

A study to assess the knowledge and perception regarding Conjunctivitis among adults of Pune city

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Abstract:

Conjunctivitis, also termed as "pink eye", is an irritation or inflammation of the conjunctiva that covers the whiter part of the eyeball. The causes could be various like invasion of bacteria or viruses or even allergies. Conjunctivitis can be highly contagious and can spread through contact with eye secretions from someone who is infected.¹ Maharashtra has lot of upcoming conjunctivitis cases in month of July, 2023. The state has recorded 40,132 cases, media reports stated citing public health department data. Among the 22 districts where the cases have been reported, Pune city has highest number of cases with 8,195.2 **The present study title:** "A study to assess the knowledge and perception regarding Conjunctivitis among adults of Pune city." The objective was to assess knowledge and perception regarding conjunctivitis, correlate both and associate it with demographic variables. **Material and Methods:** Researcher adopted non experimental descriptive research design. It was carried out on 100 samples. The Non-probability convenient sampling technique was used. The data was collected using self-structured questionnaire. Data analysis was done mainly using inferential and descriptive statistics. **Result:** Only 4 (4%) of adults) had adequate understanding about conjunctivitis, compared to 54 (54%) who had inadequate knowledge, 42 (42%) who had moderate knowledge. The average adult's conjunctivitis knowledge score is 5.24 ± 1.7 . The majority of adults, 60 (60%) have an average perception of conjunctivitis, 32 (32%) have a poor perception of it, and only 8 (8%), have a good perception regarding conjunctivitis. Adults' average impression scores of conjunctivitis are 5.82 ± 1.4 . The p value was (0.07) for knowledge and perception which is greater than (0.05). This shows that null hypothesis is accepted. There is no any correlation between knowledge and perception. The demographic variables like marital status and availability of primary information in adults shows significant association between knowledge and perception regarding conjunctivitis respectively. Conclusion: The study conclude that maximum of the members had inadequate knowledge of conjunctivitis and average perception about conjunctivitis. Recommendation: Similar comparative study may be conducted using urban and rural population.

Keywords: Assess, knowledge, perception, Adults, Conjunctivitis

INTRODUCTION

Conjunctivitis, which is often known as "pink eye," is an inflammation or irritation of the conjunctiva, which covers the whitish portion of the eye. The causes could range from allergies to bacterial or viral invasion. Contact with eye secretions from an infected person can spread conjunctivitis, which can be extremely contagious. The most typical method of presenting eye redness in both primary care and the emergency room, it places a heavy burden on the healthcare system.³

The causes might or might not be contagious. The most frequent underlying cause of infectious conjunctivitis, viral conjunctivitis typically goes untreated and presents with a variety of signs and symptoms. The clearest indicators of bacterial conjunctivitis are mattering and adhesion of the eyelids upon awakening, absence of itching, and lack of a history of conjunctivitis. Antibiotics applied topically shorten the course of bacterial conjunctivitis and enable early return to work or school.⁴

In Maharashtra, roughly one-third of conjunctivitis cases are concentrated in Buldhana, Pune, and Jalgaon. In less than a month following the initial outbreak, which was reported from Alandi in Pune, 3.57 lakh cases of viral conjunctivitis (pink eye) were documented throughout the state, according to statistics from the state health department. ⁵

Handwashing is an aspect of prevention. The underlying reason determines the course of treatment. Most viral infections don't have a specific therapy. The majority of bacterial infection cases also get better on their own; antibiotics, however, can make the sickness last less time.⁶ It is important to treat persons who wear contact lenses and those whose infection is brought on by gonorrhea or chlamydia. Mast cell inhibitor drops or antihistamines can be used to treat allergic situations.⁷

NEED OF THE STUDY

Since the World Health Organization on March 11, 2020 designated COVID-19 a pandemic, there have been more than 3 million cases and a quarter million

fatalities as a result of it. Recently, there has been mounting evidence linking the condition to conjunctivitis, an ophthalmologic symptom. Understanding the mechanism by which the SARS-CoV-2 virus can assist such a symptom is crucial because this appears to occur in the early stages of infection.⁸

The negative consequences of worsening air quality concerns are increasingly being felt by a growing number of individuals due to the fast industrialization and urbanization of society. Globally, air pollution is increasingly emerging as a major contributor to human disease and mortality. Public health problems, particularly allergic illnesses, are rising quickly.⁹

Numerous people experience conjunctivitis, which has negative economic and societal effects. Conjunctivitis must be distinguished from other sight-threatening eye disorders with comparable clinical presentations in order to properly decide whether to proceed with additional testing, treatment, or referral. However, the clinical manifestation is frequently asymptomatic. A correct diagnosis is not usually achieved by relying just on the patient's symptoms and the nature of the

discharge. Furthermore, there is sometimes a dearth of scientific data linking conjunctivitis signs and symptoms to the underlying cause.¹⁰

In most cases of bacterial conjunctivitis, there is no need for treatment because the condition usually resolves on its own. Our regular chores require the use of our eyes. Any vision problem could make us more dependent on other people. It has a big impact on our family and neighbourhood. Understanding the significance of routine eye care and the procedures to be followed to maintain healthy eyes is necessary.

AIM OF THE STUDY

To assess the knowledge and perception regarding Conjunctivitis among adults of Pune city.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Researcher adopted non experimental descriptive research design. It was carried out on 100 samples. The Non-probability convenient sampling technique was used. Data collection was done using self-structured questionnaire. Data analysis was done mainly using inferential and descriptive statistics.

RESULTS AND OBSERVATIONS:

Section I: Description of demographic profile:

The majority of adults, 69%, are between the ages of 21 and 30, with 63% of them being female and only 37% being male. 65% of the population is single in terms of marital status. Most of the subjects (54% of them) have incomes between 10,000 and 20,000, 54% of adults live in nuclear families, 58% of adults are graduates, 79% of adults are urban residents, and most of them (88% of adults) have basic knowledge of conjunctivitis. The major source for about 54% of their knowledge is health care personnel

Section II: Level of Knowledge Score of the Adults Regarding Dengue Fever & Its Practices

Table No: 1 Level of Knowledge Score of the Adults

KNOWLEDGE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Inadequate knowledge (score 0-5)	54	54%
Average knowledge (score 6-8)	42	42%
Adequate knowledge (above 8)	04	04%
Mean	5.24	
SD	1.7985	

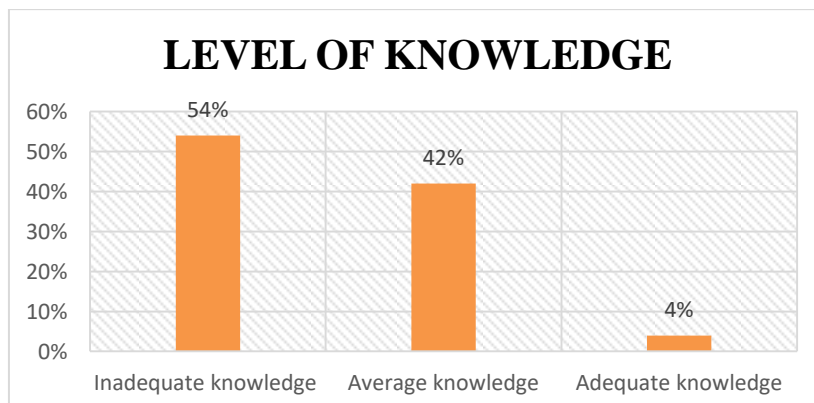


Figure 1: Level of knowledge score of the adults regarding conjunctivitis

Above data illustrates the level of knowledge score of the adult regarding conjunctivitis. In that majority of adults 54(54%) having inadequate knowledge regarding conjunctivitis, 42(42%) having average knowledge regarding conjunctivitis and only 4(4%) having adequate knowledge regarding conjunctivitis. The mean knowledge score of the adult regarding conjunctivitis is 5.24 ± 1.7

Section III: Level Of Perception Score Of The Adults Regarding Conjunctivitis

TABLE NO: 2

PERCEPTION	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Poor (score less than 5)	32	32%
Average (score 6-8)	60	60%
Good (above 8)	08	8%
Mean	5.82	
SD	1.4659	

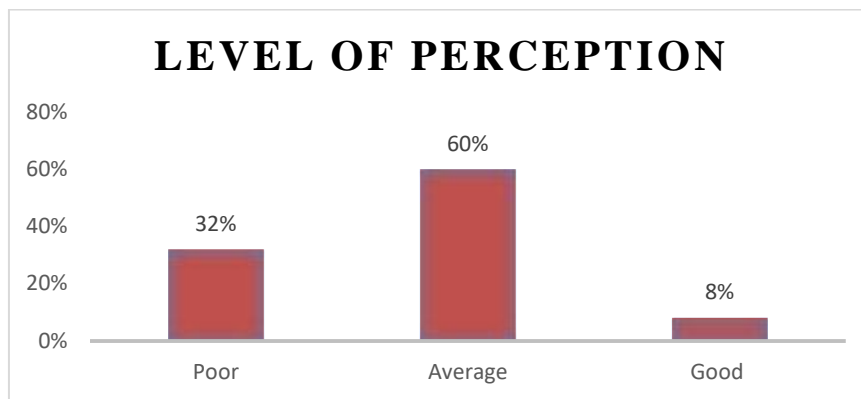


Figure 2: level of perception score of the adults regarding conjunctivitis

Above data showed level of practice score of the adult regarding conjunctivitis. In that majority of adult 60(60%) has average perception score regarding conjunctivitis, 32(32%) has poor perception score regarding conjunctivitis and only 8(8%) has a good perception regarding conjunctivitis. The mean perception score of the adults regarding conjunctivitis is 5.82 ± 1.4

Section IV: Distribution Of Knowledge Score And Perception Score Regarding Conjunctivitis

VARIABLES	MEAN	STD. DEVIATION	MINIMUM	MAXIMUM
Knowledge	5.24	1.7985	0	10
Perception	5.82	1.4659	2	10

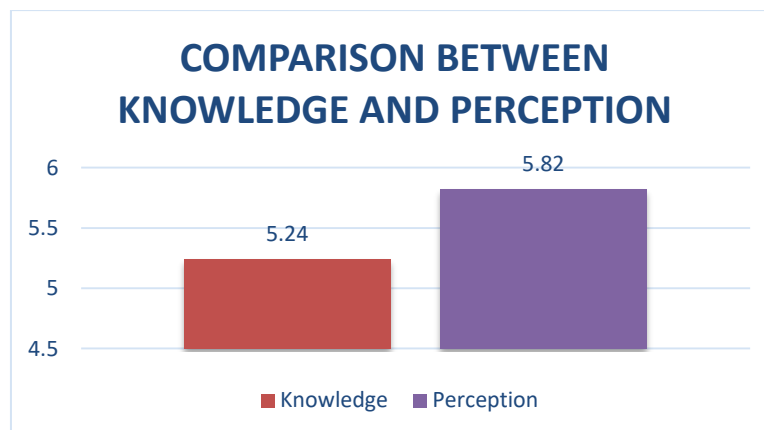


Figure 3: Comparison Between level of Knowledge & Perception score of the adults regarding conjunctivitis

The value of R is -0.1827.

The P-Value is 0.073127. The result is not significant at $p < .05$.

Hence, there is no correlation between knowledge and perception.

Section V:

A. Association of level of knowledge score with selected personal demographic variables.

There was significant association between marital statuses with level of knowledge regarding conjunctivitis.

B. ASSOCIATION OF LEVEL OF PRACTICE SCORE WITH SELECTED PERSONAL DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES.

There was significant association between the adults who already had information with level of perception regarding conjunctivitis.

DISCUSSION

The findings of the study were discussed with the objectives and hypothesis stated. The present study was undertaken to assess the knowledge and perception regarding conjunctivitis among adults in selected area of Pune city.

Present study findings are supported by study done in urban settlement area of south Delhi, the study involved 523 students in total. The bulk of the pupils (53% of them) were females, with a mean age of 14.7 \pm 1.2 years. 61.6 percent of the kids were aware of conjunctivitis. 80.3% of students correctly identified its etiology, while 87.4% of students correctly stated that it is contagious. The majority of the students (97.9%) stated that treatment is the best option (97.5%) for curing the condition. The majority of students (83.2%) misidentified the mode of transmission while the majority of students (98.3%) correctly replied to the preventive actions.¹¹

63% of adults are female and only 37% are male, while 69% of adults are between the ages of 21 and 30. In terms of marital status, 65% of the population is unmarried. Most of the individuals (54% of them) earn between 10,000 and 20,000 rupees a year, 54% of adults are from nuclear households, 58% have degrees, 79% live in cities, and 88% of adults have at least a basic understanding of conjunctivitis. The majority of their information, or around 54% of it, comes from healthcare workers. The adult's level of conjunctivitis knowledge is demonstrated by data. Only 4 (4% of adults) had enough knowledge about conjunctivitis, compared to 54 (54%) adults with insufficient information, 42 (42%) adults with moderate knowledge. The average adult's knowledge score about conjunctivitis is 5.24 \pm 1.7. In the adult majority, 60 (60%) have an average perception score of conjunctivitis, 32 (32%) have a poor perception score, and just 8 (8%), have an excellent perception score. Adults' mean perception scores of conjunctivitis are 5.82 \pm 1.4.

CONCLUSION

The current study showed that majority of the adult are having inadequate knowledge regarding the conjunctivitis and for the perception they sometime followed the preventive major regarding conjunctivitis. There was significant association between marital status and population who already had knowledge with the

level of knowledge and perception regarding conjunctivitis respectively.

Recommendation

Similar research can be conducted with a bigger population to compare urban and rural areas.

Conflict of Interest

The authors attest that they do not work for or otherwise have any financial or non-financial interest in any organization or entity that might be related to the materials or topics covered in this paper.

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