83
	b. Married	12	20	5	41.67	7	58.33	DF 1
	c. Separated or divorced	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	N.S
	d. Widow/Widower	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	

**Table 5.1:** Association of Attitude level of teacher trainees with selected socio demographic variables such as age, gender, religion, marital status

SL. No	Demographic Variables	No.	%	Level of attitude				Chi Square
				< Median (34)		≥ Median (26)		
				No	%	No	%	
1	<b>Age (in Years)</b>							
	a. 18-20	15	25	11	73.33	4	26.67	9.78
	b. 20-22	28	46.67	10	35.71	18	64.29	DF 3
	c. 22-24	11	18.33	9	81.82	2	18.18	S
	d. 24 and above	6	10	4	66.67	2	33.33	
2	<b>Gender</b>							
	a. Male	23	38.33	16	69.57	7	30.43	2.52
	b. Female	37	61.67	18	48.65	19	51.35	DF 1 N.S
3	<b>Religion</b>							
	a. Hindu	32	53.33	16	50.00	16	50.00	1.76
	b. Muslim	8	13.3	6	75.00	2	25.00	DF 2
	c. Christian	20	33.33	12	60.00	8	40.00	N. S
	d. Others	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	
4	<b>Marital status</b>							
	a. Single	48	80	28	58.33	20	41.67	0.28
	b. Married	12	20	6	50.00	6	50.00	DF 1 N.S
	c. Separated or divorced	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	
	d. Widow/Widower	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	

**Conclusion**

On the basis of present study, the following conclusions can be drawn

1. Majority of the teacher trainees i.e. 76.67% had inadequate knowledge.
2. Majority of the teacher trainees i.e. 80% had unfavourable attitude.
3. The correlation co-efficient value of knowledge and attitude of teacher trainees was + 0.19 that shows that there was positive correlation exists between knowledge and attitude of teacher trainees about epilepsy in school children.
4. The analysis reveals that there was a significant association was found with gender, Class handled by the teacher and do you have any earlier information regarding epilepsy at  $p < 0.05$  level and there was no association was found with other socio-demographic variables of teacher trainees.
5. The analysis revealed that there was a significant association was found with –age, class handled by the teacher and do you have any earlier information regarding epilepsy at  $P < 0.05$  level. There was no association was found with other socio-demographic variables of teacher trainees.

**Conflict of Interest**

Not available

**Financial Support**

Not available

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