



Exploration Of Nurses' Knowledge, Attitude And Practice Towards Healthcare Needs Of Transgender

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INTRODUCTION

Transgender (TG) is an umbrella term for persons whose gender identity, gender expression or behaviour does not conform to that typically associated with the sex to which they were assigned at birth. Transgender people experience high levels of discrimination in health care, employment, housing, education, legal systems and even in their families and even faces gender-based violence, socio-economic barriers, lack of health insurance, exclusion from social protection schemes, and health systems barriers. Discrimination affects the access to healthcare for transgender people negatively. Though, the transgender is also a part of our society, still they were denied with opportunities on par with the other people in the society. Hence, these challenges emphasize the urgent need for comprehensive and inclusive measures to ensure fair healthcare access and improve the health and wellbeing of the transgender community.

NEED FOR THE STUDY

Transgender people do have the same health needs as any general population, but may have specific and specialist health-care needs, such as gender-affirming hormone therapy and surgery. It has been widely noted that existing healthcare systems do not always function effectively for the transgender population.

Nurses represent the largest segment of the major health workforce in any country and have a considerable impact on the healthcare outcomes of those for whom they provide care. The number of transgender people seeking health care for both general and specific health issues increased to a considerable rate. Nurses working in the mainstream come across more transgender patients and situation demands more interaction with them. Nurses' knowledge and attitude about transgender play a vital role in delivering gender affirmative care. Unfortunately, nursing curriculum hardly address content about transgender health care. The nursing literature is mostly silent on nursing care of transgender patients, which contributes to considerable confusion, lack of knowledge, and uncertainty about how to interact with transgender patients

and their families and also more concerns in implementing nursing procedures like history collection, physical assessment and urinary catheterization etc. The 2030 Agenda for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) embody a powerful commitment to “leave no one behind” and ensuring a life of dignity for all, including LGBTQ people. Hence, these challenges emphasize the urgent need for comprehensive and inclusive measures to ensure fair healthcare access and improve the health and wellbeing of the transgender community. There is a paucity of existing research on transgender health in India. There is also a sparse of literature that explores the knowledge, attitudes and practice of Nurses towards Transgenders. This justifies the need for this study.

METHODOLOGY

Research Approach: The research approach used for this study is qualitative approach.

Study design: A descriptive research design

Study setting: The study was conducted at Govt. General Hospital, Chittoor.

Population: The Target population of the study was registered Nurses of A.P.

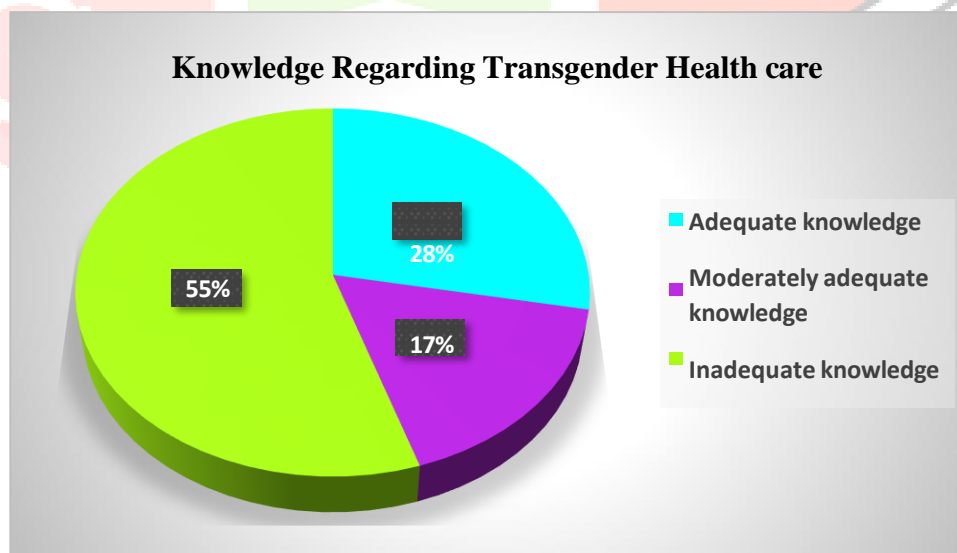
Study sample: Nurses working at AIMS, GGH, Chittoor dist. A.P.

Sample size: The calculated size of the sample was 140.

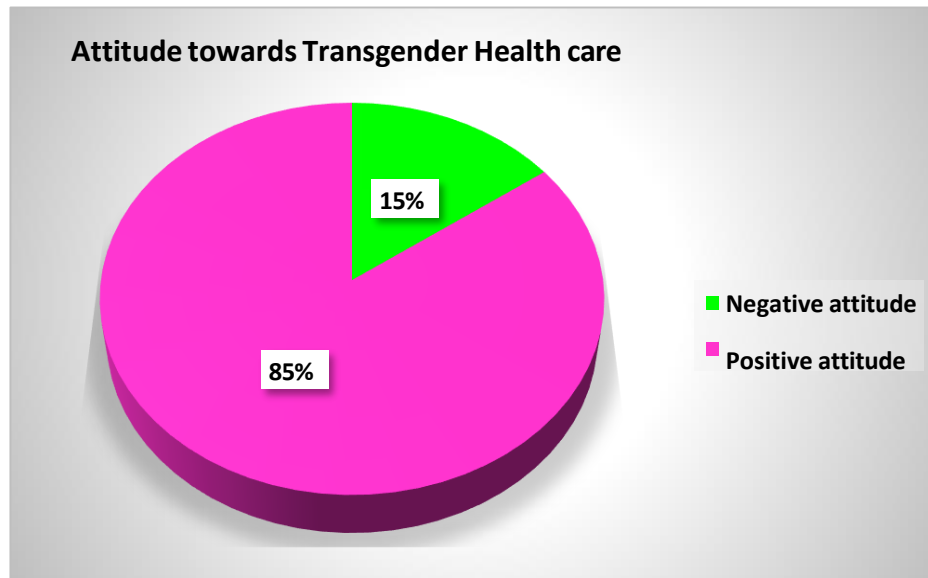
Sampling technique: Non-probability purposive sampling technique is chosen for the study.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

- **Level of Knowledge regarding Transgender Health Care among Nurses**



- **Attitude Towards Transgender among Nurses**



RESULTS

The study findings show that, majority of Nurses were in the age group of < 30 years (54, 53.5%), were females (100, 99%), B.Sc. Nursing as educational qualification (51, 50%), Hindu religion (55, 55%), married (78, 77%), living in semi urban areas (49, 49%), working as a Nursing Officer (78, 77%), having an experience of more than 6 years in nursing service (40, 40%), not attended any classes on transgenders and their issues during their academic life (73, 72%) and not knowing any transgenders personally (86, 85%). The study also revealed that, majority of the nurses had inadequate knowledge (56, 55%), positive attitude (86, 85%) and average level of practice in transgenders health care (55, 54%). Statistically significant association was found between area of residence, current designation, and the level of Knowledge, Attitude & Practice in transgenders health care among nurses working at AIMS, GGH, Chittoor, where $p = < 0.05$. Hence the hypothesis H1: There will be a significant association between the knowledge, attitude and practice towards healthcare needs of transgenders among nurses with selected sociodemographic variables is retained.

CONCLUSION

Based on the responses, the study revealed several key insights into knowledge, attitude and practice of nurses in transgenders health care. It is obviously seen in this study that; majority of respondents were having inadequate knowledge, positive attitude and average level of practice in transgenders health care. Nurses in this study perceive gaps in their knowledge that threaten their ability to deliver quality, patient-centred care to transgender patients, despite their best intentions. These findings have implications for changes in nursing practice, education, and research needed to address vital gaps in the healthcare of transgender people. Nursing curricula must challenge the gender binary to better prepare nurses to provide them quality care.