



A Study To Assess The Knowledge Regarding Respectful Maternity Care Among Nursing Students Of Selected College Of Bhopal (M.P.)

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Abstract:

This study aimed to assess the level of knowledge and perception regarding Respectful Maternity Care (RMC) among nursing students at a selected college in Bhopal. RMC is a critical component of maternal healthcare, ensuring that women receive dignified, respectful, and human-centered care during pregnancy, labour, and postpartum. A quantitative research approach was used with a purposive sampling technique, selecting 40 nursing students. Data were collected through a structured questionnaire designed to assess knowledge on RMC, which was then categorized into inadequate, moderate, and adequate levels. The results indicated that the majority of students (57%) had an adequate level of knowledge regarding RMC, while 38% had moderate knowledge, and 5% had inadequate knowledge. The study further explored the association between knowledge levels and socio-demographic factors such as age, gender, religion, education, and marital status. A significant association was found between knowledge and gender, as well as education, suggesting that female students and those pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSc. Nursing) had higher knowledge scores. The findings highlight the need for increased awareness and training among nursing students to improve their understanding and practice of RMC, which could contribute to enhancing the quality of maternity care. The study is limited by its small sample size and its focus on one institution. Further research with larger sample sizes and across diverse settings is recommended.

Keywords: Respectful Maternity Care, Nursing Students, Knowledge, Socio-Demographic Factors, Maternal Health, Bhopal, Healthcare Quality, Gender, Education

Introduction:

Respectful Maternity Care (RMC) is a critical human right that ensures women receive dignified, compassionate, and supportive care throughout pregnancy, childbirth, and the postnatal period. Positive interactions with healthcare providers foster trust and emotional well-being, while mistreatment during childbirth can lead to lasting trauma and discourage future use of healthcare services. Despite significant progress in reducing maternal mortality, disrespect and abuse remain widespread, affecting women's experiences and access to quality care. This research focuses on assessing nursing students' awareness and knowledge of RMC, recognizing the importance of healthcare providers in upholding maternal rights. By examining the relationship between socio-demographic factors and understanding of RMC, this study aims to

enhance maternal care quality and promote respectful, patient-centered practices in healthcare settings.

Review of Literature:

The importance of Respectful Maternity Care (RMC) in improving the quality of maternal health services and ensuring women's dignity during childbirth has been widely recognized globally. Several studies have highlighted the prevalence of disrespect and abuse in maternity care, emphasizing the need for targeted interventions to address these issues.

Disrespect and Abuse in Maternity Care: Shalini Singh et al. (2021) developed a comprehensive typology of disrespect and abuse specific to the Indian context, which helped in identifying RMC deficits in healthcare facilities. Their study highlighted the importance of measuring and understanding these deficits to introduce effective interventions aimed at improving maternity care quality. The research aimed to provide actionable insights for policymakers, healthcare providers, and women's health advocates, contributing to quality improvements on the ground.

Factors Associated with Respectful Maternity Care: Sanjaykumar Dabhi et al. (2023) identified key factors influencing the quality of RMC, including the type of healthcare institution, the presence of discussions during antenatal care, the involvement of women in decision-making, and factors such as waiting time and consent. The study emphasized the need for raising awareness among healthcare providers about RMC, improving communication between providers and mothers, and focusing on creating an environment of respect to prevent maltreatment during labor and childbirth.

Evidence on Respectful Maternity Care: Vijayalakshmi Kandasamy et al. (2024) explored nursing personnel's practices related to RMC and found that while the majority exhibited moderately adequate practices, there was a clear need for further training and support. The study underscored the significance of fostering a culture of respect and compassion, alongside reducing workload and improving staffing levels, to ensure that maternity care is both respectful and high-quality. Such changes could encourage health-seeking behavior among women and potentially reduce maternal mortality.

Respectful Maternity Care in Community Settings: Bezabh Amsalu et al. (2022) focused on the community-based aspects of RMC and found that only 12.6% of participants received respectful care during labor and delivery. The study highlighted the positive association between receiving care from trained, compassionate healthcare providers, especially in well-equipped hospitals. However, barriers such as staff workload, inadequate infrastructure, and resource shortages were identified as critical challenges in delivering RMC. Recommendations included increasing the number of trained healthcare providers, improving facility resources, and strengthening monitoring systems to ensure consistent and respectful care.

Overall, these studies indicate that while some progress has been made in addressing disrespect and abuse in maternity care, significant gaps remain. Addressing these challenges requires multifaceted approaches, including improved healthcare provider training, better resource allocation, and a systemic shift toward fostering a culture of respect and dignity in maternal care settings.

OBJECTIVE:-

1. To assess the preexisting knowledge among nursing students of Respectful Maternity Care
2. To assess the association between knowledge on Respectful Maternity Care and socio demographic data

Hypothesis -H1- There is significant association between knowledge of Respectful Maternity Care and socio demographic data of nursing students selected at college of nursing at level $p \leq 0.05$.

Research Methodology:-Research Methodology:

This study aimed to assess the knowledge of nursing students regarding Respectful Maternity Care (RMC). The research was conducted at Career College of Nursing in Bhopal, with a target population of nursing students aged 20-31 years. The sample included 40 students from BSc IV and GNM III-year programs. A purposive sampling technique was used to select participants based on the inclusion criteria, such as being enrolled in the nursing college and within the specified age range.

The study utilized a structured questionnaire to collect data, which was administered via a Google form. The tool comprised two sections: Section I gathered demographic data, including age, gender, religion, and education, while Section II assessed the students' knowledge of RMC through a pre-test. The validity of the tool was ensured through expert opinions from medical and nursing professionals, and the reliability was determined using a descriptive research approach.

A pilot study was conducted on 10 students from NRI College of Nursing to test the feasibility of the study and validate the tool. The main data collection took place over two days, starting on January 31, 2024, with the pre-test conducted to evaluate students' knowledge of RMC.

For data analysis, descriptive statistics (mean, standard deviation, and percentage) were used to summarize the data, and inferential statistics (paired t-test and chi-square test) were employed to assess the relationship between knowledge and demographic variables.

Result :- The study aimed to assess the knowledge regarding Respectful Maternity Care (RMC) among nursing students at a selected college in Bhopal. The findings of the study are summarized as follows:

1. Knowledge Levels:

○ The majority of students had adequate knowledge of RMC, with 23 (57%) reporting an adequate level, 15 (38%) having moderate knowledge, and 2 (5%) having inadequate knowledge.

2. Association Between Knowledge and Socio-Demographic Variables:

○ **Age Group:** The 20-22 years age group showed a higher percentage of students with adequate (12%) and moderate (30%) knowledge, while older age groups had less variation.

○ **Gender:** Female students demonstrated higher levels of adequate knowledge (20%) compared to male students (8%).

○ **Religion:** Hindu students exhibited a balanced distribution across all knowledge levels, while Muslim and Christian students had fewer students with inadequate knowledge.

○ **Education:** BSc nursing students had higher levels of inadequate knowledge (30%) compared to GNM students, who showed more moderate knowledge.

○ **Marital Status:** Married students showed a higher percentage of inadequate knowledge (30%) compared to unmarried students.

3. Statistical Analysis:

○ A significant association was found between knowledge and demographic variables such as **gender** and **education**, with p-values of 0.023 and 0.007 respectively, both below the significance level of 0.05. However, no significant association was found with **age**, **religion**, or **marital status**.

Conclusion: The study found that nursing students' knowledge about Respectful Maternity Care varies based on gender and education. There was a significant association between the demographic factors of gender and education with the knowledge levels regarding RMC. The study highlights the need for targeted educational interventions to improve knowledge on RMC, especially among male students and those pursuing BSc nursing.

Limitations:

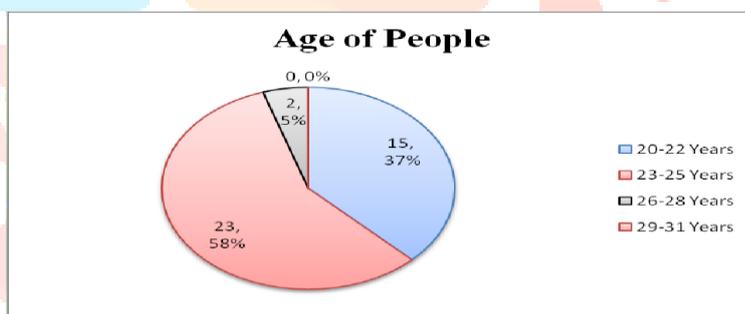
- The study was limited to nursing students from a single college in Bhopal.
- The sample size was small (40 students).
- The study was based solely on a questionnaire program.

Resultstatistics:-**Section- A**

Frequency and percentage distribution of nursing college students according to their selected demographic variable.

Q.1

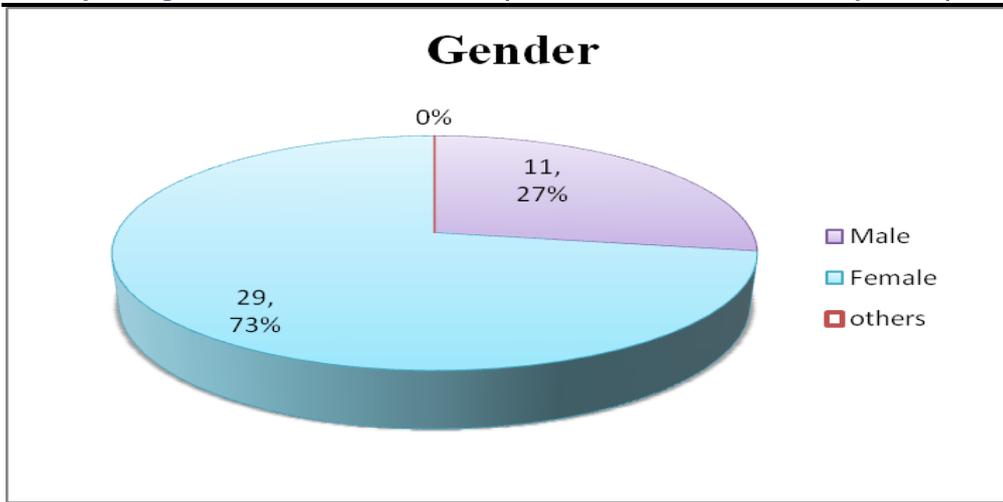
	Age	Frequency	Percentage
years	20-22	15	37.5%
years	23-25	23	57.5%
years	26-28	2	5%
years	29-31	0	0%



Frequency and percentage distribution of nursing college student according to age (N=40)

Fig 1.1-Pie diagram shows that the age of nursing students following Age group 23-25 years showed highest% as 57.5% with 23 frequency whereas on contrast age group 29-31 years shows lowest% 0% with 0 frequency. The age group 20-22 years shows 37.5% with frequency of 15 students and age group 26-28 years shows 5% with 2 frequency. Total number of samples is 40

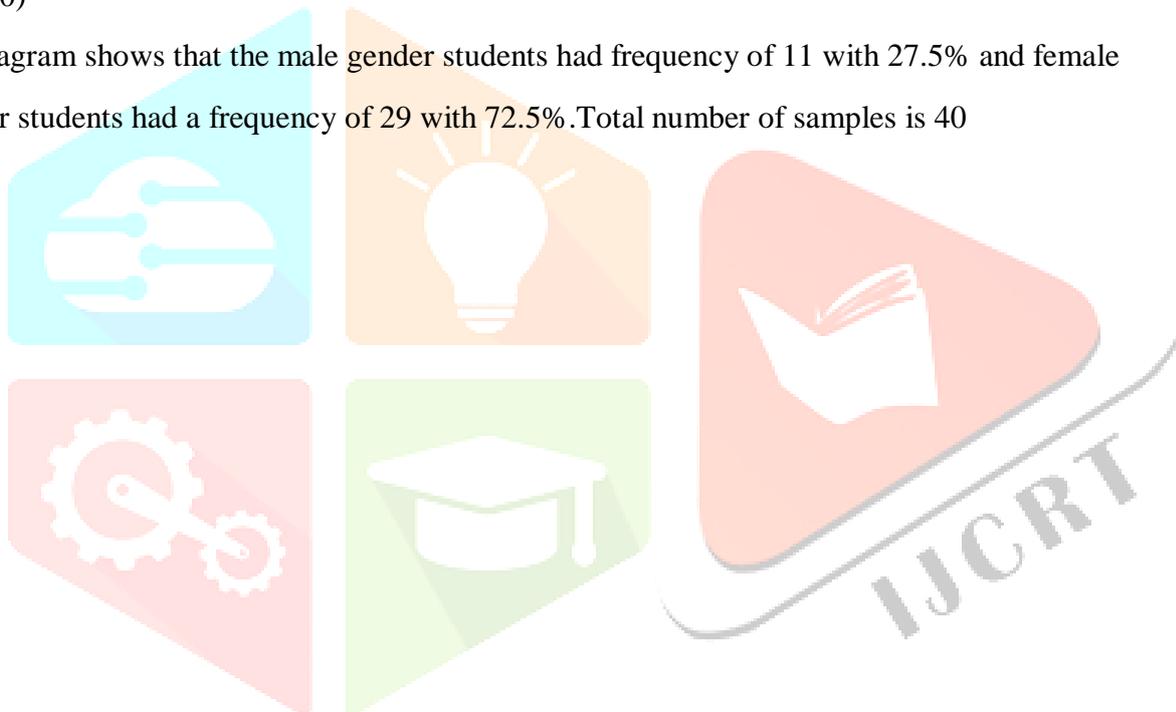
Gender	Frequency	Percentage
Male	11	27.5%
Female	29	72.5%
Others	0	0%



Frequency and percentage distribution of nursing college student according to Gender

(N=40)

Pie diagram shows that the male gender students had frequency of 11 with 27.5% and female gender students had a frequency of 29 with 72.5%. Total number of samples is 40



Q.3

Religion	Frequency	Percentage
Hindi	37	92.5%
Muslim	2	5%
Christian	1	2.5%
Sikh	0	0%

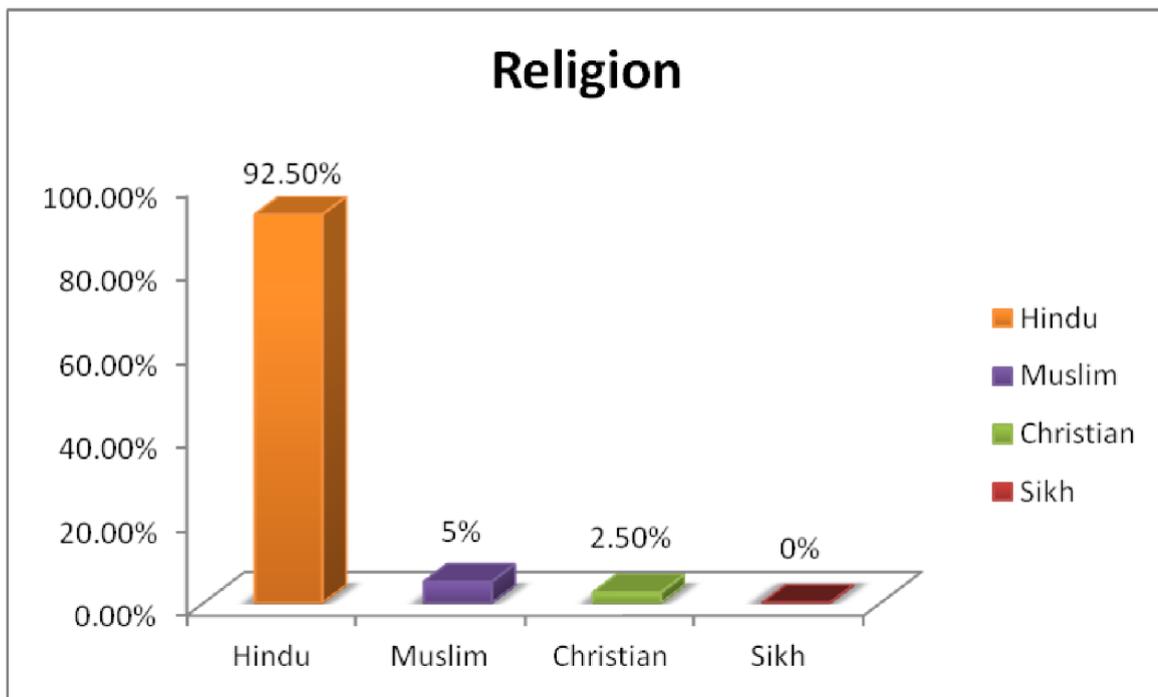


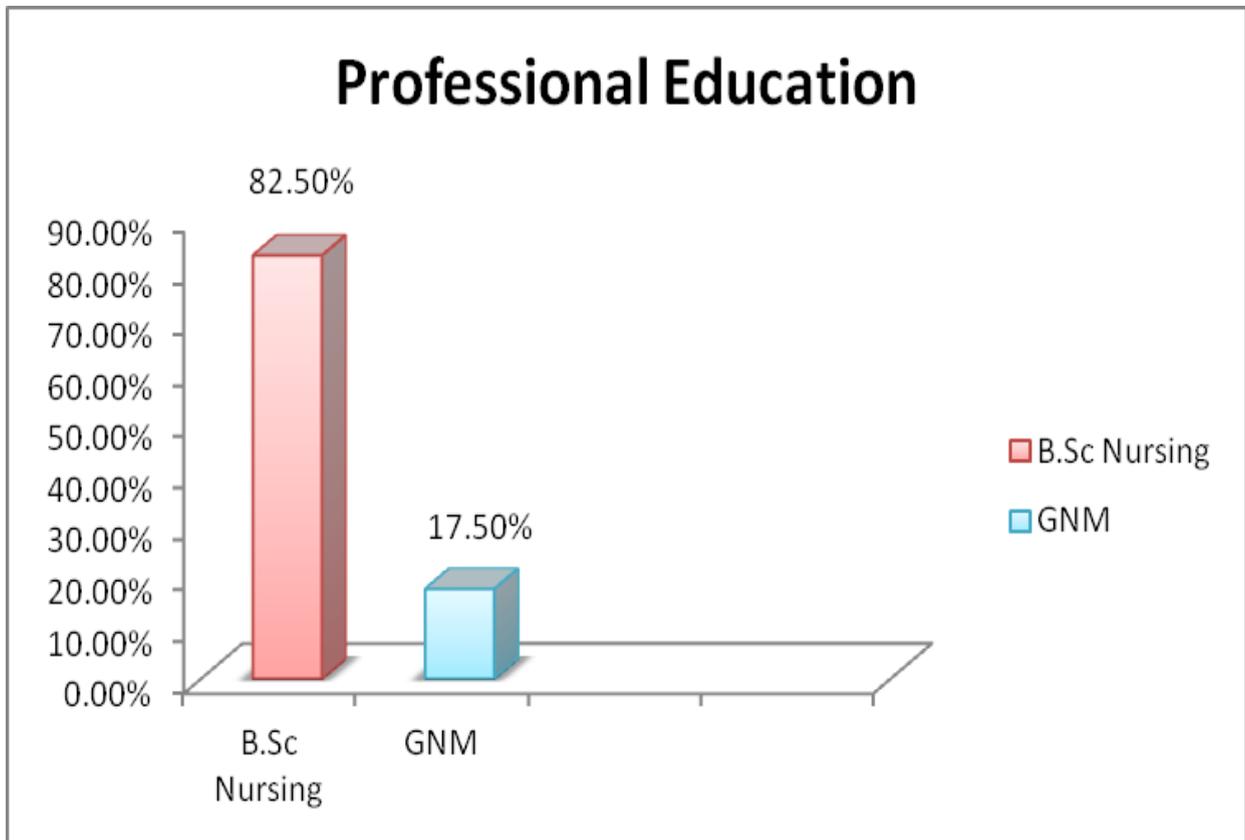
Fig Frequency and percentage distribution of nursing college student according to Religion

(N=40)

Bar diagram shows that the Religion 92.5% frequency is 37 Hindu, and 5% Muslim their frequency range is 2 and 2.5% Christian their frequency is 1, Total number of samples is 40.

Q.4

Professional Education	Frequency	Percentage
B.Sc. Nursing	33	82.5%
GNM	7	7.5%

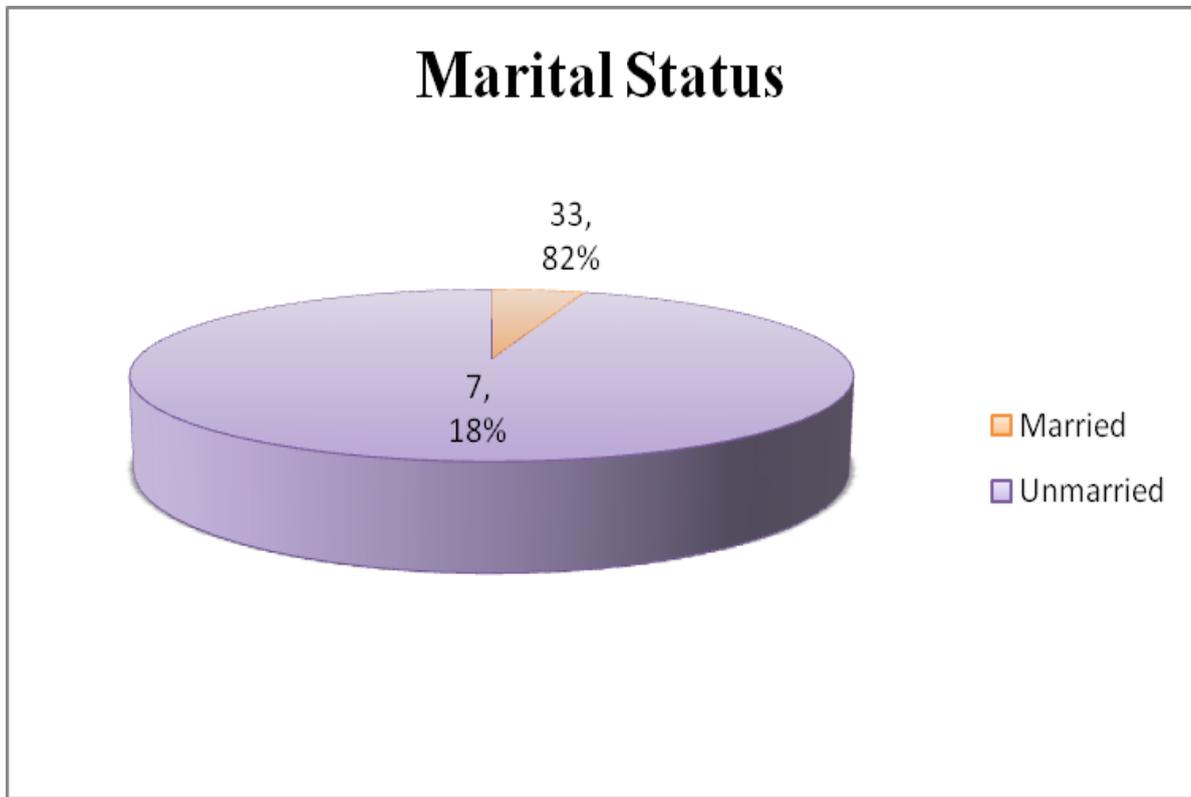


Frequency and percentage distribution of nursing college student according to Professional education (N=40) Column

Pie diagram shows that the Professional Education 82.5% Student of B.Sc. Nursing their frequency is 33 and 17.5% of GNM their frequency is 7, Total number of samples is 40.

Q.5

Marital Status	Frequency	Percentage
Married	2	5%
Unmarried	38	95%
Divorce	0	0%
Widowed	0	0%



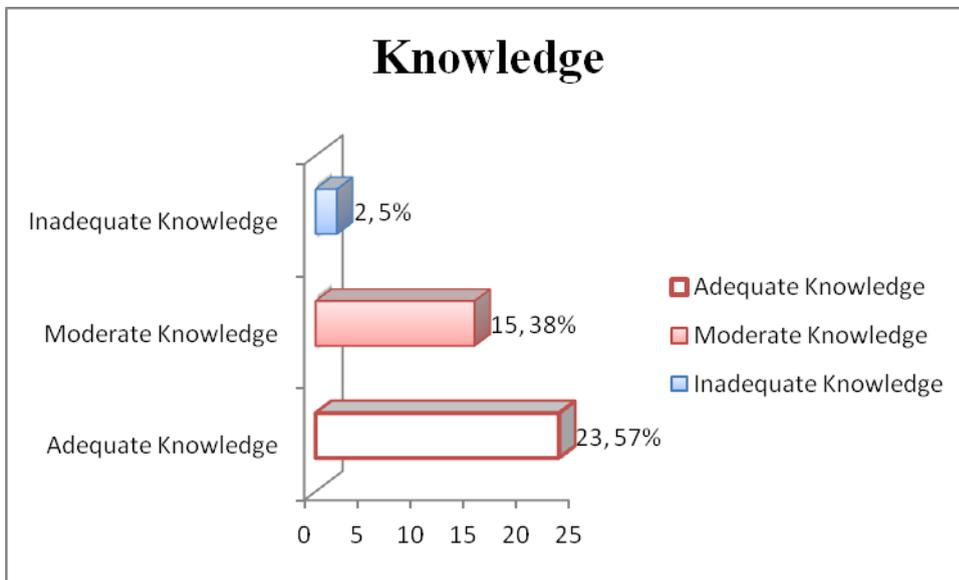
Frequency and percentage distribution of nursing college student according to Marital Status (N=40)

Pie diagram shows that the Marital Status of students 95% Unmarried and 5% Married Total number of samples is 40

Section- B

A distribution of pre-existing knowledge among nursing students of respectful maternity care

S.no.	Knowledge	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Adequate Knowledge	23	57%
2.	Moderate Knowledge	15	8%
3.	Inadequate Knowledge	2	5%



Frequency and percentage distribution of knowledge of respectful maternity care in nursing students.

(N=40)

Bar diagram shows that the knowledge level of nursing students Pre-test adequate knowledge 57% their frequency is 23, Moderate knowledge 38% and frequency is 15, and Inadequate knowledge 5% their frequency is 2, Total number of samples is 40.

SECTION - C

To assess the association between knowledge on Respectful Maternity Care and socio demographic data

	Demographic Variable	Inadequate (0-10)		Moderate (11-29)		Adequate (25-35)		Parameter				
		Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	SD	Chi-Square	P value	DF	S/NS
Age	1	1	10%	3	30%	1	12%	0.25	0.80	0.671	5	S
	2	2	20%	10	10%	4	10%	0.5	1.60	0.952	3	S
	3	0	0	1	10%	1	10%	0	0	0.001	5	NS
	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.003	5	NS
Gender	1	1	10%	2	10%	8	8%	0.35	0.90	0.923	5	S
	2	2	20%	12	10%	15	20%	0.5	1.80	0.737	7	S

Religion	1	3	30%	1 9	10%	2 1	30%	0.8 1	1.9	0.84 8	6	S
	2	0	0	0	0	2	20%	0	0	0.00 2	8	NS
	3	0	0	1	10%	0	0	0	0	0.00 3	4	NS
Education	1	3	30%	1 2	10%	1 8	10%	1.6 9	0.39	0.99 1	3	S
	2	0	0	2	20%	5	10%	0	0	0.00 7	2	S
Marital Status	1	0	0	1	10%	1 0	10%	0	0	0.00 3	1	NS
	2	3	30%	1 3	30%	2 2	10%	0.8 1	5.08	0.53 1	5	S

Interpretation: This tool mentioned above shows us the significant association between the knowledge regarding respectful maternity care and the socio demographic variables. The association is assessed by considering the value of $P \leq 0.05$ level.

This table shows that there is significant association of age group 20-22 years and 23-25 years with knowledge having a value of $P \pm 0.671$, SD- 0.25 and $P \pm 0.952$, SD-0.5 respectively while other two age groups had nonsignificant association. With regards to Gender Male and Female both had significant association with $P \pm 0.923$, SD-0.90 and $P \pm 0.737$, SD-0.5 respectively. According to table Hindu religion had significant association with knowledge having $P \pm 0.848$, SD-0.81 and other religions had insignificant relationships. In education BSC nursing and GNM both showed significant association as $P \pm 0.991$, SD-1.69 and $P \pm 0.007$, SD- 0 respectively. The marital status shows significant association of married socio demographic variables with knowledge as $P \pm 0.531$ and SD-0.81 and unmarried having insignificant association with knowledge regarding respectful maternity care.

Thus the H1 is proved that there is significant association between knowledge of Respectful Maternity Care and socio demographic data of nursing students at level $P \leq 0.05$.

Discussion, Conclusion & Implications:

Discussion:

The study aimed to assess the knowledge and perception of nursing students regarding Respectful Maternity Care (RMC) at a selected college in Bhopal. The findings provide valuable insights into the awareness and understanding of RMC among nursing students and highlight the need for further educational initiatives in this area.

1. Knowledge Levels:

○ The majority of nursing students (57%) demonstrated adequate knowledge regarding RMC, while 38% had moderate knowledge, and 5% showed inadequate knowledge. This suggests that, while a significant portion of students are familiar with the principles of respectful care, there remains a need to enhance and standardize knowledge across all students, particularly those who have moderate or inadequate understanding.

2. Association with Socio-Demographic Variables:

- **Age:** There was no significant association between age and knowledge regarding RMC, although younger students (20-22 years) had a slightly higher percentage of adequate knowledge. This finding suggests that age may not be a determining factor in the understanding of RMC.
- **Gender:** A significant difference was found between male and female students, with females showing higher levels of knowledge regarding RMC. This could indicate that female students may have more exposure to maternal health-related topics or might engage more actively in maternal care studies compared to their male counterparts.
- **Religion:** The study observed that Hindu students had a broader distribution of knowledge levels, while Muslim and Christian students tended to have more concentrated levels of adequate knowledge. However, this difference was not statistically significant, suggesting that religion does not play a substantial role in shaping RMC knowledge among the students.
- **Education:** BSc nursing students exhibited higher levels of inadequate knowledge compared to GNM students. This may be due to differences in their curriculum or exposure to maternal health education, indicating the need for curriculum improvements for BSc nursing students to cover RMC comprehensively.
- **Marital Status:** Married students showed more inadequate knowledge compared to unmarried students, possibly reflecting the differing experiences or interests in maternal care between these two groups. This finding suggests that marital status could influence one's knowledge or perception of maternity care, and married students may benefit from additional focus in training programs on RMC.

3. Significant Associations:

- The study found significant associations between knowledge and demographic factors such as **gender** and **education**. Female students and those pursuing GNM courses demonstrated better knowledge regarding RMC. These findings suggest that targeted interventions and educational programs may be necessary for male students and BSc nursing students to improve their knowledge and perception of respectful maternity care.

4. Limitations:

- The study was limited to nursing students from one college in Bhopal, which may not fully represent the wider population of nursing students.
- The sample size of 40 students is relatively small, which limits the generalizability of the results.
- The study relied on a questionnaire method, which may not fully capture all aspects of students' knowledge or perceptions regarding RMC, such as practical experience or emotional understanding.

5. Recommendations:

- **Curriculum Enhancement:** There is a need to integrate more comprehensive education about RMC into the nursing curriculum, especially for BSc students who showed lower levels of knowledge.
- **Gender-Specific Training:** Efforts should be made to engage male students more actively in maternal health education to bridge the knowledge gap between genders.
- **Awareness Campaigns:** Additional awareness programs could be developed to promote RMC in nursing colleges and healthcare institutions, with a focus on those who lack adequate knowledge.
- **Further Research:** A larger, more diverse sample from multiple colleges should be studied to increase the generalizability of findings. Further research could also explore practical training methods that enhance students' perceptions and real-world applications of RMC.

Conclusion: The study concluded that while a majority of nursing students possess adequate knowledge regarding respectful maternity care, there are notable gaps, particularly among male and BSc nursing students. The findings emphasize the importance of targeted educational interventions to improve knowledge and ensure that all nursing students are well-equipped to provide respectful and compassionate care to mothers during childbirth.

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