

A Study to assess Attitude Regarding E-Health among Nursing Students

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Abstract

Background: Today technology covers all work sectors through out the world, including health sector. E-Health is a broad term, defined by WHO as the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for health. It may involve communication between healthcare providers for such activities as online referrals, electronic prescribing and sharing of electronic health records. It can also provide access to information database, knowledge resources and decision support tool to guide service delivery. E-Health has the potential to not only improve health, but also decrease healthcare costs, enhance scientific understanding of health issues, increasing equity of healthcare and improve communication between and amongst healthcare providers. In a more philosophical sense it has been suggested E-Health is 'a commitment for networked, global thinking, to improve healthcare locally, globally and worldwide by using information and communication technology.

Problem Statement: A Descriptive study to assess attitude regarding E-Health among B.Sc. Nursing 1st Year students of Selected College of Nursing, Amritsar, Punjab.

Objectives: 1. To assess attitude regarding E-Health among B.Sc. Nursing 1st year students.
2. To ascertain association of attitude regarding E-Health among B.Sc. Nursing 1st year students with selected socio-demographic variables.

Material and Method: A descriptive study was conducted to assess the attitude regarding E-Health among 65 B.Sc nursing 1st year students, who were selected by using convenient sampling technique. The knowledge regarding E-Health was assessed using attitude scale.
Results: Results revealed that all (100%) the students had positive attitude regarding E-Health.

Conclusion: The result of the study demonstrates that all of the students had positive attitude

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regarding E-Health.

Keywords: E-Health; Attitude; Nursing Students.

INTRODUCTION

The year 2014 is a watershed in the history of Indian Republic. This is significant as said year has heralded the beginning of new era. This is era of 'Digital India'. The Digital India program

is a initiative of honorable Prime Minister' Mr. Narendra Modi'will emerge new progressions in every sector and generates innovative endeavors.

This programme has been envisaged by Department of Electronics and Information Technology (Deity) and will impact ministry of communication and IT ministry of health and others. This programme will also benefit all states and Union territories. The motive behind the concept is to build participative, transparent and responsive system. Digital India is a large umbrella National programme that focuses at providing universal accessibility to all digital resources for citizens. Digital infrastructure will focus on providing high speed secure internet. Governance and services across departments and making services available in real time for both online and mobile platforms.¹

The vision of Digital India is Digital empowerment of citizens creation of digital in frastructure and delivery of governance and services on demand. E-Health is the single most important revolution in health care since the advent of modern medicine, vaccine or even public health measures like sanitation and clean water. The term E-Health has been in use since the year 2000. E-Health encompasses much of medical information but tend to prioritize the delivery of clinical information, care and services rather than the function of technologies.²

The World Health organization (WHO) has estimated that the proportion of people over 60 years of age will double in 22% in 2050 from 11% in 2000. Thus over 2 Billion will require additional medical support even assisted living as they will be prone to health related issues E-Health services provide timely health care and quality of care. However as the technology becomes more prevalent and number of users increases, then programmes may offer an efficient alternative to meet escalating demands of a rapidly changing health care environment. Because it is an area of rapid change, the research method used must be able to anticipate the impact of new innovative web technologies that are just emerging and will emerge in future.³

E-Health facilitation of chronic disease management has potential to add to program components, increase engagement and effectiveness and extend access for under served groups. System have been developed for specific chronic condition, particularly diabetes but generic chronic disease management systems are also needed to structure overall cases, especially for the majority of patient

who have morbidities. mlf we want a vehicle for reaching the undiscovered with interventions from health and other sectors of the economy mobile phone is the technology of choice.⁴

A study was conducted to assess the awareness, knowledge and attitude among Health Professional Faculty Working in Teaching Hospitals. A total of 120 teaching faculties and practitioners were selected from selected teaching hospital of puducherry, India. A self structured knowledge questionnaire was used for the survey. The knowledge level of the respondents was found to be good with 41% of the respondents, 35% possess fair knowledge and 24% don't have adequate knowledge of telemedicine. With regard to the attitude towards telemedicine 39% of the respondents possess high attitude, 31% possess moderate attitude and 30% possess low level of attitude.⁵

Problem Statement

A Descriptive study to assess attitude regarding E-Health among B.Sc. Nursing 1st Year students of Selected College of Nursing, Amritsar, Punjab.

Objectives

- To assess attitude regarding E-Health among B.Sc. Nursing 1st year students.
- To as certain association of attitude regarding E-Health among B.Sc. Nursing 1st year students with selected socio-demographic variables.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

A quantitative research approach and descriptive research design was used in the study. Nursing college of Amritsar was selected for present study. Written permission was taken from the principal of the college. Total 65 B.Sc nursing 1st year students were selected using convenient sampling technique for the study. The attitude towards E-Health was assessed by using self-structured 5 point attitude scale consists of 12 statements was used i.e. containing mixture of positive and negative declarative statements. Attitude scale was divided into 2 categories i.e. positive (>50) and negative (<50), item number 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10 were considered as positive and 11, 12 as negative items. Before administration the tool was validated by experts in the field of various nursing specialties. Written consent was taken from each participant individually.

RESULTS

Objective 1: To assess attitude regarding E-Health among B.Sc. Nursing 1st year students.

Table 1: Frequency and percentage distribution of B.Sc. Nursing 1st year students according to their attitude regarding E-Health

N=65		
Attitude	n	(%)
Positive (>30)	57	87.7
Negative (<30)	08	12.3

Maximum Score = 60, Minimum Score = 12

Table 1 represents the frequency and percentage distribution of B.Sc. Nursing 1st year students according to attitude of students regarding E-Health. It shows that, 57 (87.7%) students had positive attitude while 8 (12.3%) students had negative attitude regarding E-Health.

Objective 2: To ascertain association of attitude regarding E-Health among B.Sc. Nursing 1st year students with selected socio-demographic variables.

In present study, the analysis of data revealed that there was significant association of attitude that there was significant association of knowledge regarding E-Health among B.Sc. Nursing 1st Year students with Age, Education of Father, Place of living, device for surfing.

DISCUSSION

The present study, "A descriptive study to assess the knowledge and attitude regarding E-Health among B.Sc. Nursing 1st year students of Khalsa College of Nursing Amritsar, Punjab." was conducted at Khalsa College of Nursing Amritsar, Punjab. The total sample used was 65 B.Sc. Nursing 1st year students. Convenient sampling technique was used to collect the sample. Before collecting data researcher gave a brief introduction about self, purpose of the study and gain confidence of the subjects.

Objective 1: To assess attitude regarding health among B.Sc. Nursing 1st year students.

In present study the analysis of data revealed that majority (87.7%) of students had positive attitude while (12.3%) students had negative attitude regarding E-Health. A similar study was conducted by Rechana Parv in BPT, MPH, Mds hahjahan, MCPS, MD to assess knowledge, attitude

and practice of E-Health among doctors working at selected private Hospitals in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The result showed that doctors were considered to have a favourable attitude (78%), moderately favourable attitude (22%) with no unfavourable attitudes present towards E-Health.⁶

Objective 2: To ascertain association of attitude regarding E-Health among B.Sc. Nursing 1st year students with selected socio-demographic variables.

In present study, the analysis of data revealed that there was significant association of attitude that there was significant association of knowledge regarding E-Health among B.Sc. Nursing 1st Year students with Age, Education of Father, Place of living, device for surfing. A similar study was conducted by Tamannah Sharma to assess the awareness, knowledge, attitude and skills of telemedicine among the health professionals working in various private and government teaching hospitals in Jhansi district of Uttar Pradesh, India. A cross-sectional survey was conducted among 110 healthcare professionals, the results revealed that residential area and knowledge had significant association with attitude regarding E-Health.⁷

CONCLUSION

Utilization of health services are key to improvement of health outcome in low income countries. In these countries, knowledge of access to and utilization of health services is important in planning for health resources allocation to different level of health system and monitoring the achievement of Universal Health Coverage (UHC), which the World Health Organization (WHO) advocates as a means to ensuring equity in use of health services. Further more, knowledge of barriers to health services utilization among poor and marginalized people is essential in informing the design of interventions aimed at increasing coverage of services.

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