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Evaluation of Teachers' Knowledge about the Early Detection for Hepatitis Type (A) at the Primary Schools in Al-Hilla City

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ABSTRACT

Background: *Viral hepatitis is an infection of the liver caused by one of several viruses. In the United States, the most common types of viral hepatitis are Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, and Hepatitis C. While all three types of hepatitis can cause similar symptoms, each virus is spread in different ways.*

Objectives: *The study aims at identifying the Sociodemographic characteristics to sample. And evaluating teacher' knowledge about the early detection of Hepatitis (A) diseases at primary schools in Al-Hilla city.*

Methodology: *A descriptive study was conducted, included (181) primary school, (30) in urban and rural area of primary schools in AL- Hilla city, December 1th 2019 to February 16th 2020, evaluating teacher' knowledge about the early detection of Hepatitis (A) diseases. A probability (purposive sample) of sample of 60 teachers who were attending urban and rural area of primary schools. The data were collected through the utilization of the developed questionnaire after the validity and reliability are estimated, and by means of interview technique. Reliability of the questionnaire is determined through a pilot study and the validity through (16) experts. The data analyzed through the use of the descriptive and inferential statistical analysis procedures.*

Results*: The findings of the present study indicate that the overall evaluation of teachers' knowledge about the early detection for Hepatitis (A) diseases was poor.*

Conclusions: *The study conclude if that lack of teacher 's knowledge about early detection of Hepatitis (A) diseases in general in regard to common childhood communicable diseases.*

Recommendations: *The study recommended the needs to teachers that everyone is responsible for prevention of the spread of a communicable disease such as oneself, parents, schools, community members, etc.*

Key words: Evaluation, Teachers' Knowledge, Hepatitis (A) Diseases.

i. INTRODCTION

Communicable disease are those illnesses that result from the growth of pathogenic microorganisms in the body. Bacterial otitis media and wound infections are infectious diseases. Communicable diseases are diseases caused by pathogens that are transmitted directly or indirectly from one person to another [(1)]. Communicable diseases may be spread to a susceptible new host by any of several modes of transmission: airborne transmission, fecal–oral (gastrointestinal) transmission, direct contact, sexual contact, direct inoculation, insect or animal bite, or via inanimate objects or soil [(2)]. In communicable diseases, epidemiologic factors related to biological, psychological, environmental, sociocultural, behavioral, and health system determinants create what is often called a chain of infection. [(3)]. Many of the childhood communicable diseases require pupil/staff to be excluded from day-care or school for a recommended period of time if they are unable to provide evidence of immunization against specific diseases that are known to be highly transmissible [(4)]. Some communicable diseases may spread more readily where there is close contact between

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pupils, and between pupils and adults, in education services [5]. Because Hepatitis A is transmitted primarily through the oral-fecal route, the mainstay of prevention aside from vaccination is good hygiene, access to clean water and proper handling of sewage [6] is usually transmitted by the faecal-oral route, either through person-to-person contact or ingestion of contaminated food or water [7]. Immunize pupils according to the Provincial Immunization Schedule, offer vaccine to susceptible individuals, susceptibility will be based on definition of susceptible individual, for grade nine students in the school setting susceptibility will be based on history of disease or appropriate past varicella immunization [8].

ii. **OBJECTIVES**

The study aims to evaluating teacher' knowledge about the early detection of Hepatitis (A) diseases at primary schools.

iii. **METHODOLOGY**

A descriptive study was conducted, included (181) primary school, (30) in urban and rural area of primary schools in AL- Hilla city, from December 1th 2019 to February 16th 2020, evaluating teacher' knowledge about the early detection of Hepatitis Type (A) diseases. A probability (purposive sample) of sample of (60) teachers who were attending urban and rural area of primary schools. A questioner format was used for data collection. The validity of questioner was estimated through a penal of experts related to the field of study, and its reliability was estimated through a pilot study conducted in (10) schools is excluded from the original sample which included (10) primary school teachers in two residencies (urban and rural area); (5) teachers from urban area, and (5) teachers from rural from the January (1th to 15th \ 2020).

A questionnaire format was used for data collection which consisted of (2) major parts; the first part is concerned with teachers' socio- demographic characteristics of residency, gender, age, social status, academic achievement, years of experience in teaching, and participation in training courses. The second part is concerned with teachers' knowledge about the early detection of chickenpox diseases which consisted of (17) items. The content validity is estimated through a panel study of experts. The reliability of study instrument was determined by using test – retest technique. The alpha correlation coefficient (r) was = 0.84 for teachers' knowledge.

iv. **RESULTS**

Table 1: Distribution of the Sample According to their Socio-demographic Characteristics

No.	Characteristics		F	%
1	**Residency:**	Urban	15	50
		Rural	15	50
		Total	30	100
2	**Gender:**	Male	13	43.3
		Female	17	56.7
		Total	30	100
3	**Age:**	25-34 years	14	46.7
		35-44 years	16	53.3
		45-54 years	0	0
		Total	30	100

4	**Social status:**	Single	5	16.7
		Married	22	73.3
		Divorced	0	0
		Widowed/er	3	10
		Total	30	100
5	**Academic achievement:**	Teacher's house	3	10
		Institute	18	60
		College	9	30
		Other	0	0
		Total	30	100
6	**Years of employment:**	1-5 years	4	13.3
		6-10 years	6	20
		11-15 years	15	50
		16-20 years	5	16.7
		21 ≤ years	0	0
		Total	30	100
7	**Participation in training course:**	Yes	0	0
		No	30	30
		Total	30	100

No: Number, F: Frequency, %: Percentage, CD: Communicable Disease,

Table (1) shows that (56.7%) of teachers were females. Concerning their ages (53.3%) of them (35–44) years old. Regarding the marital status, the majority of teachers (73.3%) were married. Concerning academic achievement, institute of the teachers (60%) were Institute graduate. (50%) of teachers had (11–15) years of employment in teaching sector. Furthermore, (58 %) had no opportunity to be involved in training courses concerning communicable diseases control.

Table (2): Evaluation of Teachers' Knowledge about Early Detection of Hepatitis (A)

List	Knowledge about Early Detection of Hepatitis (A)	M.S	RS	Grade
1	Hepatitis type (A) disease causes pain in the abdomen with yellowing of the skin	1.13	37.7	L.S
2	Hepatitis type (A) disease transmitted by water and food Polluted	1.03	34.4	L.S
3	Hepatitis type (A) occurs due to virus	1.03	34.4	L.S
4	Hepatitis type (A) is transmitted through digestive system	1.00	33.4	L.S
5	The incubation period for hepatitis type (A) is 30 days	1.03	34.4	L.S
6	The infection period for hepatitis type (A) is 14 days before the	1.03	34.4	L.S

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	onset of symptoms			
7	A pupil with hepatitis type (A) A after yellowing is given the compulsory leave for 14 days	1.03	34.4	L.S
8	Preventive measures taken for students who are in contact with a student with hepatitis type (A) are do not isolate pupils	1.03	34.4	L.S
9	Anorexia and nausea symptoms are shown to the student with hepatitis type (A)	1.03	34.4	L.S
10	Do your part as a health guide to reduce the transmission of hepatitis type (A) is monitoring the appearance of symptoms among students	1.03	34.4	L.S

MS= Mean of score, Low = Less than (66.66), moderate (66.66- 77.77) and high (77.78- 100.0), L. S=Low grade.

Table (2) indicated that teachers' knowledge towards early detection of Hepatitis (A) was low grade knowledge.

Table (3): Levels of Teachers' Knowledge about Early Detection of Hepatitis (A)

Table (3) indicated that teachers' knowledge towards early detection of Hepatitis (A) was low grade knowledge (poor), with respect to the total mean of score and relative sufficiency (RS).

v. DISCUSSION

The findings of the present study show that the majority of the sample have poor knowledge about general information of early detection.

1. Discussion of demographic characteristics of study sample for teachers' knowledge:

Throughout the course of the present study, and as it has been shown in table (1) that (78%) of teachers in the sample study were females. Concerning to their ages (53.3%) of them were (35–44) years old. Study's findings indicated that the majority of the study samples were males (62.5%,72.5%) in study and control groups respectively [(9)]. Regarding the marital status, the majority of teachers (73.3%) were married. Concerning academic achievement, half of the teachers (60%) were Institute graduate. Researcher point of view based on social concerns, being married is more socially acceptable ones in Eastern cultures. A study was done in Iraq who found that a descriptive study, presenting that (65%) of the teachers are married [(10)]. The result shows that (50%) of teachers had (11–15) years of employment in teaching sector. A descriptive study is performed on one hundred and six teachers at some of the primary schools in Erbil city [(11)]. With more than (16) year of experience, have deteriorating level of knowledge about communicable disease [(12)]. Furthermore, (93.4 %) had no opportunity to be involved in training courses concerning communicable diseases control; The researcher suggests an opportunity for teachers to be enrolled in training sessions to improve their knowledge and skills.

2. Discussion of the teacher's knowledge towards early detection of Hepatitis (A)

Table (3) demonstrate the total mean of score for teachers' knowledge which indicate that there is poor level of awareness (low significant) for teachers towards early detection of Hepatitis (A) with respect to the total mean of score, and to the relative sufficiency (RS). Many studies emphasized and importance of education health program for teacher's knowledge early detection of communicable disease.

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vi. CONCLUSION

The study concluded that teachers' knowledge towards early detection of Hepatitis (A) in Al-Hilla primary schools was poor.

vii. RECOMMENDATIONS

The study recommends that there is:

1. The study recommended the needs to teachers that everyone is responsible for prevention of the spread of a communicable disease such as oneself, parents, schools, community members, etc.
2. Apply such educational health programs in all Iraqi governorates primary schools to increase awareness about communicable diseases control among teachers.

Financial disclosure

There is no financial disclosure.

Conflict of interest

None to declare.

Ethical Clearance

All experimental protocols were approved under the Department of Nursing and all experiments were carried out in accordance with approved guidelines.

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