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## Abstract

Nursing has passed through several decades, improving its theories and technologies with Nightingale's legacy in one hand. But still handling an emergency situation strike fear in the heart of nurses. The triage process was developed to grade patients who need immediate care. The present study was conducted to assess the knowledge regarding triage system among GNM students Pondicherry. The study findings reveal that there was moderately adequate knowledge regarding triage system. Only 11 (11%) of the students had over all adequate knowledge about triage system. Whereas 50 (50%) of students had moderately adequate knowledge and 39 (39%) of the students had in adequate knowledge about triage system. This study also shows that there was significant relationship between the knowledge on triage system with selected demographic variables like age, gender, religion, year of study, previous knowledge.

**Keywords:** Triage; Emergency; Categorization; Decision making.

## Introduction

The nurses who work in the emergency department are vital members of health team. It is very essential that they possess high level of knowledge, skill and clinical experience to provide care to the sick triage. Triage categorization is a very strong predictor of emergency department outcome, and a good predictor of utilization of critical care resources. The nurse must inspire confidence in patient and recognize each as an individual. She has to be emotionally and physically matured and vigilant enough to handle different type of problems in a complex department like a busy emergency department. Triage being an important concept in a clinical practice requires increased autonomy and decision making skill on part of the nurses. The fact given above reveals inadequate knowledge among

student nurse related to triage. This has inspired the researcher to undertake the study.

### *Statement of the Problem*

"A Study to assess the knowledge regarding triage system among GNM students of selected Colleges of Nursing, Puducherry."

### *Objectives*

- To assess the level of knowledge regarding triage among nursing students.
- To find out the association between the level of knowledge regarding triage system and selected socio demographic variables.

### **Methodology**

The investigator adopted a quantitative approach to assess the knowledge regarding triage system among GNM students.

The research design selected for this study is descriptive design.

Sample Size includes 100 GNM students studying in selected nursing colleges of Puducherry.

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The Sampling Technique used was the convenient sampling technique.

Following the receipt of a formal written permission from the Principals of the selected colleges, the nursing students were informed of the purpose of the study and requested to co operate for the study.

The time schedule for collecting data was planned from 2-4 pm. 100 students were selected by convenient sampling. The questionnaire consisting of items related to knowledge regarding the principles and concepts of triage was collected after the completion. After collecting the completed tool the correct responses were discussed according to the student's interest and doubts were clarified, then giving thanks to the respondents.

Among the 100 GNM students, 89 (89%) students belong to the age group of 17-18 years. 11 (11%) students belong to the age group of 18-19 years. No one belongs to the age group of 19-20 & 20-21 years. Among them 10 (10%) students are boys. And 90 (90%) students are girls. In which majority 88 (88%) students were Hindus, 10 (10%) students were Christians, and the remaining 2 (2%) students were Muslims.

Regarding their year of study first year students were 50 (50%) and second year students constituted 50 (50%). Based on their level of previous knowledge on triage, majority of students had previous knowledge about 85 (85%). only 15 (15%) students were not having previous knowledge about triage.

The diagram below shows the overall knowledge of the study participants regarding triage that 11% students have adequate knowledge and 50% of students have moderate knowledge and 39% students have inadequate knowledge.

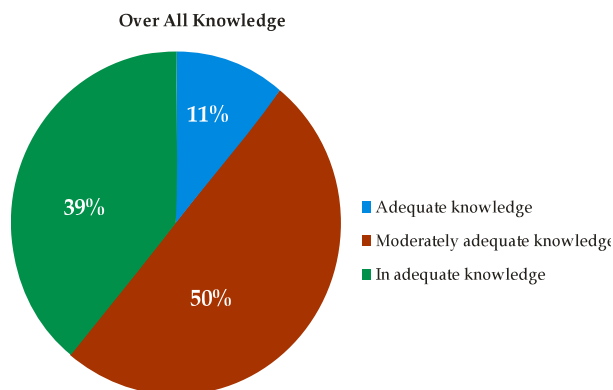


Fig. 1:

### Implications

Active participation of the students and the student nurses can be encouraged by providing in- service education, continuous nursing education programme, teaching and demonstration on the management of triage in order to reduce morbidity and mortality rate and also encourage the efficiency of nurse.

The present study insists upon the need for the improvement in knowledge of triage among students would help in future career. The finding emphasizes the need for implementing structured educational strategies for improving the knowledge level of students regarding triage.

### Recommendations

On the basis of study that had been conducted, certain recommendations are suggested for future study.

1. A similar study can be done on a large scale for better generalization.
2. A comparative study can be done with student nurse studying in two different colleges.
3. An exploratory study may be conducted to identify the awareness, knowledge and attitude of health personnel regarding triage.

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