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Winter 10-1-2020

“A descriptive study to assess the Knowledge and attitude towards global Warming and perceived impacts of Regional climate change on health among the health science students of Udupi District, Karnataka” ”

BADAPLIN RYNJAH

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"ABSTRACT

A research study A descriptive study to assess the knowledge and the attitude towards Global warming and perceived impacts of regional climate change on health among the health science students of Udupi district, Karnataka was conducted by Ms Badaplin Rynjah as a partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Science in Nursing, at Manipal College of Nursing, MAHE, Manipal.

The objectives of the study were to assess the knowledge on Global warming among the students of health science, attitude towards environmental protection and assess the perception on impact of regional climate change on health among the students of health science, find the relationship between the scores of knowledge and attitude towards environmental protection, and find the relationship between the scores of knowledge and perception on the impact of climate change on health among the students of health science.

The conceptual framework Rosenstock's Health Belief Model (1974) and the research design descriptive survey design were adopted for the study. The study was conducted in a randomly selected health science educational institution of Udupi district, Karnataka. Six colleges were selected using a simple random technique (a Chit method) and the health sciences educational institutions selected for the study were Manipal College of Dental Science, MAHE, Manipal. SDM college of Ayurveda, Kuthpady, Udupi, Manipal College of Health Profession, MAHE, Manipal , Ashrith College of Nursing, Kota, New city college of Nursing, Abstract

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Udupi, Dhanvantari college of nursing, Santhekatte, Udupi. The Non-probability purposive sampling technique was used to select the participants.

Hypotheses were formulated based on the objectives of the study and tested at 0.05 level of significance. In this study, the sample selected for the study included 360 students of health science aged between 19-25 years pursuing their undergraduate program.

The instruments used for the data collection were a demographic proforma, a questionnaire on structured knowledge, attitude and perception scales which were

developed by the researcher. The tools were validated by 7 experts from the fields of Community Health Nursing, Community Medicine, Civil Engineering and Public health Department.

Split half method ($r=0.713$), Cronbach's Alpha ($r=0.708$) for attitude scale, Cronbach's Alpha ($r=0.779$) for perception scale were computed to test the reliability of tools and the tools were found reliable. The data collection was done in the month of February 2020 after obtaining the administrative permission and Institutional Ethical Clearance (IEC no: 929/2019). The first study participant was approached after the successful completion of CTIRI registration (CTIRI/2019/12/0300610). The Informed consent was sought from every study participant. The Pilot study was done among 45 students of Manipal College of Nursing, Manipal, and found to be feasible.

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The obtained data were analyzed using both descriptive and inferential statistics with SPSS version 16.0. A master sheet was prepared by the investigator to organize and compute the data. The result found out that most students (81.4%; 293) were in the age group of 19-22 years and the female participants were (286;79.4%), students belonging to Hindu religion were (81.9%;295), nuclear family (78.9%;284), those pursuing BSc Nursing course were (43.1%;155) and majority (53.6%;193) were from the third Year level of their study course. Out of 360 participants, majority 217 (60.30%) had average knowledge on Global warming, good knowledge 105 (29.20%) and poor knowledge 37(10.60%). On the study to assess the attitude towards environmental conservation, it was found that majority students 359(99.7%) had favorable attitude and only 1(0.3%) had unfavorable attitude. In relation to the perception on impact of regional climate change on health among the students of health science, it was found that majority 280 (77.8%) perceived that climate change would have severe impact on health, 64 (17.8%) had very severe impact on health and 16 (4.4%) moderate impact on health. There is also a positive correlation and a statistically significant level of correlation coefficient ($r=0.314$, p value= 0.05) between knowledge and attitude on Global warming. The data infers that good knowledge on global warming has a positive effect on the

attitude of the students of health science towards environmental protection.

There is a positive correlation and a statistically significant level of correlation coefficient ($r=0.540$, p value= 0.032) between the knowledge on global warming and the perception on the impact of regional climate change on health. Here it is inferred that the good knowledge on global warming has a positive effect and improved perception on the impact of regional climate change.

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The study was limited only to the age group between 19 and 25 years. Hence, the attitude of the students cannot be easily differentiated with the students of higher age group. However, the study has implications to nursing practice, research, education and administration. Further studies can be carried out using a mixed method approach where knowledge can be assessed by the quantitative approach, and attitude and perception can be assessed using the qualitative approach."