

Assessment of Knowledge, Attitude and Practice regarding Eugenics among Husbands and Wives

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BACKGROUND

“Healthy couples bring healthy offsprings”

A couple always wish for a healthy baby—that’s the goal for every pregnancy. Globally about 40% of pregnancies are unintended laterally which ends in abortion, miscarriage and unplanned birth.¹ In India, current Total Fertility Rate is 2.42, Maternal Mortality Rate is 174 /1,00,000 and Infant Mortality Rate is 45/1,000 live birth.

Eugenics refers to the methods that are adopted by eligible couples for having physically and psychosocially healthy conception and pregnancy. These statistics shows the need of the study to assess the knowledge, attitude and practice regarding eugenics among husbands and wives.¹

OBJECTIVES

1. To assess and compare the knowledge, attitude and expressed practices regarding Eugenics among husbands and wives.
2. To determine the relationship between knowledge, attitude and expressed practices regarding Eugenics among husbands and wives.
3. To seek association of knowledge, attitude and expressed practices of husbands and wives with selected demographic variables.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A quantitative research approach and non experimental descriptive comparative design was undertaken for the study. Total 636 adults (318 husbands and 318 wives) were selected using purposive sampling technique. The study was conducted at Barara Village, Barara MCH and Holy Village of Barara Tehsil of Ambala, Haryana, India

Data was collected by Structured Knowledge Questionnaire, Structured Attitude 5-point Likert Scale and Expressed Practices Checklist and technique used was paper and pencil (self report).

Reliability of the tools was established by Kuder–Richardson Formula 20 (KR-20), Cronbach’s alpha and Test-Retest method of husband and wife for knowledge, attitude and expressed practice of husband an wife tool and was found to be 0.75, 0.74, 0.75 and 0.86 respectively. Time period of the study was from December, 2015 to June, 2017.

The Ethical clearance was obtained from Maharishi Markandeshwar University’s ethical committee (MMU/IEC/781). Further guidelines were followed according to ICMR (India). This was followed by Formal administrative approval of Sarpanch and Secretary of selected village. After self introduction, written consent was obtained from eligible couples. Husbands and wives were approached simultaneously and separate tool was given to them.

Descriptive and inferential statistics were used for data analysis.

SUMMARY

•Findings of the present study showed that 37.42% of wives had average level of knowledge and 16.66% of wives had good level of knowledge regarding eugenics. These findings were inconsistent with the study conducted by **Prashansa Gautam et al** which showed that 84.58% of women had average level of knowledge regarding Pre-conception.²

RESULTS

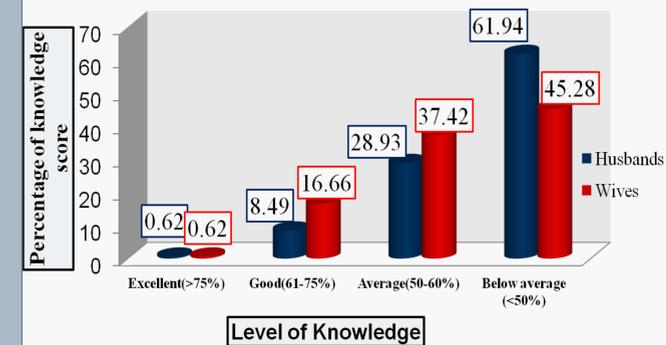


Fig 1: Cylindrical bar graph showing percentage distribution of husbands and wives according to level of Knowledge regarding eugenics

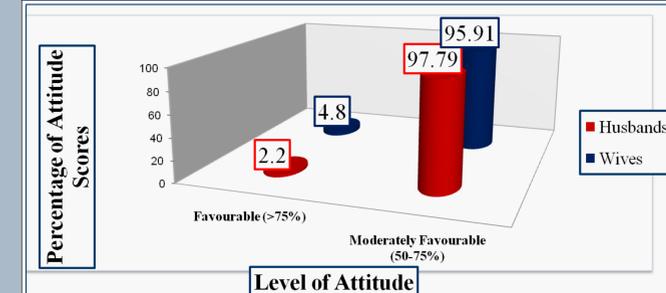


Fig 2: Cylindrical bar graph showing percentage distribution of husbands and wives according to level of attitude regarding eugenics

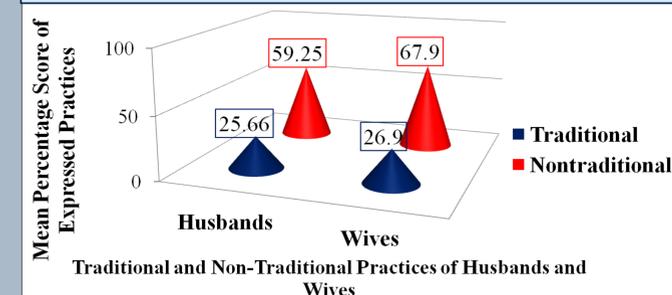


Fig 3: Cone diagram showing both husbands and wives practicing more nontraditional expressed practices than traditional expressed practices

CONCLUSION

- Majority of husbands and wives knowledge in relation to eugenics was not adequate as more than half of husbands and wives were having below average level of knowledge.
- Majority of husbands and wives had moderately favourable attitude towards eugenics.
- Majority of husbands and wives practiced more non-traditional expressed practice than traditional practice.

There was a significant difference in the knowledge, attitude and expressed practices of husbands and wives regarding eugenics ($P \leq 0.000$).

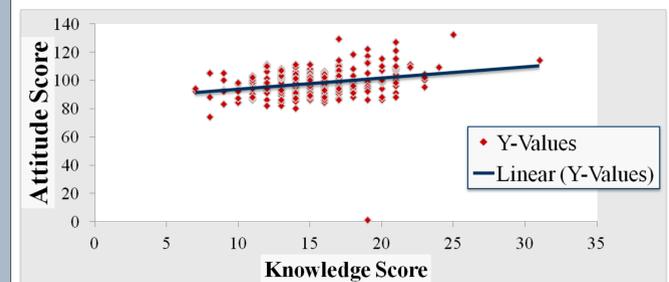


Fig 4: Scatter diagram showing correlation between knowledge score and attitude score of Husbands regarding Eugenics

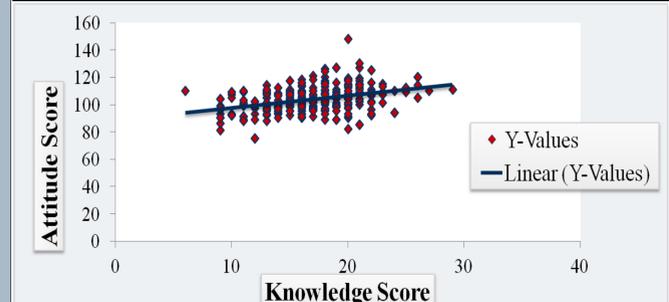


Fig 5: Scatter diagram showing correlation between knowledge score and attitude score of Wives regarding Eugenics

There was a weak negative correlation between attitude and expressed practices scores of wives regarding Eugenics ($r = -0.176$, $P \leq 0.003$). The knowledge, attitude and expressed practices scores of husbands and wives were dependent on age, educational status and source of information regarding conception and pregnancy.

REFERENCES

1. World Bank data Retrieved from <http://data.worldbank.org/en/data>
2. Gautam P, Dhakal R. Knowledge on Preconception Care among Reproductive age Women. Saudi Journal of Medical and Pharmaceutical Sciences. 2016;1:1–6