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## **Knowledge Attitude and Practices Regarding Disaster management among Nurses :A study from Delhi/NCR.**

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### **Introduction**

Disasters happens daily at some places in the world with intense effect on life of individuals, families and communities and it endangered the quality of life on whether it is a family house on fire or on destroying communities like tsunami. The World Health Organization defines a disaster as a serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society causing widespread human, material economic or environmental losses which exceeds the ability of the affected community or society to cope using its own resources.

Disasters are unforeseeable events that destroy lives and affect people ruins possessions and disturb environment . For some natural disasters like floods, volcanoes and hurricanes health care institutions receive advance warning to be able to faster their activities for before the disaster event but some natural disasters like earthquakes ,tsunami there is no prediction and warning in advance.

World Health Organization emphasizes on the preparedness of health care workers in a disaster situation. As nurses are the largest manpower group in the health care team they need to be trained to equip themselves with required competencies during disasters to rescue life and safeguard the health victims. International Council for nurses (ICN) alerts all nurses to be prepared with adequate knowledge inorder to respond to disaster events effectively.

Disaster preparedness including risk assessment and multidisciplinary management strategies at all system levels, is critical to the delivery of effective responses to the short medium and long term health needs of a disaster stricken population. The ICN framework of Disaster Nursing Competencies and recognized an accelerated and present need to build capacities of nurses at all levels in order to safeguard populations limit injuries and deaths and maintain health system functioning and community well being in the midst of continued health threats and disasters.

Nurses comprise the highest percent of health and medical workforce. Nurses must understand the national disaster management cycle. Without nursing integration at every phase communities and clients lose a critical part of the prevention network and the multidisciplinary response team loses a first rate partner. Eleven million nurses worldwide from the backbone of the health care system and are the frontline health care workers who are indirect contact with the public contribute to health individuals families communities and the globe.

Therefore it is important for nurses to have adequate knowledge to respond effectively and quickly during disaster. The education and training for the nurses on disaster are still under developed in Asian countries. Studies have found that nurses are not well prepared to respond to disaster events. The role of nurses during disaster have expanded from simply caring for the sick and injured to development of the ability to react to a disaster interms of preparedness mitigation response recovery and evaluation. Nurses need to have Knowledge and skills to employ an effective approach to respond to critical situations. Thus the present study was aimed to examine nurses knowledge attitudes practices regarding disaster management.

**Objectives**

1. To assess the knowledge of the nurses regarding disaster management
2. To assess the attitude of the nurses regarding disaster management
3. To assess the practices of the nurses regarding disaster management
4. To correlate the association between knowledge and attitude of nurses on disaster Management.

**Methodology**

A descriptive study design adopted for the study . 100 nurses included in the study. Convenience sampling was selected to conduct the study. The demographic details consisted of age, sex, marital status, years of experience Data was collected through predesigned and pretested questionnaire after informed consent.

**Results and Discussion**

**Table.No:1 Assessment of Level of knowledge regarding Disaster management among Nurses.**

<b>Knowledge Level</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Adequate Knowledge	25
Partial Knowledge	52
Inadequate Knowledge	23

Figure. No:1. Percentage of Knowledge regarding Disaster Management among nurses.

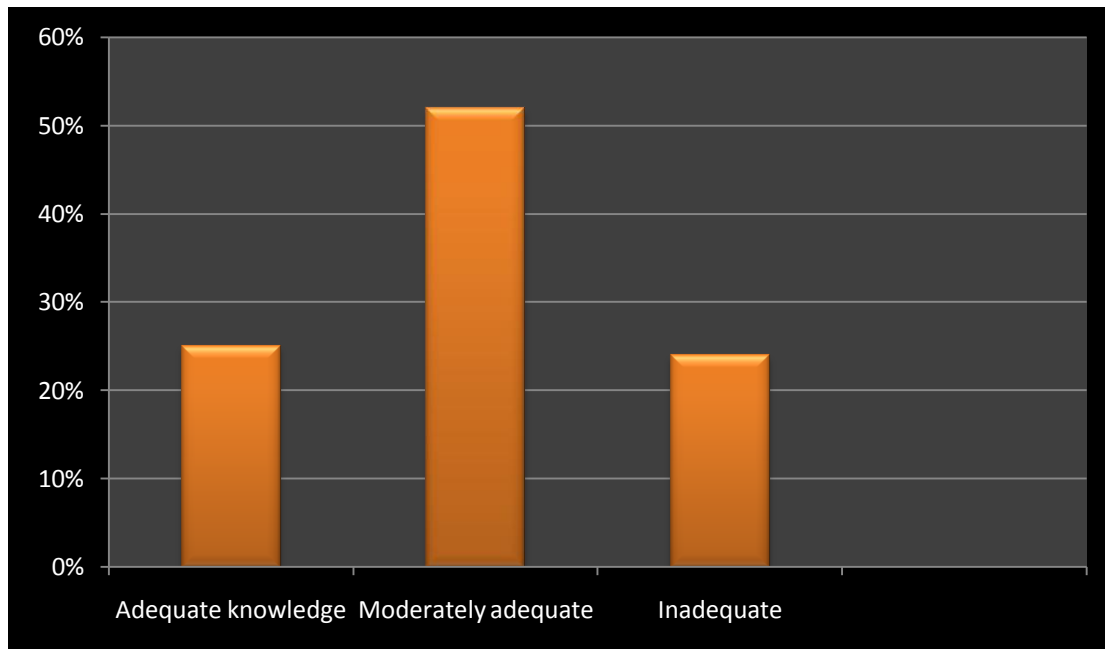


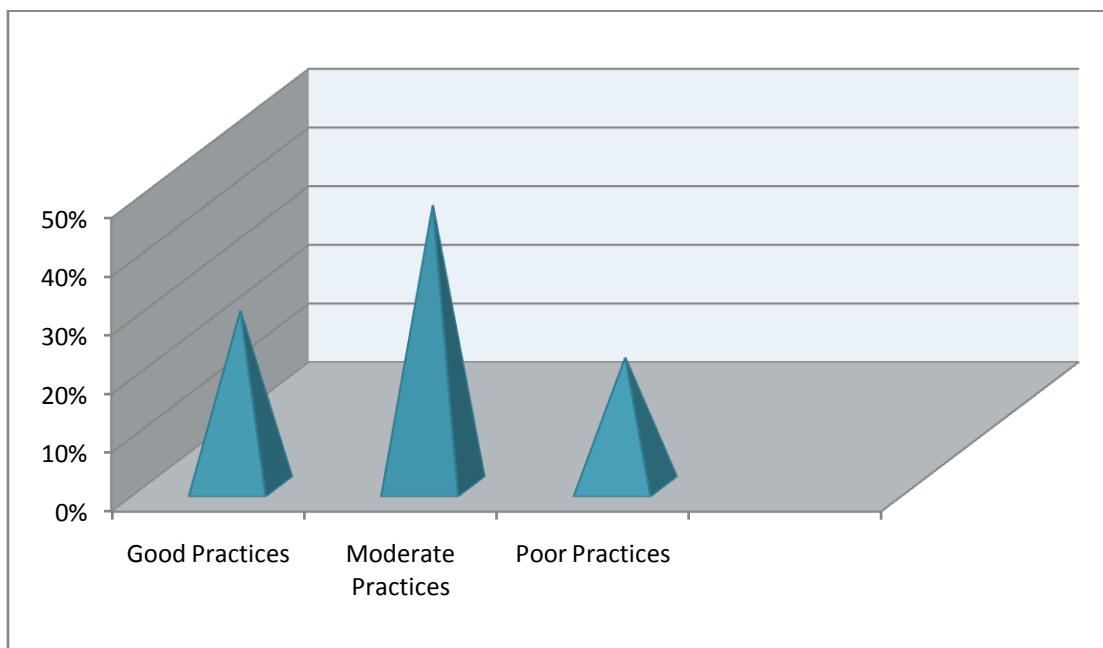
Table.No:2 Assessment of Level of Attitude regarding Disaster management among Nurses.

Attitude Variables	Agree	Disagree	Unsure
I need to acquire knowledge more about Disaster management	68	28	4
Management should be adequately prepared should a disaster occur	72	25	1
Disaster planning is for all people in the health care setting	75	25	0
Potential hazards likely to cause disaster should be identified early and take necessary action	76	23	1
Training is necessary for all health care to respond to disaster management	65	28	7
It is necessary to have a disaster plan	99	1	0
Disaster plans need to be regularly updated	89	13	2
Disaster simulations should occur frequently in the health care settings	90	10	0
Drills should be conducted in the hospital	88	11	1

**Table.No. 3 Assessment of Level of Practices regarding Disaster management among Nurses.**

Practice	Percentage (%)
Good Practices	30%
Moderate Practices	48%
Poor Practices	22%

**Figure. No:2. Percentage of Practices regarding Disaster Management among nurses.**



**Table.No 4 Corelation between knowledge and attitude of nurses on disaster Management.**

Variable	Mean	SD	r Value	P value
Knowledge	44.5	13.5	.186	.072
Attitude	12.85	3.2		

The demographic profile of the staff revealed that majority (58.9%) belonged to 26 to 35 years of age and 65% were diploma nurses and every one had 1-3 years of experience in critical care settings. The study findings revealed that majority of nurses have moderately adequate knowledge 52% and 25% nurses only have adequate knowledge on disaster management and regarding attitude most of them had positive attitude towards the disaster management and about practices only 48% of them had adequate practical knowledge towards disaster management.

There is a association between the qualification of nurses and the knowledge and attitude they posses towards disaster management and there is no significant association between knowledge and attitude with other demographic variables.

#### Limitations

The study was limited to small sample size and to three clinical settings. Further studies are required to establish the findings. Regular inservice education and mockdrills on disaster management may enable nurses to be prepared during disaster and function effectively. Knowledge and positive attitude for disaster management needed continual reinforcement to improve self efficacy for disaster management and there is a need for consistent nursing curriculum for disaster management and nation wide drills to increase knowledge and practices towards disaster management.

#### Conclusions

Based on present study results it can be concluded as adequate knowledge on disaster management is very low and acceptable level of attitude. Thus an integration of clearly titled theory and practice teaching courses about disaster and emergency preparedness in to nursing curriculum are essentially needed and provided to their learning and training . Lot many research are necessary for maximizing education .



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