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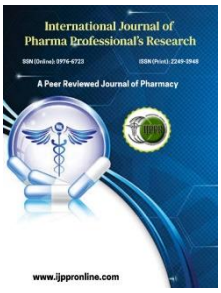

Knowledge, Attitude and Practice Regarding Scabies Among Pharmacy Students

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ABSTRACT:
Scabies is a skin condition caused by infestation with the Sarcoptes scabies mite. This condition is highly contagious and easily spreads through close physical contact. Scabies affects individuals of all ages, races, and socioeconomic statuses. Typically, symptoms of scabies appear two to six weeks after infestation. The most common symptom is itching, which tends to worsen at night. This itching is usually accompanied by a rash that presents as raised, red, scaly spots, and in some cases, blisters.

This is an online cross-sectional study. The study was conducted over a six-month period. A comprehensive questionnaire-based review was conducted and the data were coded and recorded in an MS Excel spreadsheet to facilitate data analysis. The results of the study indicate that the knowledge, attitude, and practices of pharmacy students regarding scabies were generally good.

From the collected responses, it was observed that the students displayed a degree of uncertainty regarding the treatment of the disease. In light of this, the study suggests that additional continuous medical education activities could be beneficial. Organizing camps in hostels, conferences, and field visits are proposed as effective methods to enhance the understanding and knowledge of pharmacy students in managing scabies cases.

1. **Introduction:** Scabies is a skin condition caused by Sarcoptes scabies mite infestation. This mite is a microscopic parasite that burrows into the epidermis to lay its eggs, causing intense itching and discomfort. The condition is highly contagious and spreads easily through close physical contact.[1] Scabies affect individuals of all ages, races, and socioeconomic statuses. Mites are typically found on the hands, wrists, elbows, armpits, waist, and legs, but they can spread to other parts of the body. scabies-related

itching and rash can cause sleep disturbances and lead to skin infections.[2]

Typically, scabies symptoms appear two to six weeks after infestation. Itching is the most common symptom, especially at night. This itching is typically accompanied by a rash that manifests as raised, red, scaly spots, and occasionally blisters. The mites' droppings resemble a thin line, and their burrows may appear on the skin as tiny, raised, undulating lines.[3] Clinical appearance and skin burrows and mites help diagnose scabies. Identifying the mite under a microscope with a skin sample is not always essential to diagnose scabies.[4] Topical therapy like Permethrin, benzyl benzoate, lindane, and Sulphur-containing lotions or creams. Oral ivermectin is an effective treatment in scabies. Scabies can be treated with topical medications, although multiple trials found that oral and topical agents work better. [5-7]

Scabies is one of the leading dermatological conditions. So, evaluating knowledge, attitude and practice is important to identify the key areas where intervention can be instituted and possible preventive measures can be made. Despite the knowledge, attitude and practice have improved regarding the disease.[8]

2.1 Plan of the study:

Task	**Duration in Months**			
	1-2	**3**	**4-5**	**6**
Review of Literature	✓			
Designing of Questionnaire	✓			
Ethical Approval		✓		
Participants' inclusion and Data collection		✓	✓	
Statistical Analysis				✓
Dissertation of Thesis				✓

2.2 Sample size:

The following formula is used to calculate the sample size

$n = (z)2\ p(1-p) / d\ 2$

The required sample size is 74

$N= 1.96\times1.96\times0.95(1-0.95)/ (0.05)^{2}$

N = 70

Non-response correction 5%) =5% of 70 is 4

Therefore, the total sample size is 74

2.3 Study Design: This study is designed as a online cross-sectional study

2.4 Study Duration: The study will be carried out from the month of September (2021) to February (2022) – 6 months

2.5 Participants Selection:

2.6 Inclusion Criteria:

- Only pharmacy students of pharm. D 4th ,5th and 6th year
- Students who are willing to participate in the study

2.7 Exclusion Criteria:

- Students who are not willing to participate in the study
- Other than Pharm. d 4TH ,5TH and 6th were excluded

3. Statistical Analysis: A complete questionnaire-based review and statistical analysis was performed using MS Excel. Data are coded and recorded in the MS Excel spreadsheet for data analysis.

4. Results:

Table 1. Demographic Details

Characteristic	Frequency	Percentage
Age		
19-21	20	27.1%
22-24	52	70.3%
24 and above	2	2.8%
Sex		
Male	46	62.2%
Female	28	38.8%
Education Qualification		
Pharm. D IV th year	20	27%
Pharm. D Vth year	31	41.9%
Pharm. D VI th year	23	31.1%

Depicts the demographic characteristics of the participants were included in the table1 showing that 27.1% of the participants were from the age group of 19-21, 70.3% of participants from the age group of 22-24,2.8% of participants from 24 and above age group. 62.2% were male 38.2% were female and followed by 27% from pharm.D IVth year, 41.9% from pharm.DVth year and 31.1% from pharm.D VIth year.

Table 2: Knowledge of Scabies Among Pharmacy Students

S.No	Question	Correct Responses	Percentages
1.	What is scabies?	64	86.5%
2.	What could be the causative organism of scabies?	63	85.1%
3.	Which parts of the body are affected with Scabies?	44	59.5%
4.	What is the common clinical manifestation of scabies?	51	68.9%
5.	What are the common diagnostics test done to assess scabies?	63	85.1%
6.	What treatment management can be given to scabies affected person?	42	56.8%

Depicts that most of the participants have adequate knowledge regarding scabies the majority of the correct response of knowledge was k1(86.5%), and for k2 and k5 (85.1 %), the lowest percentage was k6 (56.8%).

Table 3: Attitude of Pharmacy Students Regarding Scabies

S. No	Questions	Correct Responses	Percentages

1.	Scabies can be prevented by maintaining personal good hygiene Scabies can be prevented by maintaining personal good hygiene	69	93.2%
2.	If someone in your household is infected with scabies we need to take preventive measures to stop the spread of the disease	65	87.8%
3.	It is always necessary to get quarantined if someone has scabies	48	64.9%
4.	Spreading awareness will greatly help in preventing scabies?	66	89.2%
5.	Besides, personal hygiene there must be a good environment in order to prevent scabies?	57	77.0%
6.	It takes one or two months to get complete cure from scabies	52	70.3%

Depicts the attitude regarding scabies among pharmacy students which is obtained and the majority of the respondents was A4 (89.2%) and the least respondents were given A3 (64.9%)

Table 4: Practice of Scabies for Pharmacy Students

S. No	**Questionnaire**	**Frequency**	**Percentage**
1.	Where do you seek treatment if someone in Your households infected?	61	82.4
2.	When do you treat if someone in your household is infected?	62	83.8
3.	How do you counsel a	50	67.6

	patient with scabies?		
4.	Will you educate the infected person regarding medication administration ?	60	81.1
5.	What should be done to break the chain of is scabies disease spreading?	54	73.0
6.	Do you think treatment with traditional medicine can cure scabies?	38	51.4

Depicts the practice regarding scabies which is obtained from each individual and the majority of the respondents is for p2 (83.2%) and the least percentage was P6 (51.4%).

Table 5. Shows the overall percentages of knowledge, Attitude, and Practice of Scabies

S. No.	**Variables**	**Percentages**
1.	Overall knowledge regarding scabies among pharmacy students	73.65%
2.	Overall attitude regarding scabies among pharmacy students	80.4%
3.	Overall practice regarding scabies among pharmacy students	73.21%

Shows the overall knowledge of scabies among pharmacy students was 73.65%, the overall attitude regarding scabies was 80.4% and the overall practice regarding scabies was 73.21%

Discussion: Scabies is one of the most neglected tropical diseases, which has serious health consequences if left untreated, India is a country where scabies is highly prevalent and surveys have shown that most of the common people and literate people were not much aware of it, hence the study was conducted to assess knowledge, attitude, and practice regarding scabies among Pharm.D students since they are going to be the future clinical pharmacists explaining the importance in understanding the disease when assessing the knowledge of Pharm.D students the overall knowledge was found to be 73.65% which is the adequate knowledge regarding the disease, but when assessing individuals question the least knowledge was identified with respect to treatment percentage is 56.6%, In attitude section, all the students showed positive attitude with 80.4% but the least attitude was found with the duration of treatment of the disease 73.3%.In case of practice, all the Pharm.D students showed positive practice 73.21% since all of them were in regular intervals, once again practice regarding treatment of scabies was least with (51.4%)

Conclusion: The result of the study shows that the knowledge attitude and practice of pharmacy students regarding scabies were good. With the responses received it is found that students were somehow tentative regarding the treatment of the disease, hence additional continuous medical education activities, organizing camps in hostels, conferences, and field visits may play a vital role in improving their knowledge.

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