

A Study to Evaluate the Level of Knowledge Among Caregivers Attending Psychiatric Outpatient Departments At Different Hospitals in Indore Regarding the Rights of Mentally Ill Patients

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ABSTRACT:

Numerous human rights issues are exacerbated by mental illness. Both inside and outside of the healthcare setting, people with mental problems are exposed to a variety of human rights violations. Individuals who suffer from mental illness and their loved ones typically lack awareness of their rights, are unsure of how to use them effectively, and lack confidence while asserting their rights. The knowledge, commitment, and attitude of mental health professionals are the most crucial factors in protecting patients' rights.

OBJECTIVES: 1. To gauge caregivers' awareness of mentally ill patients' rights. 2. To correlate caregivers' knowledge scores about the rights of mentally ill patients with the demographic characteristics they have chosen.

HYPOTHESIS: H1: There will be a substantial correlation between the chosen demographic characteristics and the caregivers' level of awareness of the rights of mentally ill patients who visit the psychiatric outpatient department.

METHODS AND MATERIAL: For this study, a non-probability sampling technique and a non-experimental descriptive research approach were used. The scene was in several hospitals in Indore. A self-structured knowledge checklist was created to evaluate the knowledge of fifty caregivers who were attending mental outpatient departments at different hospitals in Indore.

Descriptive statistics (frequency, mean, standard deviation, and percentage) and inferential statistics were used to examine the data. The association and values of the chosen demographic factors were determined using the chi-square test; a p value of 0.05 ($p < 0.05$) was considered statistically significant.

RESULTS: The majority of the samples, or 48% of those aged 36 or older, 22% of those aged 26 to 30, 20% of those aged 18 to 25, and 10% of those aged 31 to 35, were male and 32% were female; 80% of the samples were Hindu, 18% were Muslim, and the remaining 2% were Christian; 60% had a joint family and 40% had a nuclear family; 76% did not have a history of mental illness. According to the knowledge interpretation, 66% of the samples had average knowledge, 32% had good knowledge, and the other 2% had bad understanding on the rights of patients with mental illness. The caregivers had an average level of awareness on the rights of mentally ill people, as indicated by the estimated mean level of knowledge of 13.68 and the calculated SD of 2.03. All of the chosen variables were found to have a significant link with the degree of understanding for the chi square.

CONCLUSION: The majority of caregivers had mediocre awareness about the rights of mentally ill patients, according to the results.

KEY WORDS: Assess, Knowledge, Human rights of mentally ill, Care givers, Psychiatric OPD

INTRODUCTION

The freedom to act or not act is a right. Everyone with a mental illness has the right to live, work, and receive treatment where they currently reside. Human rights offer a foundation for action that empowers individuals to transform both society and their own lives. Human rights ought to be suitable and sufficient to meet people's fundamental needs. Understanding human rights leads to the obligation to uphold and preserve both our own and other people's dignity. Patients with mental illnesses are among the most vulnerable members of society. Protecting their human rights is the primary duty of healthcare professionals, particularly those who work in psychiatric wards. When it comes to mentally ill clients, this can encompass their rights to protection against violations of their human rights and other statutory rights, as well as their privileges and basic or fundamental rights. Every client with a mental illness is subject to a variety of human rights abuses. Mentally ill people frequently experience violations, both within and outside of mental hospitals. Regardless of whether we are mentally sick or not, every human being has the right to be treated with respect, decency, equality, and freedom despite the fact that each of us is unique from birth, develops differently, has a distinct mental makeup, leads a different lifestyle, and more. Human rights would be neglected if this were ignored.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

TARGET POPULATION:

The caregivers who visited the Psychiatric OPD were the study's target population.

SAMPLE

Caregivers who attended psychiatric outpatient departments in different Indore hospitals made up the sample.

SAMPLING TECHNIQUE: Samples that met the eligibility requirements were gathered using a non-probability purposive sampling technique.

SAMPLE SIZE: Fifty caregivers who frequent psychiatric outpatient departments at several hospitals in Indore make up the study's sample size.

DATA COLLECTION TOOLS

The instruments used to gauge caregivers' awareness of mentally ill patients' rights at Psychiatric OPD included:

Section I: Demographic Factors

Part II: -Checklist for self-structured knowledge

DEVELOPMENT OF TOOLS

A self-structured knowledge checklist was created to evaluate the degree of awareness among caregivers attending Psychiatric OPD at different hospitals at CSSH, Indore, regarding the rights of mentally ill patients.

A thorough analysis of relevant literature and content validation by a range of nursing specialists

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Results of the individuals' demographic characteristics The demographic features of the research topic are described in this section. Fifty caregivers who attended the Psychiatric OPD at CSSH, Meerut, made up the sample. The information gathered describes the sample's age, gender, place of residence, religion, family income, and other characteristics. The sample's frequency and percentage distribution by these attributes are shown in tables and diagrams, accordingly.

Table No. 1 shows the participants' demographic characteristics in terms of frequency and percentage distribution.

S.No	Socio-Demographic variables	Frequency(F)	Percentage (%)
1	Age (In Years)		
	a. 18-25 years	10	20
	b. 26-30 years	11	22
	c. 31-35 years	5	10
	d. 36 years or above	24	48
2	Gender		
	a. Male	34	68
	b. Female	16	32
3	Religion		
	a. Hindu	40	80
	b. Muslim	9	18
	c. Christian	1	2
	d. Others	0	0
4	Family Type		
	a. Nuclear family	20	40
	b. Joint family	30	60
	c. Extended family	0	0
5	History of Mental illness in family		
	a. Present	12	24
	b. Absent	38	76

Data presented in table 1 shows that:

The majority of the samples, or 48% of them, are 36 years of age or older, 22% are 26–30 years old, 20% are 18–25 years old, and the remaining 10% are 31–35 years old.

Males make up the majority of the samples (68%), with females making up the remaining 32%. Eighty percent of the samples are Hindu, eighteen percent are Muslim, and the remaining two percent are Christian. 40% of the samples had nuclear families, while the majority, or 60%, have joint families. The majority of the samples, or 76%, do not have a family history of mental illness, while the remaining 24% have.

SECTION – II

Results pertaining to caregivers' awareness of mentally ill patients' rights in several Indore hospitals' psychiatric outpatient departments.

The results pertaining to caregivers' awareness of the rights of mentally ill patients attending Psychiatric OPD at various hospitals in Indore are presented in this part. The self-structured knowledge checklist was used to collect the data, which is then described and examined using description statistics. Tables and graphs are used to display these facts.

Table No. 2 shows the frequency and interpretation of caregivers' understanding of the rights of mentally ill patients attending psychiatric outpatient departments in various hospitals in Indore.

S.No	SCORE INTERPRETATION	LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE REGARDING RIGHTS OF MENTALLY ILL PATIENT AMONG CARE GIVERS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE %
1	20-15	Good	16	32
2	14-10	Average	33	66
3	9-5	Poor	1	2
4	Below 5	Very Poor	0	0

Table 2's data indicates that, of the 50 samples in the whole population, 66% have average knowledge, 32% have good knowledge, and the remaining 2% have poor understanding on the rights of mentally ill patients.



Column diagram showing level of knowledge among care givers

Table No. 3: Mean and Standard Deviation of level of knowledge regarding rights of mentally ill patient among care givers.

n=50

Sr. No.	Level of knowledge regarding rights of mentally ill patient among care givers	MEAN	STANDARD DEVIATION (S.D)
1		13.68	2.03

The data presented in Table No. 3 shows that the caregivers attending Psychiatric OPD have an average level of awareness on the rights of mentally ill people, with a mean level of knowledge of 13.68 and a standard deviation score of 2.03.

SECTION-III

Findings related to significant association of knowledge score regarding rights of mentally ill patient among care givers with their selected demographic variables

Table No. 4

Association between the level of knowledge of care givers and selected demographic variables

S.No	Demographic Variables	Knowledge level								Chi Square	Table value/ df	Significant / Not Significant
		Good		Average		Poor		Very Poor				
		F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%			
1	Age (In Years)									110.35	9	Significant
	18-25	1	2	9	18	0	0	0	0			
	26-30	3	6	8	16	0	0	0	0			
	31-35	1	2	4	8	0	0	0	0			
	36 or avove	10	20	13	26	1	2	0	0			
2	Gender									532.14	3	significant
	Male	13	26	23	46	0	0	0	0			
	Female	2	4	11	22	1	2	0	0			
3	Religion									261.37	9	significant
	Hindu	11	22	28	56	1	2	0	0			
	Muslim	3	6	6	12	0	0	0	0			
	Christian	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0			
	others	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
4	Type of Family									554.15	6	significant
	Nuclear	8	15	11	22	0	0	0	0			
	Joint	7	14	23	46	1	2	0	0			
	Extended	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
5	Histrory of mental illness in family									1001.05	3	significant
	Present	4	8	13	26	0	0	0	0			
	Absent	10	20	22	44	1	2	0	0			

The Chi square values between caregivers' knowledge levels and their demographic characteristics are displayed in Table No. 4. It claims that all of the chosen variables—age, gender, religion, family type, and family history of mental illness—have a substantial link with the degree of knowledge.

SUMMARY OF THE STUDY:

In order to give mentally ill patients the greatest care possible, it is crucial for caregivers to understand their rights. Therefore, the investigator was compelled to determine the degree of awareness among caregivers attending psychiatric outpatient departments at different hospitals in Indore regarding the rights of mentally ill patients.

The study's primary goal is to determine how well-informed caregivers who attend psychiatric outpatient departments at different hospitals in Indore are about the rights of mentally ill patients.

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