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Knowledge of Pulmonary Tuberculosis Dynamics among Family Caregivers

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Abstract: Pakistan being an under developed country encounters with a high burden of Pulmonary Tuberculosis (TB). The high incidence of TB is due to various reasons, such as knowledge deficit regarding the disease, non-compliance with TB treatment, low socioeconomic status of the patients' family, society's negative concept about TB, late diagnosis of the disease, extended treatment, and poor quality of available TB programs. This study assessed the level of knowledge regarding pulmonary TB among family caregivers at Ojha Institute of Chest Diseases (OICD), Karachi, Pakistan.

Method: This was a cross-sectional study carried out by non-probability, convenient sampling techniques at Ojha Institute of Chest Diseases. The sample size for this study was 55 participants (n=55). Demographic data such as gender, marital status, ethnic background, religion, employment status, and educational level was inquired by the participants prior to the questionnaire. McDonald's standard of learning outcome measurement criteria was used to categorize family care givers' level of knowledge regarding pulmonary tuberculosis. Pilot testing of the instrument was carried out to ensure its validity in the local context. Data entry and statistical analysis were performed using the SPSS for windows, version 16.0.0 (SPSS Inc. Chicago, IL, USA).

Results: Majority of the sample population (55%) was male, while most of the participants (51%) were of a mature age ranging between 30 to 44 years. 35% were uneducated or have not received any schooling. When evaluating the composite scores of the questionnaire, a significant number of participants exhibited a "very low" and "low" level of knowledge (38.1% and 21% respectively) regarding pulmonary TB, whereas the smallest percentage of the sample (1.8%) was categorized as having a "very high" level of knowledge.

Conclusion. As the study results revealed that knowledge of pulmonary tuberculosis dynamics among a significant fraction of the family caregivers at OICD is very poor, so there is an urgent need for initiation of educational programs and prompt actions by the authorities aimed at increasing public awareness regarding the dynamics of pulmonary TB.

Keywords: *Pulmonary Tuberculosis; knowledge; family caregiver*

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