

Knowledge and Attitude Regarding Infertility Treatment Among Nurses of Selected Private Fertility Clinics – A Pilot Study

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Abstract- *The use of infertility treatment is now becoming a popular experience in developing countries. Knowledge and attitude of nurses have immense impact on the quality of care received by the patients undergoing infertility treatment.*

Aim of Study: *The aim of study was to assess knowledge and attitude regarding infertility treatment among nurses working in Private fertility clinics of Chandigarh, India.*

Material and methods: *A quantitative cross sectional pilot study was conducted among 30 nurses selected through enumerates sampling technique working in selected fertility clinics of Chandigarh. Self-Administered questionnaire and Likert Scale was used to collect the data. Data Analysis was done by using SPSS version 15.*

Results: *The findings of demographic data showed that 18 (60%) nurses belong to 21-30 yrs of age and completed GNM diploma. Majority 17(56.67%) had less than 5 yrs experience of working. Most of them 16(53.33%) were married. Majority of staff nurses 16(53.3%) had average knowledge regarding Infertility treatment followed by 9(30%) nurses had good knowledge and 5(16.7%) staff nurses had below average knowledge respectively. Most of staff nurses 17(56.7%) had favourable attitude toward infertility treatment followed by 12(40%) had moderately favourable and only 1(3.3%) had unfavourable attitude respectively. There was positive significant correlation between knowledge and attitude. Marital status had significant impact on knowledge regarding infertility treatment. So It was concluded that there is need to create awareness among staff nurses working in fertility clinics regarding infertility treatment using various educational programs, booklets etc.*

Keywords- Knowledge, Attitude, infertility treatment.

I. INTRODUCTION

Infertility is a serious medical concern that affects the quality of life and is a problem for 10% to 15% of

reproductive age couples (American Society for reproductive medicine).

Normally a fertile couple has approximately a 20% chance of conception in each ovulatory cycle. Primary infertile applies to a woman who has never been pregnant; secondary infertility applies to a woman who has at least one prior conception.²

According to National survey of family growth (2011-2013), India faces a high burden of infertility, with an estimated 27 to 30 million couples in the reproductive age suffering from lifetime infertility. Out of this Female factor accounts for 40%-50% of infertility, while male factor, which is on the rise in India, accounts for 30%-40%. 10 million married women aged 15-44yrs are infertile. 11.3% women aged 15-44yrs have ever used infertility services.³ Union territories of Delhi, Lakshadweep, Daman and Diu and Chandigarh registered a low fertility rate below the crucial 2.1.⁴

According to a 2013 World Bank estimate, the drop in fertility started about 10 years ago in India, with a steady 17% decline from the year 2000. Today the incidence is around 10% of all those couples who may be trying to have a baby. However, today the male factor is prevalent in 50% cases. In every 100 couples, 40% males suffer from infertility compared to 50% women. In the remaining 5%, the causes are common in both men and women.⁵

Assisted reproductive technology (ART) is used to treat infertility. Assisted Reproductive Techniques (ART) describes clinical and laboratory techniques used to achieve pregnancy in infertile couples for whom direct corrections of underlying causes are not feasible. ART procedures use donor eggs, donor sperm, or previously frozen embryos.⁶

New technologies are very helpful for couples. Assisted reproductive technologies include IVF, GIFT, ZIFT, ICSI, egg donation, gestational carrier surrogacy and

micromanipulation. Additional ART associated techniques include egg and embryo cryopreservation, testicular sperm extraction, in vitro maturation of oocytes(IVM) and pre implantation genetic diagnosis (PGD).⁷

Over the years , there has been increasing number of facilities that offers the infertility treatment. The establishment of more infertility treatment centres is in progress in India. However it has been observed that the fear arising from lack of knowledge led to discriminatory behaviour towards women embarking infertility treatment. Unless this gap in knowledge and attitude tackled effectively, the increased demands for the procedure cannot meet.

Today, infertility clients receive the information and emotional support they need. The health care professional best qualified to provide the service is, the female nurse. Nurses can provide adequate knowledge regarding infertility treatment.¹¹ Appropriate Knowledge and attitude regarding infertility treatment will help the nurses to find out their lacunas which further motivate them to enhance their professional knowledge and skills.

II. OBJECTIVES

- To assess the knowledge and attitude regarding infertility treatment among nurses of selected Private Fertility Clinics.
- To determine the relationship between knowledge and attitude regarding infertility treatment among nurses of selected Private Fertility Clinics.
- To find out the association between knowledge and attitude regarding infertility treatment among nurses of selected Private fertility Clinics with selected demographic variables.

III. MATERIALS AND METHODS

A quantitative cross sectional pilot study was conducted among 30 nurses selected through enumerate sampling technique working in selected fertility clinics of Chandigarh.

Self-administered questionnaire and Likert was used to collect the data. Validity of tool Content was established by submitting it to experts from the field of Nursing and Gynaecologist Medicine. The reliability co-efficient for the questionnaire was calculated by using split half formula, it was found to be .78.

It was consisted of two parts:

Part –A – Selected Demographic variables

Part–B-Assessment of the knowledge regarding infertility treatment.

Likert Scale was used to assess attitude of nurses regarding infertility treatment.

The data analysis was done by using descriptive and inferential statistics by calculating the frequency percentage and ‘chi square’ test using SPSS version 15.

IV. ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

1. Administrative permission and ethical clearance was obtained from Research Committee of Akal College of Nursing, Eternal University, Baru Sahib (HP).
2. Permission was taken from Heads (HOD) of fertility Clinics for conducting study.
3. Written Informed consent was taken from Nurses.
4. The purpose for carrying out research project was explained to the Nurses and assurance for confidentiality was given.

V. RESULTS

According to age distribution, the majority of staff nurses 18(60%) were in the age group of 21-30 yrs followed by 7(23.34%) in age group of 31-40 yrs, 4(13.33%) in age group of 41-50 yrs and 01(3.33%) in 51-60 yrs of age group respectively. All 30(100%) staff nurses were females. According to marital status, Out of total sample, 16 (53.33%) staff nurses were married and 14(46.67%) staff nurses were single.

Table-1: Frequency and percentage distribution of sample characteristics of study subjects. (N=30)

S. NO	DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES	(n)	(%)
1)	Age (in yrs)		
	a) 21-30	18	60
	b) 31-40	07	23.34
	c) 41-50	01	3.33
	d) 51-60	04	13.33
2)	Gender		
	a) Male	00	00
	b) Female	30	100
3)	Marital Status		
	a) Single	14	46.67
	b) Married	16	53.33
4)	Educational Status		
	a) GNM	18	60
	b) B.Sc. Nursing	06	20
	c) M.Sc. Nursing	00	00
	d) Any other diploma	06	20
5)	Total Duration of service(in yrs)		
	a) ≤5	18	60
	b) 6-10	7	23.34
	c) 11-15	1	3.33
	d) ≥16	4	13.33

According to Educational status, majority of staff nurses 18 (60%) had completed GNM followed by 6(20%) B.Sc. Nursing, 06(20%) other diploma holder and none of them had completed MSC Nursing respectively. According to distribution of duration of service, most of them 17(56.67%) had less than 5 yrs experience followed by 7(23.33%) had 6-10 yrs, 3(10%) had 11-15 yrs and 3(10%) had >16 yrs experience respectively. (Table 1)

Objective-1: To assess the knowledge and attitude regarding infertility among nurses of selected Private Fertility Clinics

Table- 2
Frequency and Percentage Distribution of staff nurses according to level of knowledge regarding infertility treatment
 N=30

Level of Knowledge	Knowledge Score	n	%
Good	14-18	9	30
Average	9-13	16	53.3
Below Average	< 9	5	16.7

Max Score=18 Min Score=0

The data revealed that majority of staff nurses 16(53.3%) had average knowledge regarding Infertility treatment followed by 9(30%) nurses had good knowledge and 5(16.7%) staff nurses had below average knowledge respectively. (Table-2)

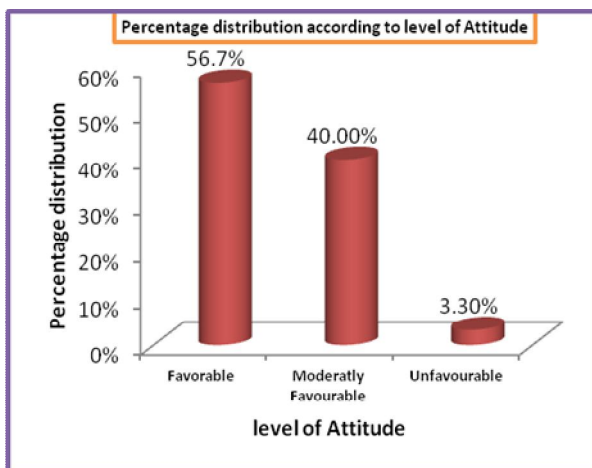


Fig.1 Bar diagram showing percentage distribution of nurses according to attitude score.

Most of staff nurses 17(56.7%) had favourable attitude toward infertility treatment followed by 12(40%) had

moderately favourable and only 1(3.3%) had unfavourable attitude respectively.

Objectives:2-To determine the relationship between knowledge and attitude regarding infertility treatment among nurses of selected Private Fertility Clinics.

Table- 3
Correlation between knowledge and attitude regarding infertility treatment among nurses
 N=30

Knowledge		Attitude		Pearson correlation(r)
Mean	SD	Mean	SD	
11.56	2.69	45.16	4.63	.116

The coefficient of co-relation between knowledge and attitude regarding infertility treatment was .116. It shows positive significant correlation between knowledge and attitude.(table 3)

Objectives:3 To find out the association between knowledge and attitude regarding infertility treatment among nurses of selected Private fertility Clinics with selected demographic variables.

Marital status had statistically significant impact on knowledge regarding infertility treatment at p<0.05 level of significance. There was no significant association of attitude with demographic variables.

VI. DISCUSSION

Measuring nurses’ knowledge and attitude may help in optimizing the health of couples before the commencement of infertility treatment which ultimately will improve the chance of achieving success. The findings of this study revealed that Majority of staff nurses 53.3% had average knowledge regarding Infertility treatment followed by 30% nurses had good knowledge and 16.7% staff nurses had below average knowledge respectively. Most of staff nurses 17(56.7%) had favourable attitude toward infertility treatment followed by 12(40%) had moderately favourable and only 1(3.3%) had unfavourable attitude respectively. According to Mitchell and Macer (2005) nurses had very less awareness regarding infertility treatment but they have favourable attitude as its giving opportunity to infertile couple for parenthood. Obihoha joy et al(2014) revealed in their study that marital status had significant impact on knowledge of nurses regarding infertility treatment.¹²

VII. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the results of the present study demonstrated that nurses who participated in this study had insufficient knowledge about infertility treatment.

Generally, 53.3% nurses had average knowledge regarding infertility treatment and considering the fact that knowledge can be the base of nurses' performance, which has immense impact on the quality of care received by the patients undergoing infertility treatment. So there should be implementation of awareness program regarding infertility treatment for nurses. Holding educational conferences, seminars, workshops and academic panels for nurses will help to overcome difficulties of infertility treatment procedures.

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