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## Knowledge Regarding Triage System Among Nursing Students

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### ABSTRACT

Triage is crucial in-patient screening within emergency departments (EDs) worldwide. It is one of the essential and standard medical practices in many developed countries. <sup>1</sup>

#### **Objectives**

To assess the knowledge regarding triage system among the nursing students **Methodology:** Using a quantitative, non-experimental descriptive survey design and convenient sampling, 30 nursing students from St Thomas college of nursing were selected. Ethical clearance, administrative permission and consent from subjects were taken. Data were collected using a questionnaire from 15/08/2024 to 20/08/2024. Data were analyzed by using descriptive and inferential statistics.

**Results:** The findings of the study showed that out of 30 nursing students, about 73.3% had average knowledge, and only 26.7% of subjects had poor knowledge. In addition, no one had good knowledge.

**Conclusion:** The good level of triage system knowledge aspect was neglecting; this fact has to be taken into consideration and it is very essential and important to create an awareness and develop a standard policy and procedure manual to upgrade and update the knowledge of the students regarding triage system.

**Keywords:** Triage, knowledge, nursing students.

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### INTRODUCTION

TRIAGE comes from French trier, meaning to sort. Patient acuity is quickly determined via triage. A triage system prioritizes essential patients by identifying and categorizing them. It classifies patients by kind and urgency to bring the right patient to the right place at the right time with the right care provider. <sup>2</sup> In a broader view triage can be classified as, primary, secondary and tertiary triage. Primary triage is the field triage which includes the early transportation from disaster scenarios as “START” and “SAVE” method. Secondary triage is emergency department triage which include the timely and appropriate interventions according to patient acuity by color coding. Tertiary triage is specialist care triage which includes prioritizing patients for definitive care as operation, intervention etc. <sup>2</sup>

### METHODOLOGY

Using a quantitative, non-experimental descriptive survey design and convenient sampling, 30 nursing students from St Thomas college of nursing were selected. Ethical clearance, administrative permission and consent from subjects were taken. Data were collected using a questionnaire from 15/08/2024 to 20/08/2024. Data were analyzed by using descriptive and inferential statistics.

## RESULTS

The analysis of the data revealed that majority (96.7%) of the nursing students were between the age group of 18-21 years, while only 3.3% were in 22- 24 years of age group.

With respect to gender, all (100%) the nursing students were females. While considering year of study, majority (66.7%) of nursing students were first year GNM and about 33.3% were second year GNM. With respect to place of residence, more than half (53.3%) of the nursing students were from urban area and about 46.7% were from the rural area.

While considering triage information from curriculum, majority (80%) of nursing students received triage system information from curriculum. About 40% of the subjects had family members employed in a hospital setting. With respect to attended any triage system workshop, only 30% nursing students were attended triage system workshop.

After the analysis of the data, the researcher identified that majority (73.3%) of the subjects had average knowledge, and only 26.7% of subjects had poor knowledge. Additionally, none of the subjects possessed good knowledge.

**Table 1: Frequency and Percentage Distribution of Demographic Variables**

<b>Demographic Variables</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Age</b>		
18-21 years	29	96.7%
22-24 years	1	3.3%
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	0	0%
Female	30	100%
<b>Year of study</b>		
1 st year GNM	20	66.7%
2 nd year GNM	10	33.3%
<b>Place of residence</b>		
Urban	16	53.3%
Rural	14	46.7%
<b>Student nurses received triage system information from curriculum</b>		
Yes	24	80%
No	6	20%
<b>Student nurses were having any family member working in hospital</b>		
Yes	12	40%
No	18	60%
<b>Have you ever attended any triage system workshop?</b>		
Yes	9	30%
No	21	70%

**Table-2: Frequency and percentage distribution of knowledge regarding triage system.**

N-30

Knowledge regarding Triage System	Frequency	Percentage
Poor knowledge	8	26.7%
Average knowledge	22	73.3%
Good knowledge	0	0%

## DISCUSSION

A cross-sectional study on “Knowledge of triage in the senior medical student in shiraz university of medical sciences” was conducted by Hossen Mahmoodian and et.al. It was revealed that 22.7% had poor knowledge about triage.<sup>3</sup> In the present study 26.7% subjects had poor knowledge.

A cross-sectional study on “Expectations of emergency patient regarding triage system knowledge upon arrival” was conducted by Mohammad Minwar and et.al. The study revealed that 58.4% participants had average knowledge about triage.<sup>4</sup> In the present study revealed that 73.3% had average knowledge.

A descriptive study on “To assess the knowledge regarding Emergency triage among student nurses in selected institutions, Jalandhar” was conducted by Sharish khan and Bilques Fatima. The study revealed that 50.4% student nurses had average knowledge.<sup>2</sup> In the present study showed that 73.3% had average knowledge.

A cross-sectional study on “Knowledge of triage among nurses in Emergency units” was conducted by Sadar Ali and et. al. The study revealed that 60.65% student nurses had average knowledge.<sup>5</sup> In the present study showed that 73.3% had average knowledge.

A cross-sectional study on “Knowledge of triage and its correlated factors among Emergency department nurses in Qassim region of Saudi Arabia” was conducted by Samia Eaid Elgazzar. The study revealed that nurses had average level of triage knowledge.<sup>6</sup> In the present study showed that 73.3% had average knowledge.

## CONCLUSION

The good level of triage system knowledge aspect was neglecting, this fact has to be taken into consideration and it is very essential and important to create an awareness and develop a standard policy and procedure manual to upgrade and update the knowledge of the students regarding triage system.

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