

# A Study to Assess the Level of Knowledge and Attitude Regarding Management of Epilepsy in School Children among Teachers in Selected Schools of District Mandi, (H. P.)

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**Abstract:** ***Introduction & background:** Epilepsy is one of the most frequent chronic disorders of childhood. The term epilepsy derives from the Greek word “epilepsia” which means “to take hold of” or “to seize”. It is a symptom complex arising from disordered brain function that itself may be secondary to variety of pathologic process. Teachers’ knowledge and attitudes towards epilepsy was found to have a direct impact on students with epilepsy in terms of school performance, social skill development, success in finding employment after school, as well as finding friends. **Material and methods:** In this Non-Experimental Developmental Research Design 100 sample of school teacher were selected using Non Probability Sample Technique. Structure questionnaire and five point Likert scale was used to assess the knowledge and attitude regarding management of epilepsy in school children among teachers. **Result:** Finding revealed that the mean attitude scores of the teachers was 63.39% and median was 63.00 an SD was 4.41. The category scores positive (61-100) 71% and category scores negative (20-60) 29%. The overall category maximum scores are 100 and minimum scores 20 regarding the management of epilepsy. The knowledge mean value 21.57, SD value 2.948 and attitude mean value 63.39 and SD value 4.413 or both N value 100, correlation-0.299, table value 0.197, P value 0.002, result is significant. **Conclusion:** the study showed that, with a view to develop a leaflets on epilepsy” to enhance the knowledge of management of epilepsy in school children among teachers.*

**Keywords:** Epilepsy, knowledge, attitude, management

## 1. Introduction

One of the main problems of having epilepsy is the stigma and discrimination associated with the condition. It has been suggested that this stigma can be more of a burden than the conditions itself. Epilepsy is a chronic neurological condition which is characterized by recurrent seizures or convulsions. A seizure happens when abnormal electrical activity in the brain causes an involuntary change in body movement, function, sensation, awareness, or behaviour. Seizures can vary from a momentary disruption of the senses, to short periods of unconsciousness or staring spells, to convulsions (tonic clonic seizures). As children are in growing period of life and also spend most of their days in school, have frequent attacks of seizure, larger doses of anti-epileptic drugs, may affect the ability to learn. It can lead to impaired growth and development, frequent hospitalization, increased absenteeism from school and poor quality of life.

## 2. Need for the study

Children with epilepsy are at greater risk of learning and behaviour difficulties than children without epilepsy. These difficulties also affect children without identified special educational needs. It is important to think about the whole child, and consider all aspects of their life that might be affected by living with epilepsy. This is because learning, behaviour and wellbeing are all related to each other.

Knowledge about epilepsy is an important issue in determining teachers’ attitudes toward children with epilepsy. In general, teachers do not receive any formal instructions on epilepsy during their education and training despite the fact that as much as 40% of the children’s developing life is spent at school. For that reason, studying teachers’ knowledge about epilepsy is beneficial for promoting our future generations.

## 3. Objectives of the study

- 1) To assess the level of knowledge regarding management of epilepsy in school children among the teachers in selected schools of District Mandi, (H. P).
- 2) To assess the attitude regarding management of epilepsy in school children among teachers in selected schools of District Mandi, (H. P).
- 3) To find out the association between knowledge score regarding management of epilepsy in school children among teachers with their selected demographic variables.
- 4) To find out the association between attitude score regarding management of epilepsy in school children among teachers with their selected demographic variables.
- 5) To find out the correlation between knowledge score and attitude score regarding management of epilepsy in school children among teachers in selected schools of District Mandi, (H. P)

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**Operational Definitions:**

- **Epilepsy:** Epilepsy is a condition that affects the brain cells. It is a common chronic neurological condition that is characterized by recurrent unprovoked epileptic seizures. It is usually controlled, but not cured.
- **Knowledge:** Knowledge refers to information, understanding and skill or response given by the teachers to the structured knowledge questionnaire regarding management of epilepsy.
- **Attitude:** A way of thinking or feeling about epilepsy.
- **School Children:** A young human being below the age of puberty or below the age of majority or between the developmental period of infancy and puberty.
- **Teacher:** A person who provides knowledge and improves skill of his/her students whether at home or schools.
- **Leaflets:** It refers to the written information guide regarding the management of epilepsy in school children.

**Research Methodology**

Research Approach: Quantitative Research Approach

Research design: Non-experimental Developmental Research Design (Crosssectional Design)

- **Research Variables:** A variable is quality of an organization, group of situation that takes in different values.
- **Demographic Variable:** In this study, demographic variables include age, gender, educational qualification, year of teaching experience, area of school, school, source of information.
- **Setting of the Study:** The study was conducted Selected Schools at District Mandi (H. P).
- **Sample:** 100 school teachers who fulfil the inclusion criteria were consider as sample.
- **Sample Size:** 100 school teachers
- **Sampling Technique:** Purposive Sampling Technique.

**Criteria for sampling selection****Inclusion Criteria**

- School teachers who are willing to participate in study.
- School teachers who were present at the time of data collection.
- Govt. secondary school teachers.

**Exclusion Criteria**

- School teachers who are not willing to participate.
- School teachers who are not available at the time of data collection.
- Private school teachers

**Research Tool and Technique****Description of Tool**

Tool was comprised of three main sections.

**Tool –I: Section – A Socio-demographic Variable** This section consists of 5 variables to collect socio-demographic information-i. e. age, Sex, Educational status, Work experience, Area of school Source of information if yes then source of information to know previous knowledge regarding epilepsy.<sup>30</sup>

**Tool-II:** Knowledge Questionnaire: which consists of knowledge questions related to epilepsy, cause and risk factor, diagnosis, treatment and its prevention.

**Level of Knowledge:**

GOOD (21-30)-62%

AVERAGE (11-20)-38%

POOR (0-10)-0%

**Tool-III:** Likert scale (Attitude Assessment)

**Testing the tool content validity:**

Assessment tool was evaluated by expert from the specialty of Child Health Nursing, Mental health nursing, Medical surgical nursing. The validators had suggested some modifications in the demographic variables, knowledge questionnaire and five point Likert scale. The modifications and suggestions of experts were incorporated in the final preparation of the tool by the investigator.

**Reliability of the tool:**

It is a degree of consistency or dependability with which an instrument measures the attributes. Reliability of questionnaire was calculated split half method & Cronbach's alpha method. The reliability of knowledge questionnaire was 0.85 and attitude scale was 0.777, Hence the tool was reliable.

**4. Data Analysis and Interpretation**

**Section I:** Distribution of subjects as per their socio-demographic variables.

**Section II:** Level of knowledge scores.

**Section III:** Measure of attitude scores.

**Section IV:** Findings out the association of demographic variables with knowledge score regarding management of epilepsy in school children among teachers.

**Section V:** Findings out the association of demographic variables with attitude score regarding management of epilepsy in school children among teachers.

**Section VI:** Findings out the correlation between knowledge score and attitude score regarding management of epilepsy in school children among teachers in selected schools of District Mandi, (H. P).

**Section I**

**Table I:** Description of sample characteristics according to the socio-demographic variables. Frequencies and percentages were computed to describe the sample characteristics N=100

Demographic Variables				Levels (N=100)	Association with Knowledge Score				
	Opts	Good	Average	Poor	Chi Test	P Value	df	Table Value	Result
Age of teachers	21-30 Years	0	1		3.020	0.389	3	7.815	(NS)
	31-40 Years	18	15						
	41-50 Years	34	17						
	51-60 Years	10	5						
Gender	Male	56	28		4.853	0.028	1	3.841	(S)
	Female	6	10						
Professional qualification	M. Sc., B. Ed	27	5		11.858	0.018	4	9.488	(S)
	B. Sc., B. Ed	1	0						
	M. A, B. Ed.	16	13						
	B. A, B. Ed.	3	5						
	Other	15	15						
Work experiences	< 10 years	7	5		0.544	7.815	3	2.140	(NS)
	10-20 years	19	16						
	20-30 years	32	14						
	> 30 years	4	3						

**Section II**

**Table 2:** Table Showing Level of knowledge Scores: N=100

Criteria measure of knowledge score			
1.	Category Score	Percentage	Frequency
2.	GOOD (21-30)	62%	62
3.	AVERAGE (11-20)	38%	38
4.	POOR (0-10)	0%	0

Maximum Score=30 Minimum Score=0

Table 2 show the level of knowledge score, 62% of teachers had good knowledge regarding management of epilepsy,

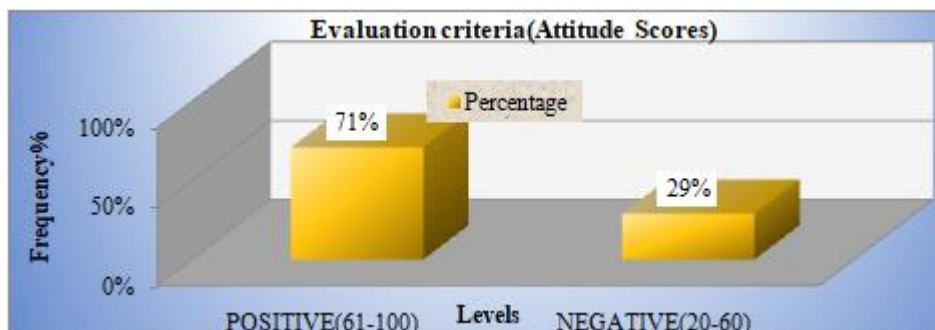
38% had average knowledge and 0% had poor knowledge regarding management of epilepsy.

**Section –III**

**Table 3:** Measure of attitude score

Criteria measure of attitude score			
Sr. No.	Category Score	Percentage	Frequency
1.	Positive (61-100)	71%	71
2.	Negative (20-60)	29%	29

Maximum Score=100 Minimum Score=20



The above Data presented in the table show the level of Attitude score, 71% of teachers had positive category score and 29% had negative category score.

**Section IV**

**Table 4:** Association between the knowledge of teachers regarding epilepsy with their selected demographic variables

Demographic Variables				Levels (N=100)	Association with Knowledge Score				
Variable	Opts	Good	Average	Poor	Chi Test	P Value	df	Table Value	Result
Age of teachers	21-30 Years	0	1		3.020	0.389	3	7.815	(NS)
	31-40 Years	18	15						
	41-50 Years	34	17						
	51-60 Years	10	5						
Gender	Male	56	28		4.853	0.028	1	3.841	(S)
	Female	6	10						
Professional qualification	M. Sc., B. Ed	27	5		11.858	0.018	4	9.488	(S)
	B. Sc., B. Ed	1	0						
	M. A, B. Ed.	16	13						

	B. A, B. Ed.	3	5						
	Other	15	15						
Work experiences	< 10 years	7	5		2.140	0.544	3	7.815	(NS)
	10-20 years	19	16						
	20-30 years	32	14						
	> 30 years	4	3						
Source of information	In-service programs/continuing education program	24	4		19.600	0.001	4	9.488	(S)
	Workshop/ Conferences	17	6						
	Mass media/ Internet source	11	22						
	Friends/Relatives	7	4						
	Other	3	2						

Section V

Table 5: Association between the Attitude of teachers regarding epilepsy with their selected demographic variables.

Variable	Demographic Variables		Levels (N=100)		Association with Knowledge Score				
	Opts		Positive	Negative	Chi Test	P Value	df	Table Value	Result
Age Of Teachers	21-30 Years		1	0	6.107	0.107	3	7.815	(NS)
	31-40 Years		28	5					
	41-50 Years		31	20					
	51-60 Years		11	4					
Gender	Male		60	24	0.047	0.829	1	3.841	(NS)
	Female		11	5					
Professional Qualification	M. Sc., B. Ed		22	10	2.371	0.668	4	9.488	(NS)
	B. Sc., B. Ed		1	0					
	M. A, B. Ed.		19	10					
	B. A, B. Ed.		5	3					
Work Experiences	Other		24	6	4.398	0.222	3	7.815	(NS)
	< 10 years		11	1					
	10-20 years		22	13					
	20-30 years		32	14					
Source Of Information	> 30 years		6	1	5.303	0.258	4	9.488	(NS)
	In-service programs/continuing education program		17	11					
	Workshop/ Conferences		19	4					
	Mass media/ Internet source								
	Friends/Relatives								
	Other								

Table no.7 Shows that the association between the attitude score and socio demographic variable. Based on the objectives Chi-square test used to associate the attitude with their socio demographic variables. There is no significance association between the attitude score with socio demographic variables. The calculated chi-square values were less than the table value at the 0.05 level of significance.

**Nursing Implications:** The scientific and technological development always presents a challenge for the field of nursing. It is necessary to keep abreast with new developments and continuing education. Education program is major factor in shaping the future of the nursing profession and improving the nursing services. The findings of the study have several implications for nursing service, nursing education and nursing research.

**Nursing Practice:** Nurse should educate the teachers regarding the management of epilepsy harmful effects and prevention of epilepsy regularly as a part of their community services. The nurse in the community services should be equipped with the knowledge on epilepsy and develop skill in explaining the aspects of epilepsy in school's teachers and its management to school children.

**Nursing Education:** Health education program on epilepsy may be planned to the nursing personnel at the various levels. The appropriate audio visual aids and pamphlets may be provided to the adolescents with appropriate picture and explanations to create awareness about epilepsy and its management. Nursing curriculum should collaborate the aspects of epilepsy and its management. Conferences, workshops, seminars and symposium can be helpful for all health professionals and teachers on identifying the factors that promote health and problem of epilepsy. Planning of educational programme, conducting role play on ill effects of epilepsy for the children may also be helpful to prevent the problem.

**Nursing Administration:** Nursing administration at hospital level and community health should on time to time evaluate the knowledge of secondary school teachers regarding the management of epilepsy in school children. In-service education/workshop/seminar/conference should be educating secondary school teachers regarding the management of epilepsy in school children.

**Nursing Research:** The findings of this study help the professional nurses and students to develop inquiry by providing baseline. This study helps the nurse investigators to get information regarding knowledge and attitude of

children. Nurse researchers should be motivated to conduct more studies on various aspects of epilepsy.

## 5. Recommendations

The study can be replicated on a larger sample of school teachers, so that the finding can be generalised. Mass media, health education program should be arranged to educate the secondary school teachers about knowledge and attitude regarding the management of epilepsy in school children.

## 6. Conclusion

On the basis of the findings of the study “a study to assess the level of knowledge and attitude regarding management of epilepsy in school children among teachers in selected schools of district Mandi, (H. P), with a view to develop a leaflets on epilepsy” the below said conclusions were drawn.

## 7. Conflict of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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