



A Study to Assess the Knowledge of Common Health Problems of Geriatrics among old Age Group at Selected Village of Waghodia Taluka.

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Received 27 July, 2016; Accepted 06 August, 2016 © The author(s) 2014. **Published** with open access at www.questjournals.org

ABSTRACT: "Geriatrics" is the branch of medicine dealing with the physiologic characteristics of aging and the diagnosis and treatment of diseases affecting the age. Objectives of this study were to assess the knowledge regarding common health problems of geriatrics among old age group and to find out the association between knowledge with their selected demographic variables. Non experimental descriptive design was found to be appropriate for this study. The sample consisted of 50 old age people of (age above 60 yrs) of selected area of Waghodia taluka. The findings of the study show that there is a significant association between the gender of the sample with the knowledge of common health problems of geriatrics among the old age group. It is concluded from the study that only 10% of aged people have adequate knowledge regarding common health problems of the geriatrics. Thus more health care professionals and community workers are required to emphasize over common health problems of the geriatrics among aged people. This will bring awareness in the rural society leading to better healthy lifestyle among elders.

Keywords: Assess, common health problems, geriatric, knowledge, old age group..

I. INTRODUCTION

"Geriatrics" is the branch of medicine dealing with the physiologic characteristics of aging and the diagnosis and treatment of diseases affecting the aged. In most of the countries in the world including India, the cut-off point for geriatric age is 60 years. Geriatrics grows increasingly important as modern medicine and rising standard of living have lengthened life expectancy, resulting in increased proportion of aged persons in society. The age-related decline in muscle strength, vision, memory, locomotion, nutrition, immunity and homeostasis progress slowly. However, the onset of disease may be abrupt, the course of illness varying, complications severe and dreadful. Many chronic diseases increase in prevalence with age and some elderly seem more susceptible to co-occurring problems compared to others.

II. NEED FOR STUDY

Aging is a universal process. In the words of Seneca "old age is an incurable disease". Sir James Sterling Ross Commented "you do not heal old age, you protect it, you promote it and you extend it. The number of old age people indwelling in the world is increasing rapidly. Some of them are tackling the situation in a more pleasant way. But the majority of the geriatric clients are seeing it in negative manner. Here comes the importance of the self-care activities

In its latest report, the Census Bureau said the world's 65-and-older population is projected to increase from 516 million in 2009 to 1.53 billion in 2050. From 2009 to 2050, the world's 85 and older population is projected to increase more than fivefold, from 40 million to 219 million.

III. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To assess knowledge regarding common health problems of geriatrics among old age group.

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- To find out the association between knowledge of old age group regarding common health problems of geriatric with their selected demographic variables.

Hypothesis

- H₁:** There will be significant association between knowledge of old age people with their selected demographic variables.

IV. VARIABLES

Dependent Variable

In this study level of knowledge regarding common health problems of geriatrics among old age group was the dependant variable.

Socio-Demographic variable

In this study Age, Gender, Education qualification, occupational, monthly income in Rupees were the socio demographic variables.

V. PILOT STUDY

A Small scale version or a trial run done in preparation for a major study. The tool was used for pilot study to test feasibility and practicability. “5” old age people were selected from the Piparia village, Vadodara. The convenient sampling technique was used to select samples. The findings showed that the study is feasible and practical.

VI. METHODOLOGY

The descriptive study was conducted in selected area of Waghodia Taluka. The sample consisted of 50 old age people of selected area of Waghodia Taluka.

The tools used for data collection was a set demographic variables such as Age, gender, education qualification, occupational status, monthly income in rupees. Self structured questionnaire was used that consisted 34 multiple choice questions. Content validity of the tool was ensured by verifying it with experts from the field of medicine and nursing.

VII. INTERPRETATION

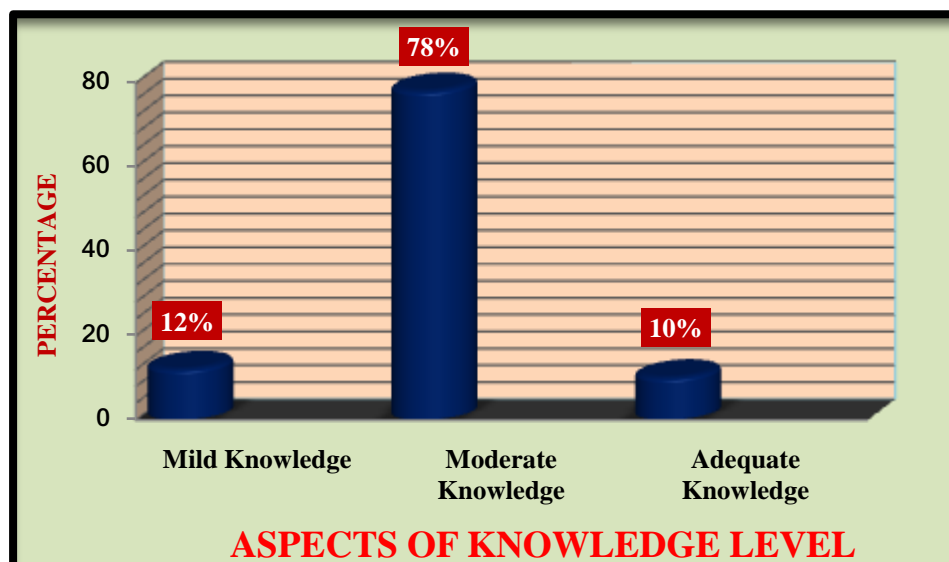
Association of socio demographic variables with knowledge regarding common health problems of geriatrics among old age group.

Sr.No	Variables	IA	MA	A	Total	X ²	Df	Level Of Significance
1	Age in years					1.90	6	(1.90<12.59)NS
	60-65 years	2	17	3	22			
	65-70 years	3	12	1	16			
	70-75 years	1	8	1	10			
	75-85 years	0	2	0	2			
2	Gender					13.03	2	(13.03>5.99)S
	Male	6	12	4	22			
	Female	0	27	1	28			
3	Educational Qualification					8.11	4	(8.11<9.48) NS
	Primary	3	32	4	39			
	Secondary	3	5	0	8			
	Graduate & above	0	2	1	3			
4	Occupation					3.03	2	(3.03<5.99) NS
	Employed	1	10	3	14			
	Unemployed	5	29	2	36			
5	Monthly income in Rupees					6.38	4	(6.38<9.48)NS
	<5000	6	22	2	30			
	5001-10000	0	15	2	17			
	10001-15000	0	2	1	3			

KEY= S is significant, NS is not significant. DF= Degree of freedom, IA= Inadequate, MA= moderately adequate, A=Adequate

In this study, it highlights that the overall knowledge score mean percentage is 325.74% with a standard deviation of 7.83. Out of 50 old age people and presents that 10% is having adequate knowledge, 78% is having moderately adequate knowledge and 12% having inadequate knowledge.

➤ H_1 stated that there will be significant association between the pre-test knowledge score with selected demographic variables was accepted. So here to test the hypothesis, chi-square test has been used. Data have been analysed with the use of SPSS version 20.0 and the outputs are depicted in the above table. The table reveals that there is no significant association between pre- test knowledge score and selected demographic variables with 0.05 level of significant except gender of sample's P calculated value is greater than 0.05 level of significance.



Bar graph represents distribution of respondents according to attitude level.

Presents that 10% is having adequate knowledge, 78% is having moderate knowledge and 12% having mild knowledge.

VIII. CONCLUSION

As it is found through this descriptive survey that only 10% of geriatrics have adequate knowledge. There is a high demand of providing health education regarding common health problems of geriatric among old age group. The community health nurse can play a major role in providing health education & thus aid in prevention and control of common health problems in geriatric.

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