

Original Research Paper

Awareness Of Patient's Responsibilities Amongst the Patients Admitted in Various Hospitals in Belagavi City

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ABSTRACT

Background: Successful medical care requires ongoing collaboration between patients and physicians. Their partnership requires both individuals to take an active role in the healing process. Autonomous, competent patients control the decisions that direct their health care. With that exercise of self-governance and choice, comes a number of responsibilities. These responsibilities are presented to patients in the spirit of mutual trust and respect. Hence the objective of this study is to assess the awareness of admitted patients in various hospitals in Belagavi about their responsibilities.

Methodology: A cross sectional observational study was conducted amongst the admitted patients of various hospitals in Belagavi, for a period of three months. Data were collected using pre-tested questionnaire forms. The collected data was analyzed with SPSS V.20 software. Analyzed Results were expressed as percentage using appropriate tables and figures.

Results: 140 IPD patients accomplished the questionnaire on the awareness of patient's responsibilities of which 76.14% patients were aware and 23.86 % were unaware of their responsibilities towards the health care.

Conclusions: This study concludes that a large number of IPD patients are aware of their responsibilities and also signifies the importance of educating the remaining small number of IPD patients about their responsibilities.

Key words: patient's responsibilities, awareness, responsibility, Belagavi

Introduction

The American Medical Association has provided a list of patient responsibilities, said to be derived from patient autonomy [1]. What are the basic responsibilities which patients should be aware of [2] :

- Providing accurate and complete information.
- Asking questions
- Following instructions given by doctors

- Following facility, rules and regulations
- Showing Respect and thoughtfulness
- Meeting financial commitments
- To follow treatment plan.

Madhok from India has reported doctors being, thrashed and abused by lay public for a trivial fault. According to them the causes of violence were lack of communication between doctor and patient, poor image of medical profession, lack of faith in judicial system and police, besides insufficient security for doctors [3].

A report from Bangladesh also throws light on fact that violence in healthcare system has been increasing at alarming level [4]. A national survey in Australia revealed that 58% of General Practitioners had experienced verbal abuse and 18% experienced property damage [5]. The medical profession and medical ethics currently place a greater emphasis on physician responsibility than patient responsibility. This imbalance is not due to accident or a mistake but, rather is motivated by strong moral reasons. As we debate the nature and extent of patient responsibility it is important to keep in mind the reasons for giving a relatively minimal role to patient responsibility in medical ethics [6].

Factors Influencing Patient Participation in Health Care Decision-Making are affected by individual factors, such as

- Demographic characteristics [7-8];
- Personal characteristics (reads a lot, is mentally ok, can express himself) [6,9];
- Level of acculturation [7],
- Cultural knowledge and beliefs [9],
- Values and practices concerning health and care [7],
- Having physical ability, cognitive and emotional relation with others [9-10],
- Knowledge, beliefs, values and experiences in regard to mainstream health care services [7]

This study is to find out whether inpatients are aware of their responsibilities or they have to be educated in ethical and effective counselling methods for understanding their role and duties which will contribute to increasing patients' involvement in their care and also factors affecting their awareness of in patient's responsibilities. The study was aimed to study the awareness of inpatients responsibilities towards hospital, doctors and their treatment

METHODOLOGY

Source Of Data: The patients admitted in IPD of various hospitals of Belagavi city, with willingness to participate in survey were taken. Informed written consent was taken from the patients after obtaining detailed history. Evaluation was done with the help of performed parameters.

Research Design: Case series observational study

Study Period: 3 Months

Sample Size: 140

Tool: Pretested validated questionnaire

Inclusion Criteria

- In patients who are conscious and can understand and speak
- Either sex
- Age from 18 and above

Exclusion Criteria

- Unconscious ICU patients

- Patients less than 18 years
- Patients suffering from terminal illness

Method of collection of data

Patients were selected on the basis of inclusion & exclusion criteria. Minimum sample

RESULTS

Table 1: Gender based awareness: Descriptive Statistics

Gender	Average Awareness	Std. Dev. of Awareness	Min Awareness	Max Awareness
F- 48	6.9	3.0	0	10
M- 92	8.0	2.4	0	10
Grand Total- 140	7.6	2.7	0	10

Graph 1: Occupation based awareness among male and female

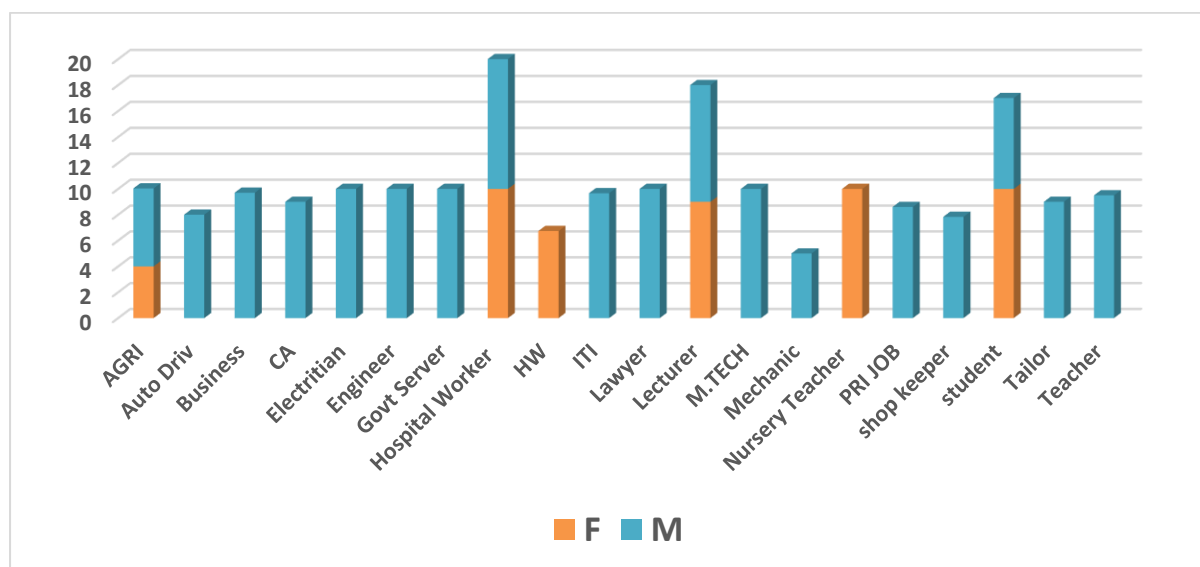


Table 2: Awareness among various age groups: Descriptive statistics

Age group	Average of Aware	Std Dev of Aware	Min of Aware	Max of Aware
18-30	7.5	2.859006	0	10
30-50	7.8	2.399863	1	10
50-70	7.5	2.856091	0	10
70-90	6.8	3.259175	0	10
Grand Total	7.6	2.673035	0	10

Table 3: Awareness based on education and gender

Education	Age group				Grand Total
	18-30	30-50	50-70	70-90	
Graduate+	9	9	10	10	9
High school	6	7	8	5	7
Higher secondary	7	8	9	7	8
Primary	8	6	7	10	7
Informal	7	7	5	6	6
Illiterate		7	5		6
Grand Total	8	8	8	7	8

Table 4: Chi-Squaretest for significance

Chi-square Test for significance			
Variables	Pearson Chi-Square	P-Value	@5% level of Significant
Occupation	176.16	0.756	Insignificant
Age	32.81	0.331	Insignificant
Education	85.41	0.000	Significant
Gender	20.77	0.023	Significant

140 IPD patients accomplished the questionnaire on the awareness of patient's responsibilities of which. 76.14% patients were aware and 23.86% were unaware of their responsibilities towards health care. Factors influencing the awareness according to this study are as follows -

Education: Is significant association factor

Gender: Has significant association where males were more aware than females.

Age: Has no significant difference as awareness was equal among all the age group of IPD patients

Occupation: Has no significant association with awareness.

DISCUSSION

Patient responsibilities are important towards health care and hospital and are required in health care ethics, but is not followed up to the mark by patients as they are more inclined towards rights than responsibilities. Our modern societies have always given special prominence to patients' rights, but rarely acknowledged the existence of their responsibilities. However, rights have to be fully balanced with obligations. Patients are not only duty-bound by the traditional relationship they have with medical professionals, but also by their role in society through healthcare. Nowadays, as societies cannot afford irresponsible behaviour from the public in health care systems, more attention has been paid to patients' duties. These do not just have moral consequences, but also legal ones. Can a patient be held responsible for a bad outcome in a medical treatment? Recent debates have shown that this question is a global problem, and it therefore

requires an international overview. Such a study will help to clarify patients' duties and show how the legal system deals with them and what has been done so far to engage more patients in their own health. This survey helped me to understand the views of inpatients responsibilities towards hospitals and doctors. In our study we found out that 76.14% patients were aware and 23.86% were unaware of their responsibilities towards health care. No such studies were conducted on patient's responsibilities amongst the inpatients hence; this study reveals a valid data about the Awareness of inpatients responsibilities in various hospitals.

What can be done?

- In hospital-to identify less educated patients with help of questionnaire format and educate them.
- Globally this questionnaire can be filled online and applied globally.
- Mobile app can be developed on questionnaire and can be analysed.
- General rules and regulation can be displayed in the form of videos

What can be the outcome?

- Some services may be free in hospitals which can be brought to notice
- Medicines can be replaced and taken.
- Maximum benefits can be taken like ESI scheme and govt policy where even uneducated patients can be identified and informed.
- For all the above, good communication between admin department, PRO and Doctors with patients will help to take maximum benefits from the hospital.

The study was conducted only on inpatients of few hospitals in Belagavi city. An extensive study should be done including greater number of hospitals in more geographical regions. Further studies are needed to analyze the Awareness of patient's responsibility with the broader scope including various hospitals in different geographical locations.

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