



Original Article

Knowledge and Attitude of Engineering Students towards Alcoholism

Abstract:

Introduction: An exploratory survey was conducted to assess the knowledge and attitude of engineering students towards alcoholism in the selected college of Durg (C.G.).

Objectives: To assess the knowledge and attitude of engineering students towards alcoholism, to find out the correlation between knowledge and attitude of engineering students towards alcoholism, to find out the association between knowledge and attitude with selected demographic variables.

Methodology: Sample of 100 engineering students with age group of 17-25 years were selected by random sampling technique. A modified standardized tool for knowledge (Student Alcohol Questionnaire) and standardized tool for attitude (Understanding of Alcoholism Scale) were used to collect data.

Result: The study revealed that 56% of engineering students had good knowledge and 44% had average knowledge. It was found that majority (89%) of engineering students had neutral attitude and 11% had positive attitude towards alcoholism. There was negative correlation between the knowledge and attitude. Age, education, occupation of father, type of family were having significant association with knowledge and age, education were having significant association with attitude.

Conclusion: Students tend to adopt negative attitude towards alcoholism only after they have good knowledge regarding alcoholism. On the basis of the results of the present study, it may be suggested that youth should be aware regarding the complications and consequences of alcohol consumption so that they may adopt the negative attitude towards alcoholism and plan their future life accordingly.

Keywords: Knowledge, attitude, alcoholism, engineering students

Tomeshwari Pandit

Lecturer,
Mental Health Nursing,
Maitri College Of Nursing,
Anjora, Durg (C.G.)

Corresponding Author:
Tomeshwari Pandit
Email: monapandit2011@gmail.com

© 2014 IJNRP All rights reserved.

Introduction

Alcoholism is a chronic disease that makes body dependent on alcohol. Person may have alcohol-related problems, but not exhibit all the characteristics of alcoholism. In other words, alcohol abuse does not mean that man is an alcoholic—but it does mean that person will soon get there if he does not seek help. Alcohol abuse happens when ones drink excessively despite health or relationship problems, but are not dependent on alcohol or still have control over the use of alcohol. But alcoholism, on the other hand can be catastrophic. It makes a person dependent on alcohol—he just cannot do without that drink. It can ruin his personal and professional life.

Abuse is defined as repeated use of alcohol or other drugs leads to problems but does not include compulsive use or addiction, and stopping the drug does not lead to significant withdrawal symptoms the term substance abuse applies. Dependence is defined as when an individual persists in use of alcohol or other drugs despite problems related to use of the substance, substance dependence may be diagnosed. Compulsive and repetitive use may result in tolerance to the effect of the drug and withdrawal symptoms when use is reduced or stopped.¹

Alcohol consumption and related problems have risen substantially in many Asian countries including India over the last several years. Alcohol related disorders are increasingly being reported in India. In a review of literature found a significant lowering of age at initiation of drinking in a sample from Karnataka which also showed a drop from a mean age of 28years to 20 years between the birth cohorts of 1920-30 and 1980-90. He asserted that alcohol consumption had visibly increased in the nontraditional segments of urban women and young people, with a noticeable upward shift in rates of drinking among urban middle and upper socio-economic sections.²

The history of alcoholism is as ancient as man himself and, despite having received attention from Medicine only after the mid-19th century, it is nowadays configured as one of the greatest public healthcare problems all over the world. It is estimated that this condition affects 10% of the global population and 12.3% of the Brazilian population .Such percentages seem to justify the presence of a significant amount of patients with problems that are directly related to alcohol and alcoholism in clinical, surgical and emergency hospital units, as well as in primary healthcare services.³

The transition from high school to college is a significant milestone in a young person's life that is marked by entirely new social environments and the adoption of adult roles as students become independent of their parents. Although about half of all college binge drinkers engage in binge drinking before their arrival on campus, an equal number pick up binge drinking behavior in college.⁴ In an another study researcher examined alcohol use among college students and found that males were less likely to have positive attitudes toward seeking alcoholism treatment compared with female students.⁵

A study on "Alcohol Use and Attitudes Toward Alcohol Use Among Adolescents in Trinidad" indicated that the older age groups had higher levels of alcohol use and attitudes toward alcohol use. Also males had higher levels of alcohol use and attitudes toward alcohol. Afro-Trinidadians reported higher levels of regular use of alcohol than Indo-Trinidadians as well as higher levels of attitudes toward alcohol use.⁶

The present study was done with the objectives of assessing the knowledge and attitude of engineering students towards alcoholism, to find out the correlation between knowledge and attitude of engineering students towards alcoholism and also to find out the association between knowledge and attitude with selected demographic variables,.

Conceptual Framework

The conceptual framework of the present study is based on modified KAP Model.

Figure: 1

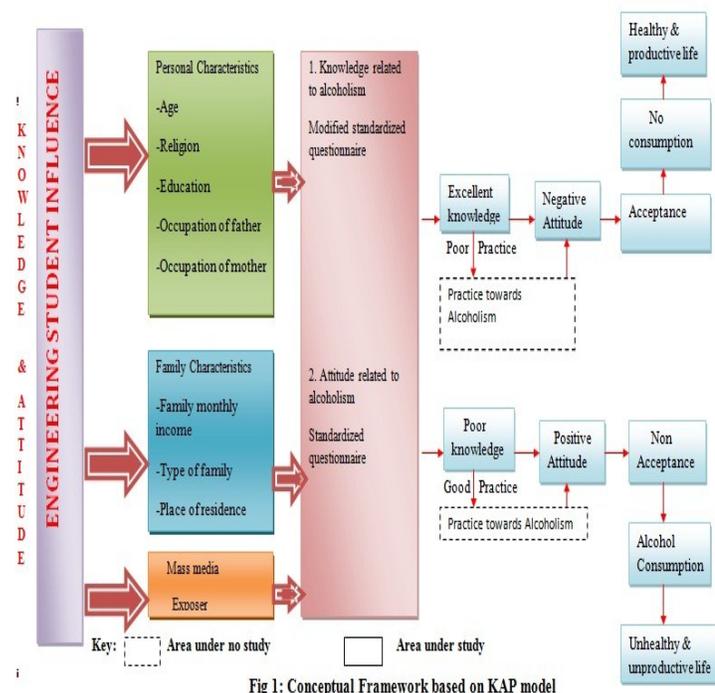


Fig 1: Conceptual Framework based on KAP model

Hypotheses:

Ho: There will be no significant co-relation between knowledge and attitude of engineering students towards alcoholism.

Methodology:

The study adopted an exploratory research design and survey approach. The study was conducted in Bhilai Institute of Technology, Durg (C.G.). Engineering students between the age group of 17-25 years of age who were present during the period of data collection were the sample and random sampling technique were used. The sample composed of 100 engineering students. A modified standardized tool for knowledge (SAQ) and standardized tool for attitude (UAS) were used to collect data. Split half method was used to find the reliability of tools. Under descriptive statistics- percentage, mean and standard deviation and under inferential statistics-Chi-square and correlation co-efficient were used.

Result

As per socio-demographic variables, majority of engineering students (44%) were in the age group of 19-20 years, as regard to religion (79%) students were Hindu. Majority of their father (60%) were in service and 78% mothers are housewives.63% student's family monthly income is >20,001/-rupees.53% of engineering students belonged to nuclear family, 90% students were residing in urban area and 45% students got knowledge related to alcoholism through television.

Table 1 Mean, S.D. and mean percentage distribution of knowledge and attitude of engineering students regarding alcoholism.

Area	No. of question	Min-max score	Mean	S.D.
Knowledge	36	0-36	19.12	5.23
Attitude	40	40-200	128.96	14.30

Table 1 describes Mean, S.D. and mean percentage distribution of knowledge and attitude of engineering students regarding alcoholism.

Figure: 2

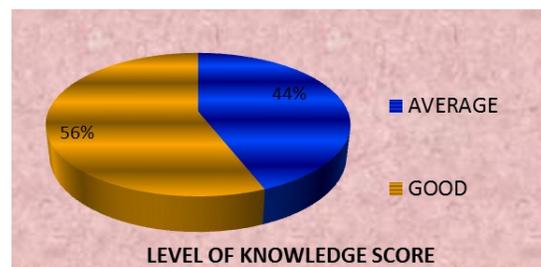


Figure-2 shows that 44% of engineering students fell in the level of average knowledge regarding alcoholism and 56% have good knowledge regarding alcoholism.

Figure: 3

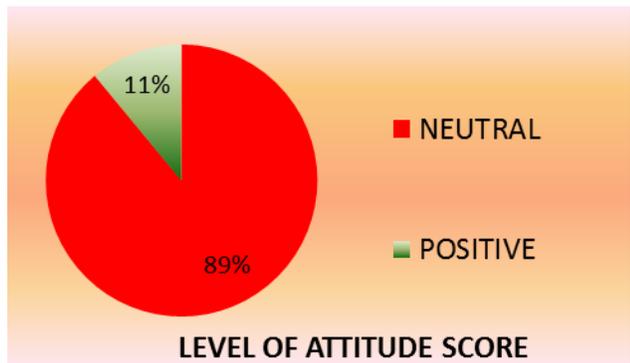


Figure-3 depicts that 89% of engineering students fell in the level of neutral attitude towards alcoholism and 11% have positive attitude towards alcoholism. None of them having negative attitude towards alcoholism.

Table: 2 Association between knowledge regarding alcoholism with selected variables.

N=100

S. no	Demographic Variables	Level of knowledge				n	df	χ ² /Yate's correction
		Average		Good				
		n	%	n	%			
1.	Age in years:							χ ² =11.51
1.1	17-20	33	58.92	23	41.08	56	1	p=0.001
1.2	21-25	11	25	33	75	44		Highly Significant at 1%
2.	Educa-tion:							χ ² =31.68
2.1	1 st year/2 nd year	35	71.43	14	28.57	49	1	p=0.001
2.2	3 rd year/4 th year	8	15.69	43	84.31	51		Highly Significant at 1%
3.	Occupation of father							χ ² =4.97
3.1	Business/ Service	34	39.53	52	60.47	86	1	p=0.05
3.2	Farmer/ Others	10	71.43	4	28.57	14		Significant at 5%
4.	Type of family:							χ ² =8.72
4.1	Nuclear	16	30.19	37	69.81	53	1	p=0.001
4.2	Joint/ Extended	28	59.57	19	40.43	47		Significant at 5%

Table 2 shows that age (p=0.001), education (p=0.001) were having highly significant association (at 1%); occupation of father (p=0.05) and type of family (p=0.001) were having significant association (at 5%) with knowledge.

Table: 3 Association between attitude towards alcoholism and selected variables.

N=100

S.n o.	Demograph-ic Variables	Level of attitude				N	d f	χ ² /Yate's correction
		Neutral		Positive				
		n	%	n	%			
1	Age in years:							χ ² =2.73
1.1	17-18	9	75	3	25	12	1	p=0.01
1.2	19-20/ 21-22/ 23-25	80	90.90	8	9.10	88		Significant at 1%
2.	Education:							χ ² =8.71
2.1	1 st year	17	70.83	7	29.17	24	1	p=0.001
2.2	2 nd year/3 rd year/4 th year	71	93.42	5	6.58	76		Significant at 1%

Table 3 shows that age (p=0.01) and education (p=0.001) were having significant association (at 1%) with attitude.

Figure: 4

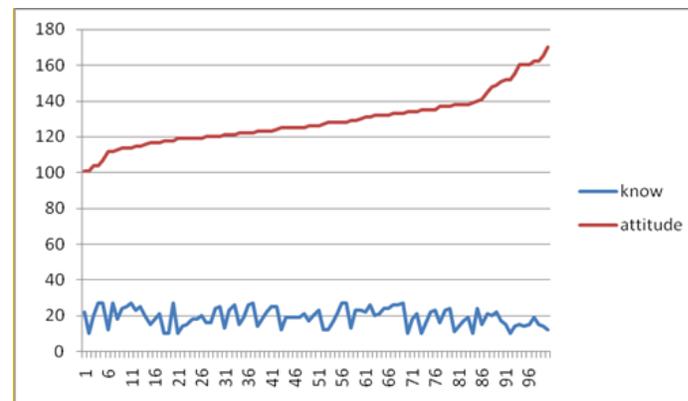


Figure: 4 depict the negative correlation between knowledge and attitude.

Discussion:

Majority of engineering students 44% were in the age group of 19-20 years, this finding is supported with the findings of a study where it was reported that alcohol use was fairly common among undergraduate college students in Bangalore. 53% of engineering students belonged to nuclear family, 40% belonged to joint family and 7% belonged to extended family. These findings are consistent with the findings of the same study. Where the researcher found that family structure, alcohol use in family,

prior use of alcohol or tobacco and alcohol use among friends significantly influenced alcohol related cognitions of college students. There is negative co-relation $r = -0.26$ between knowledge and attitude.⁷ This finding is consistent with the findings of another study which reported that alcohol education increases students' positive attitudes toward treatment, which may help them to reduce their heavy drinking and alcohol problems.⁵ Age, education were having highly significant association with knowledge and age, education, occupation of mother and type of family were having significant association with attitude. This finding is consistent with the findings of a study where attitude was positive towards the acceptability of mass media.⁸ Thus, education is one of the significant parameter that influences the knowledge and attitude of the students.

Conclusion:

The present study concludes that engineering students tend to adopt negative attitude towards alcoholism only after they have good knowledge regarding alcoholism. On the basis of the results of the present study, it may be suggested that youth should be aware regarding the complications and consequences of alcohol consumption so that they may adopt the negative attitude towards alcoholism and plan their future life accordingly. The study highlights that awareness does not always lead to the low consumption or negative attitude towards alcoholism. A lot of educational activities and improvement in the alcohol awareness programmes are needed to promote the good knowledge and negative attitude towards alcoholism to make the future life better.

Recommendations:

Based on this study, following recommendations are made: The study can be replicated on a larger sample covering major areas of the country. An exploratory study can be conducted among the nurses about knowledge and attitude towards alcoholism. A comparative study can be conducted among alcoholics and non alcoholics about their knowledge and attitude towards alcoholism. An exploratory study can be conducted among males or alcoholics to explore the reasons for consuming alcohol.

Acknowledgement:

Researcher is thankful to Dr. R. Dixit, Director of Shreyas College of Nursing for providing permission to conduct the study. I am highly obliged to my guide Prof.(Mrs.) R. Gupta, Principal & Prof., Shreyas College Of P.G. Nursing, Supela, Bhilai (C.G) and to co-guide Mr. A. Jacob, Lecturer for their valuable guidance.

Ethical clearance:

Present study proposal was approved by research committee. Due permission from authorities was obtained. Written consent was taken from each participants.

References:

1. DSM IV TR. Alcoholism and Spirituality research, Relationship to recovery and relapse. Alcoholism Treatment Quarterly.2000; 18: 99-108.
2. Benegal Vivek. India: Alcohol and public health.2005 August; 100: 1051-56.
3. Kirmani N. Mustafa and Suman L.N. Gender differences in Alcohol related attitude and expectancies among college students. Journal of the Indian Academy of Applied Psychology.2010 Jan; 38(1):19-24.
4. Weitzman, E.R., Nelson, T.F., and Wechsler, H. Taking up binge drinking in college: The influences of person, social group, and environment. 2003; 32: 26-35.
5. Yu, J., Evans, P.C., and Perfetti, L. Attitudes toward seeking treatment among alcohol-using college students. American Journal of Drug and Alcohol Abuse.2003; 29 (3):671-690.
6. Dr. Steve Rollocks, Rhea Ali. Alcohol Use and Attitudes toward Alcohol Use among Adolescents in Trinidad. 2006 March; 1-20.
7. Sukhwai, M & Suman, L.N. Alcohol related beliefs among college students. Indian Journal of Clinical Psychology. 2008; 35:138-146.
8. Dabral, S. and Malik, S.L. Demography study of Gujjars of Delhi: I. Population structure and socio-cultural profile. Journal of Human Ecology. 2004; 16(1): 17-24.