

**FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE KNOWLEDGE ON EPILEPSY AMONG  
FINAL YEAR NURSING STUDENTS IN COLLEGE OF NURSING, NORTHERN  
PROVINCE, SRI LANKA**

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Epilepsy is one of the most prevalent neurological diseases. Knowledge of nurses on Epilepsy may help to provide quality care and comprehensive education to the patients. To assess the knowledge on epilepsy and influencing factors among the final year nursing students. A descriptive cross sectional study was conducted among 137 final year nursing students of College of Nursing at Jaffna and Vavuniya. A self-administered questionnaire was provided and data were entered in SPSS 21 and analyzed using chi square test.

Mean age of the participants was 24.4 ( $\pm 1$ ). Male and female ratio is 1:6. Majority (94.2%) of them knew seizure is abnormal electrical impulses of brain, however nearly two third did not know the definition of epilepsy. Majority of them identified severe head injury (93.4%), brain malformation (81%) and brain tumors (83.9%) as the causes of epilepsy. Nearly three quarter knew about prodromal phase, though they did not know identifying this stage may help to take precautions. Only half (51.1%) of them knew aura is the first symptom of seizure. Most of the signs in aura stage identified are; numbness (69.3%), dizziness (69.3%), altered olfactory sensation (67.2%), odd sounds (67.2%), unpleasant taste (67.2%) and headache (56.2%). Nearly two third of them knew minimum of five signs and symptoms of ictal and post-ictal phases. Less than half had knowledge about "status epilepticus". More than half of the population identified nearly five triggering factors for seizure attack. Spend adequate time to learn epilepsy, experience on managing, personal willingness, and confidence to handle epileptic patient were significantly associated with knowledge of the participants.

Knowledge on epilepsy is inadequate in certain areas and active participation of students in managing the epilepsy patients in clinical setup may help to improve their knowledge.

**Keywords:** Epilepsy, Seizures, Knowledge.