

Knowledge and Attitudes of Sudanese immigrants Nursing Students toward Pregnant women with a Substance use disorders (SUD) in Sudanese universities clinic training centers Cairo state-2025

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this study assess nurse's students' knowledge and attitude regard SUD prenatal and pregnant women. Pregnancy is occasion chance to provide wide and important medical care for women-for treatment for Substance Use Disorders (SUD). The proper treatment for SUD in pregnant women is treatment at inclusive care facility. About 300 nurses students enrolled in the study who came to Egypt for continuations their education due to conflict in Sudan,**sample size** selected randomly ,third and fourth,fifth level are target population in this **study.results** showed good knowledge regard pregnant and prenatal women with DUS Mean29.663, SD 0.530and p value 0.00 ,but they report negative attitude toward them Mean10.080 SD and p value 570 .

conclusion: nurses reported good knowledge but also showed unacceptable attitude toward women with SUD during pregnancy ,and there is no relation between their knowledge and attitude.

Recommendation: Curriculum for nurse's students under graduate and post graduate must include this topic so they can improve their attitude towards pregnant women with SUD.

Keywords: Knowledge, Attitudes of Sudanese nurses students immigrants. Pregnant women with a Substance use disorders (SUD), Sudanese universities clinic training centers Cairo state

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1. INTRODUCTION

Pregnancy is occasion chance to provide wide and important medical care for women-for treatment for Substance Use Disorders (SUD). The proper treatment for SUD in pregnant women is treatment at inclusive care facility. There is little existing qualitative research discuss what compel pregnant women with SUD to treatment and what hindrance to treatment exist for this population. This survey assessed nurses knowledge and attitudes towards women's self-reported reasons for pursuing treatment or hesitating to do so. Pregnancy is a health condition that include all changes happen to woman's life. Physical and psychosocial these changes affected by the family's social and psychological conditions (Maldonado, 2017

Substance use varies from enjoyable use to credence, causing problems for both the mother and fetus, including distortion, nerves problem which affects brain and spinal cord disorders, and under nutrition which cause health problem (Antunes et al., 2018; Ministério da Saúde, 2012a). furthermore, these problems related and concentrate in the presence of other risk factors such as poverty, lack of prenatal care checkup, sexually transmitted infections, and violence, among others suggesting that damage may sometimes result from the individuals' lifestyle rather than the drug itself (Acosta et al., 2016; Silva et al., 2021; Tuchman, 2010) –

suggesting that harm may sometimes result from the individuals' lifestyle rather than the drug itself (Ministério da Saúde, 2012a) .

In addition to biological decision, a pregnancy in such a situation causes anticipation and instability. Hence, this is attributive time for professionals to encourage women to decrease the use or even refrain from drugs .(org/10.1016/j.wombi.2016.01.001); (Hooks, 2015).

The guidelines advice same inspection for all women using concise interfering and Early coincidence can minimize the risks and should be endeavor at the first prenatal care visit (Courchesne & Meyers, 2020) Thus, professionals must provide an ambience where women feel restful. Pregnancy is a health condition that involves physical and psychosocial changes in a woman's life. among which alcohol and drug use associated with high-risk pregnancies, which are more likely to present complications and unusual events (Ministério da Saúde, 2012a). Surveys on drug use indicate that it mainly occurs during childbearing age, and women tend to use licit drugs (Bastos et al., 2017).

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime [UNODC], 2016. Romo-Aviles, 2018.

promote these data, reporting that alcohol was the drug most frequently used by pregnant women; alcohol consumption presented a prevalence of 22.32%, followed by tobacco, with 4.22%, and 1.45% for illicit drugs.

IN spite of the potential of interventions, the literature record that pregnant women either hide their uses of alcohol and drugs or substance abuse from professionals or not attending the clinic for checkup (Stone, 2015). In addition, these women try to attend very small prenatal consultations, less than three, while six or more consultations are recommended for low-risk pregnancies (Motta & Linhares, 2016). For the reasons for these women to scape from prenatal care include judgement and preferential practices based on standardized behaviors, focused on total abstinence, overriding these individuals' needs, closing observation (Malvezzi & Nascimento, 2018).

Research discussing the knowledge and attitudes of nursing students toward pregnant and perinatal women with an SUD is also limited. Lewis and Jarvis (2019) found biases and internal struggle in students who interacted with vulnerable maternal-child populations.

While Schuler and Horowitz (2020) from their survey found a 120-hour nursing student practicum experience to improve empathy and attitudes scores on the Jefferson Scale of Empathy and the Drug and Drug Problems Perceptions Questionnaire except for those students who cared for maternal SUD populations. Research specific to perinatal nurses' attitudes toward pregnant and perinatal women with SUDs is both limited and dated. Of the available literature, perinatal nurses (including neonatal nurses) are reported to have mostly negative, punitive, and stigmatizing attitudes toward

Pregnant and perinatal women with an SUD (Fraser et al., 2007).

It is not known when or how attitudes toward pregnant and perinatal women with SUDs begin or evolve in nurses. Furthermore, it is not known if education regarding SUDs or personal experiences with SUDs alter or eliminate negative attitudes from nurses and nursing students.

2. AIM OF THE STUDY

- To assess nurses students' knowledge regard SUD prenatal and pregnant women
- To assess nurses students attitude regard SUD prenatal and pregnant women
- To find factors affecting the attitudes and knowledge in nursing students toward pregnant and perinatal women with SUDs.
- To find relationship between their knowledge and attitude towards pregnant and prenatal women with SUDs

3. RESEARCH METHOD:

An online survey method was used to collect data from nursing students. Target populations were currently practicing maternity and courses

A descriptive cross-sectional, design study was aimed to examine the predictors and select demographic variables regarding knowledge and attitude scores regard pregnant and perinatal women with SUDs.

3.1 Sample size and sampling:

$$n = \frac{Z^2 pq}{d^2}$$

300 students enrolled in the study, according to equation

$$Z=1.96 \quad p=0.5 \quad q=0.5 \quad d=0.5$$

Simple random sampling was used to examine the combination of predictor variables on attitude and knowledge scores in practicing perinatal nursing students

3.2 Study setting:

Sudanese universities clinic training centers Cairo state

Inclusion criteria:

Students in class three, four and five

Exclusion criteria

First and second class

Class three four and five and refuse to participate in the study

3.3 Data Collection Tool: (Questionnaire)

In order to achieve the goals of the study, a standard questionnaire on knowledge and attitude were constructed The Attitudes about Drug Abuse in Pregnancy (AADAP) questionnaire was constructed to assess attitudes in nurse's students.

The revised tool is a 15-item for knowledge and attitudes (10 items).

The knowledge section of the AADAP questionnaire invites the participant to

answer true, false, or not sure for each question put (1) for true and (0) for both false, and not sure. Higher scores are indicative of more advanced knowledge. More than 75% considered good knowledge, fair knowledge between 75%-50% and less than 50% consider poor knowledge.

Attitude questions are rated on a 3-point Likert scale. (1 for agree and (0) for disagree and neutral.

Higher scores indicate more positive attitudes, which represent more than 75% and consider good attitude, fair attitude between 75%-50% while lower scores (50%) indicate punitive or negative attitudes,

3.4 Analysis:

All data gathered, codes and collected for analysis using SPSS version 26

For demographic data analyzed using descriptive statistics Mean and SD, while knowledge attitude used descriptive and inferential statistic used chi square, Mean and SD and p value 0.05 considered significant.

4. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. Does formal SUD nursing education predict knowledge in nursing students toward pregnant and perinatal women with an SUD. ?
2. Does formal SUD nursing education predict attitudes in nursing toward pregnant and perinatal women with an SUD?

Results:

This is descriptive cross sectional community based study done on nurse's students in Sudanese universities in Egypt who escaped from the war conflict in Sudan.

From the results we found 154(51.3%) of the participant their age between 20-25 years and the rest over 25 years old, regard their education level 174(58%) are female and 126(42%) are male, also we found that 133(44.3%) in fourth year and same

percent or near same are in three and fifth year, regard formal SUD education in pregnant women 147(49%) Received it while 108 (36.3%) not received it, and the rest not sure.

Near half 140 (46.7%) knew Knowledge about drug Use in Pregnancy and 100(33.3%), while the rest not sure about it.

In table (2) when asked them about their knowledge regard full-term infants with prenatal cocaine exposure have long-term deficits 155(51%) said it is true and 111(37%) said it is not true and the rest not sure about the answer .Also we asked them if illegal drugs seem to have more serious consequences for prenatally exposed babies than legal drugs true or not 136(45%) said it is true while 118(39%) said it is not true and the rest of participant not sure, when asked the participants whether increase use in cocaine use SUD women will have

Preterm babies with serious medical problems we found that 168 (56%) said it is true while 109 (36.3%) said it is not true and the rest not sure, we found they have good knowledge which represent 250(83.3%) and p value 0.00 Mean and SD 29.663, 0.530 respectively the rest of questions found **in table (2).**

Regard their attitude in table (3) to pregnant women with SUD when asked them if The best thing to do for drug-exposed babies is to remove them from the homes of their birth mothers we found that 230(76.7%) agreed that and 37(12,3%) disagreed that and the rest neutral .again we asked them if women who abuse drugs and alcohol during pregnancy are more concerned with themselves than with their babies 196(65.3%) agreed that while 58(19.3%) not agreed and the rst not decided.

About the statement that women who abuse drugs during their pregnancy should be punished, their results are, the majority of the agree it212 (70.7%) while 47(15.7%) disagree and the rest neutral.

Again we found the majority of them agree that all pregnant women should be given a urine screen for drugs to rule out of drug abuse 223(74.7%) and about 47(15.7%) disagree

199(66.3%) agree that Infants who are born sick or addicted places an unfair burden on society and 74(24.7%) disagree. we found they havepoor attitude which represent 140 (46.6%) and p value .570 Mean and SD 10.080, 1.52477 respectively .The rest of questions found in **table (3)**

5. RESULTS

Table (1) Personal data

no(300)

| variable | frequency | Percent(5) | Means | SD |
|---|-----------|------------|--------|--------|
| Age by years | | | | |
| 20-25 | 154 | 51.3 | 1.4867 | .50066 |
| more than 25 | 146 | 48.7 | | |
| Gender | | | | |
| male | 126 | 42 | 1.5800 | .49438 |
| Female | 174 | 58 | | |
| Education level | | | | |
| Third year | 84 | 28 | 1.9967 | .74734 |
| Fourth year | 133 | 44.3 | | |
| Fifth year | 83 | 27.7 | | |
| Receive Formal SUD education in pregnant women | | | | |
| yes | 147 | 49 | 1.6567 | .72147 |
| No | 108 | 36.3 | | |
| Not sure | 44 | 14.7 | 1.6567 | .74734 |
| Knowledge about Drug Use in Pregnancy | | | | |
| yea | 140 | 46.7 | 1.7333 | .77301 |

| | | | | |
|----------|-----|------|--|--|
| No | 100 | 33.3 | | |
| Not sure | 60 | 20 | | |

Table (2) Knowledge of nurse student regard pregnant women with SUD no (300)

| statement | true | | False | | Not sure | |
|---|------|------|-------|------|----------|------|
| | fre | % | fre | % | fe | % |
| full-term infants with prenatal cocaine Exposure have long-term deficits | 155 | 51 | 111 | 37 | 361 | 2 |
| illegal drugs seem to have more serious consequences for prenatally exposed babies than legal drugs | 136 | 45 | 118 | 39 | 47 | 15.7 |
| The increase in cocaine use there are many preterm babies with serious medical problems | 168 | 56 | 109 | 36.3 | 23 | 7.7 |
| Substance abusers usually stick to a single drug rather than using a variety of drugs | 266 | 84 | 38 | 12.7 | 10 | 3.3 |
| The withdrawal from cocaine experienced by infants can last several months from the blood | 98 | 66 | 79 | 26.3 | 23 | 7.7 |
| Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) occurs more frequently in alcohol, tobacco and other drug-exposed infants than other drug abuse | 232 | 77.3 | 49 | 16.3 | 19 | 6.3 |
| Prematurity is one of the serious consequences of prenatal cocaine exposure | 215 | 71.7 | 72 | 24 | 13 | 4.3 |
| Drug abusers often have family members or significant others who also abuse drugs or alcohol. | 189 | 63 | 88 | 29.3 | 23 | 7.7 |
| Drug abuse in pregnancy is associated with a high rate of pregnancy complications | 175 | 58.3 | 102 | 34 | 23 | 7.7 |
| Prenatal drug and alcohol exposure have been cause of learning problems in school age children | 220 | 73.3 | 63 | 21.1 | 17 | 5.7 |
| Making a pregnant woman feel guilty about her substance abuse is an effective way of stopping alcohol and drug use | 224 | 74.7 | 62 | 20.7 | 14 | 4.7 |
| Prenatal addiction causes changes in the brain that make a child brain that child become an addict later | 160 | 50.3 | 88 | 29.3 | 52 | 17.3 |
| Cocaine is more damaging to the unborn child than most other drugs. | 150 | 50 | 108 | 36 | 42 | 14 |
| Women who abuse drugs and alcohol usually take them with men | 157 | 52.3 | 107 | 36.7 | 36 | 12 |
| Cigarettes causes more deaths per year in than any other abused substance. | 138 | 46 | 99 | 33 | 63 | 21 |
| Mean knowledge score | | | | | | |
| Good knowledge > 75% | 250 | | 83.3 | | | |
| Fair knowledge between 75%-50% | 33 | | 11 | | | |
| Poor knowledge <50% | 17 | | 5.7 | | | |

Table (3) Attitude of nurse student regard pregnant women with SUD no(300)

| statement | Agree | | Disagree | | Nuetral | |
|--|-------|------|----------|------|---------|------|
| | fre | % | fre | % | fe | % |
| The best thing to do for drug-exposed babies is to remove them from the homes of their birth mothers | 230 | 76.7 | 37 | 12,3 | 33 | 11 |
| Women who abuse drugs and alcohol during pregnancy are more concerned with themselves than with their babies | 196 | 65.3 | 58 | 19.3 | 46 | 15.3 |
| Prenatal drug and alcohol use birth child abuse | 205 | 68.3 | 54 | 18 | 41 | 13.7 |
| Women who abuse drugs during their pregnancy should be punished | 212 | 70.7 | 47 | 15.7 | 41 | 13.7 |
| All pregnant women should be given a urine screen for drugs to rule out of drug abuse | 223 | 74.7 | 47 | 15.7 | 30 | 10 |
| Infants who are born sick or addicted places an unfair burden on society. | 199 | 66.3 | 74 | 24.7 | 27 | 9 |
| Feel angry towards children whose mothers abuser | 212 | 70.7 | 56 | 18.7 | 32 | 10.7 |
| Children of alcoholics usually have more emotional problems | 224 | 74.7 | 54 | 18 | 22 | 7.3 |
| To prevent further damage to the fetus, pregnant drug abusers should be put in closed control until their baby is born | 205 | 68.3 | 67 | 22.3 | 28 | 9.3 |
| Only one who is responsible for the damage to infant is his addicted mother | 204 | 68 | 62 | 20.7 | 34 | 11.3 |
| Mean attitude score score | | | | | | |
| Good attitude > 75% | 30 | | 10 | | | |
| Fair attitude between 75%-50% | 130 | | 43.3 | | | |
| Poor attitude <50% | 140 | | 46.6 | | | |

Table (4) relation between participant knowledge and their attitude

| statement | Mean | SD | P value |
|-----------|--------|---------|---------|
| knowledge | 29.663 | 0.530 | 0.00 |
| attitude | 10.080 | 1.52477 | .570 |

6. DISCUSSION

This study assessed the Knowledge and Attitudes of Sudanese immigrants Nursing Students toward Pregnant women with a Substance use disorders (SUD) in Sudanese universities clinic training centers Cairo state, from the result our participants 147(49%) received formal education in SUD pregnant women this came in same line with study done in the United Kingdom where their results that student nurses enter training with a wide range of personal experiences relating to illicit drug use.(Harling. etal (2012).

Also another study came in reciprocal with our finding that their results concluded nursing students reported having incompetent education to care for SUD populations

(Schuler & Horowitz, 2020).

Regard the knowledge our participants report good knowledge towards pregnant women with SUD this came inverse with study done in Tennessee where their participants report poor knowledge and they conclude that nurses students have fundamental education to care for pregnant and perinatal SUD Populations since they have unique needs (Jessica Patrylo.2021)

Again our finding came in reciprocal with study done in UK where they conclude that their participants nurse students indicated the importance of substance misuse as a topic area of nurse education, and their participants suggest that they hope these authentic datum on illicit drugs to be included in the nursing curricula. (Harling. etall (2012).

Regard attitude our participants showed poor attitude towards pregnant women with SUD

Came in same line with study done in United Kingdom done by(Manzottim2023)their results recommend that that SBIRT(screening brief intervention and referral treatment) should be considered an imperative for nurses to be competent for both in undergraduate curriculum and among licensed nurses.(Manzotti A, etall, 2023)

Again study done by jackman,etall(2020) where the attitude of participants improved post test

Also Jessica Patrylo 2021) where their result showed poor attitude and participants suggest that nursing attitudes toward SUD , nurses must feel support in the workplace as (Tierney, 2016) also suggest this . Additionally, nurses must realize that patients with SUDs can and

do recover daily (Tierney, 2016). This appreciation can raise and pretend that SUDs are in fact a disease process from which people can cure and recover. Nurses who can collaborate

with other healthcare professionals in the care of SUD populations often have improved attitudes

(Tierney, 2016).

Another study support our finding and conclude that any substance use during pregnancy, birth and the postpartum period as fundamentally unacceptable(Enoit ,C. etall,2014)

7. CONCLUSION

Finally all researches regard attitude of nurses showed unacceptable attitude toward women with SUD during pregnancy this support our conclusion and there is no relation between their knowledge and attitude.

8. RECOMMENDATION

Student nurses enter training with a wide range of personal experience regard drug use during pregnancy Curriculum for nurse's students under graduate and post graduate must include this topic so they can improve their attitude towards pregnant women with SUD.

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