



A STUDY TO ASSESS THE KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDE REGARDING SURROGCAY AMONG WOMEN ATTENDING SELECTED INFERTILITY CLINICS AT BENGALURU, WITH A VIEW TO DEVELOP AN INFORMATION GUIDE SHEET

Sukanya*, Reddamma G. G. and Harina Kumari P. S.

Professor, Government College of Nursing, Fort, Bangalore.

*Corresponding Author: Sukanya

Professor, Government College of Nursing, Fort, Bangalore.

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ABSTRACT

Background and Objectives: Motherhood is a happy movement of the fulfillment of life for every woman, unfortunately due to physiological defects many women remain helpless to give birth to their own off-spring. Through Surrogacy couples can get their own genetically related child and serves as alternative for infertility. In order to educate and modify the attitude of the women, so this study was conducted to assess the knowledge and attitude regarding Surrogacy, among women attending selected infertility clinics, at Bengaluru. **Methods:** Descriptive design, with convenient sampling method was used. Information was collected from 60 women attending infertility clinics, using the structured Interview Schedule and Attitude scale. **Results:** Majority 53.3% of respondents were belongs to the age group of 30-39 years. 43.4% were Hindus, 25% of respondents completed primary school education, 38.3% of subjects were homemakers, 36.6% of respondents had monthly income of Rs.5, 000-Rs 10,000, 45% of respondents had 12-16 years duration of married life, 50% of respondents belongs to both urban and rural area, and 66.7% were belongs to nuclear family. Majority 45% of respondents had information from electronic media, 88.3% were not having the history of infertility. The respondent's overall mean knowledge score was 42.9%. Mean attitude score was 61.4% in positive statements and 53.38% in negative statements and the overall mean attitude score was 57.9%. There is a positive significant relationship between knowledge and attitude of respondents on Surrogacy i.e., higher the knowledge score better is the attitude of respondents. The value of the correlation coefficient ($r = +0.724$) indicates positive correlation between knowledge and attitude of respondents on surrogacy. Analysis of socio-demographic variables showed significant association between education, occupation, income, place of domicile, type of family, family history of infertility with knowledge. Age, income, place of domicile, type of family, with attitude score at 5% level ($P > 0.05$). Analysis of attitude scores of participants, there is significant association between age, family income, place of domicile, type of family etc., with the attitude scores ($P > 0.05$). **Conclusion:** The overall findings of the study clearly showed that the women had inadequate knowledge score (68.3%) and moderate attitude (66.7%). It reveals that, if the women are provided with some sort of educational interventions such as information booklets, teaching programmes, and modules on surrogacy, will update their knowledge and develops positive attitude towards Surrogacy, which in turn contribute to reduce the pain of childless couples.

KEYWORDS: Surrogacy, socio-demographic.

INTRODUCTION

“Motherhood is near to divinity, it is the highest, holiest service to be assumed by mankind” - Howarw.hunter

One of the primary goals of all living creatures is to survive. To do so, cells must be able to reproduce. There are several advantages of reproduction. Firstly, reproduction allows a species of cells to increase its population and subsequently have a higher competitive advantage. Secondly, reproduction can help to introduce genetic variation into a species which can be beneficial in the long run.^[1] Thus, reproduction is essential to the continued survival of a species over time.^[2]

History of surrogate motherhood goes back to biblical times, in Sarah and Abraham, he has written about in bible. American Indians were the first ones to truly begin the surrogate mother history in 1899.^[3] Babylonian law and custom allowed this practice and infertile woman could use the practice to avoid the divorce.^[4]

Failure to reproduction results in infertility. Infertility, a medical diagnosis of reproductive system, is defined as the inability to achieve pregnancy after 1 year of frequent unprotected intercourse. There are two types, primary and secondary. Primary infertility applies to man or

woman who has never been able to conceive. Secondary infertility applies to the inability to conceive after one or both partners have conceived previously.

Need for Study

It is highly unfortunate that millions of individuals and couples around the globe suffer from infertility issues and are reproductively challenged for various medical reasons. Surrogacy is an alternative to infertility. Surrogacy has resulted in thousand of pregnancies being taken to term successfully and babies born to Intended Parents in the United States of America, Europe, and Australia and in other parts of the World with help from surrogate mothers. International Surrogacy extends the opportunity for parenthood to those that do not have the option of Surrogacy in their own country due to legal or financial reasons.^[14]

OBJECTIVES OF STUDY

1. To assess the existing knowledge regarding surrogacy among women attending selected infertility clinics at Bengaluru.
2. To determine the attitude regarding surrogacy among women attending selected infertility clinics.
3. To find the correlation between knowledge and attitude of women attending infertility clinic regarding surrogacy.
4. To find the association between the knowledge level and Attitude of women regarding surrogacy among women with their selected socio demographic variables.

Assumptions

1. Women may have some knowledge regarding surrogacy.
2. Women may have positive attitude towards surrogacy.
3. There may be an association between knowledge and attitude regarding surrogacy among women attending infertility clinics.

Variables

Research variables: Knowledge and Attitude regarding Surrogacy.

Socio-Demographic Variables: Age, Religion, mother's education, occupation, family income, Duration of married life, Place of domicile, Type of family, Source of information, Family history of Infertility.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A descriptive study was conducted to assess the knowledge and attitude regarding surrogacy among women attending selected infertility clinics at Bangalore. The data was collected from 60 women by using structured interview schedule and attitude scale. The convenient sampling was used to select the samples.

Method of Data Collection

The data collection was during for 4 weeks between 08.09.13 to 09.10.13 The investigator collected the data personally after obtaining the permission from The Medical Officer, Caree infertility Centre, Basaveshwarnagar, Ramamani maternal nursing home (Asare), Rajajinagar, Bengaluru. The self-introduction (about the investigator) and details about the study were explained to the participants before conducting the interview. The data was collected in OPD of Caree infertility Centre, Ramamani nursing and maternity home (Asare), during their visit. The confidentiality about the data and findings was assured to the participants. Approximately 5-6 women were interviewed per day and about 30-45 minutes spent with each woman.

Criteria for Selecting the Sample

Inclusion Criteria

1. Women who are attending selected infertility clinics in Bengaluru.
2. Women who are willing to participate in the study.

Exclusion criteria

1. Women who are not available at the time of data collection.
2. Women who are not willing to participate in the study.

The tool was developed by the investigator after reviewing the related literature and guidance from the experts in the field.

Section A

Consisted of baseline data of women attending infertility clinics which includes Age, Religion, Education of mother, occupation, Monthly income, Place of domicile, Type of family, Duration of married life in years, Family history of infertility, and Source of information regarding surrogacy.

Section B

Consists of knowledge related questions about surrogacy contain 30 items which are classified to assess the knowledge.

Section C

Consisted of attitude related statements towards surrogacy, contains 16 items with positive statements and negative statements based on five-point scale.

In this study a descriptive survey approach was adopted to assess the knowledge and attitude of Surrogacy among women attending selected Infertility clinics. The samples were 60 women attending selected infertility clinics. The data collected was tabulated, analyzed and interpreted by using descriptive and inferential statistics based on the objectives of the study.

RESULTS

Section 1: Findings of frequency distribution of socio-demographic variables.

- Majority 53.3% of the subjects were in the age group of 30-39 years followed by 46.7% in 20-29 years
- Most 43.4% of the subjects were Hindus followed by 17% of Muslims and 17% of Christians.
- Most 25% of the subjects were had primary school education, 23.3% were not had formal education, followed by 18.3% had graduation and above.
- Majority 38.3% of the subjects were home makers, followed by 33.4% had private employees, remaining 28.3% had government employees.
- Majority 36.6% of the respondents had monthly income between Rs. 5000-Rs 10,000 followed by 31.7% had monthly income between Rs. 10,001-15,000. remaining 31.7% had monthly income between Rs 15001-20000.
- Majority 45% of the respondents had 12-16 years duration of married life, followed by 30% had 2-6 years of married life.
- Majority 50% of the respondents belonged to urban area remaining were rural area (50%)
- Majority 66.7% of the respondents belonged to nuclear family.

- Majority 45% of respondents obtained information from Electronic media. followed by 33.3% of respondents from Print media
- Majority of 88.3% respondents were not having the family history of infertility.

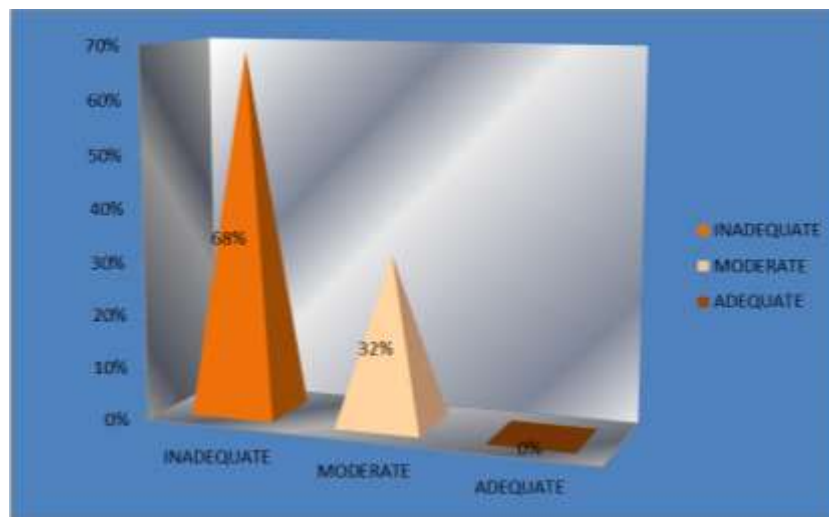
Section 2: Overall and Aspect Wise Knowledge and Attitude Scores On Surrogacy among Women Attending Selected Infertility Clinics.

Table 1: Classification of Knowledge level on Surrogacy among women attending selecting infertility clinics.

Knowledge Level	Category	Respondents	
		Number	Percent
Inadequate	≤ 50 % Score	41	68.3
Moderate	51-75 % Score	19	31.7
Adequate	> 75 % Score	0	0.0
Total		60	100.0

N=60

Data presented in table shows that the majority 68.3% of women are having inadequate knowledge, 31.7% are having Moderate knowledge and no one are having Adequate knowledge regarding Surrogacy.



Findings related to knowledge of women regarding Surrogacy

The respondent's mean knowledge score was 39.2% in introduction to surrogacy, 47.1% in Definition and types of surrogacy, 41.1% in Reasons and Surrogate motherhood, 39.7% in Criteria for Surrogacy, 48.8% in Legal issues, advantages and disadvantages. And the overall mean knowledge score was 42.9%.

Findings related to attitude score of women on Surrogacy

The respondent's mean attitude score was 61.4% in positive statements and 53.38% in negative statements and the overall mean attitude score was 57.9%.

Finding related to the correlation between knowledge and attitude of women regarding surrogacy

There is a positive significant relationship between knowledge and attitude of respondents on Surrogacy i.e., higher the knowledge score better is the attitude of respondents. The value of the correlation coefficient ($r = +0.724$) indicates positive correlation between knowledge and attitude of respondents on surrogacy.

Findings related to association of knowledge scores with selected demographic variables

Among the demographic variables analysed in this study, mother's educational status, mother's occupation, family income, place of domicile, Type of family, and Family

history of infertility, were found to have significant association, and there was no significant association between age, religion, duration of married life, source of information with the level of knowledge.

Findings related to Association between Attitudes with Selected Demographic Variables

Among the demographic variables analysed in this study, Age, family income, place of domicile, Type of family, were found to have significant association between attitude with the selected demographic variables. There was no significant association between Religion, Mother's education, mother's occupation, and Duration of married life, source of information, and family history of infertility with attitude on surrogacy.

Development of information guide sheet

Information guide sheet was prepared after validating it with experts. The present study shows that women had moderate knowledge and most of them had neutral attitude regarding Surrogacy, the information guide sheet was distributed to them with the intention of enhancing their knowledge and bringing up positive attitude. The study concluded with further recommendations.

DISCUSSION

To assess the knowledge of women attending infertility clinics regarding Surrogacy

The respondent's mean knowledge score was 39.2% in introduction to surrogacy, 47.1% in Definition and types of surrogacy, 41.1% in Reasons and Surrogate motherhood, 39.7% in Criteria for Surrogacy, 48.8% in Legal issues, advantages and disadvantages. And the overall mean knowledge score was 42.9%. Findings are similar with the study conducted by **Suhrbrand F, Jafasabadi M.** Conducted on Knowledge and attitude of infertile couples about assisted reproductive technology.^[36]

To assess the attitude of women attending infertility clinics regarding Surrogacy

The respondent's mean attitude score was 61.4% in positive statements and 53.38% in negative statements and the overall mean attitude score was 57.9%.

Findings are similar with the study conducted by **Suhrbrand F, Jafasabadi M** Conducted on Knowledge and attitude of infertile couples about assisted reproductive technology.^[36]

The findings are also similar with the study conducted by **Baykal B, Korkmaz C, Ceyhan ST, Goktolga U, Baser I,** opinions of infertile Turkish women on gamete donation and gestation surrogacy.^[47]

The findings are also coincides with the study conducted by **Stöbel-Richter Y, Goldschmidt S, Brähler E, Weidner K, Beutel M.** Egg donation, surrogate mothering, and cloning: attitudes of men and women towards the treatment methods of reproductive medicine.

Implications of the Study

The findings of this study have implications in various areas of nursing namely nursing practice, nursing education, nursing administration and nursing research.

Nursing Practice

To become a mother is like a flowering process, which is considered as the moments of the fulfillment of life. Surrogacy is the one of the method in assisted reproductive technology. Surrogacy itself presents as the most viable and reliable alternative for infertility. Measures should be taken to improve their knowledge. Education programme with effective teaching strategies will help women to improve their knowledge regarding surrogacy, and to accept it is one of the best treatments in assisted reproductive technology for infertility, Various Teaching strategies can be used to improve in their knowledge and attitude on surrogacy in order to promote health of the children in schools.

Nursing Education

The Diploma and B.Sc. Nursing curriculum should consist of vast knowledge related to Infertility and management of infertility ie surrogacy. Information using different methods of conducting health education and infertility controlling and treatment programmes in various community settings, OPD and in parents' associations. While training the nursing personnel emphasis should be on management of infertility, knowledge, misconceptions, legal aspects about the Surrogacy and counselling of parents along with family members.

Nurses at the post-graduate level need to develop skills in preparing health teaching material in various health aspects Surrogacy, newer techniques have to be used for motivating staff participation. Emphasis should be made on in service education and training programmes in the hospital and colleges to increase the knowledge and attitude among women.

Nursing Administration

1. The nurse administrator should arrange continuing education programme for nursing personnel regarding Surrogacy programme.
2. This will help the nurse administrator to prepare adequate learning materials for giving health education in the ward and OPD.
3. This will help the nurse administrator to emphasis and encourage the nurse to use different strategies to educate mothers regarding infertility, assisted reproductive technologies, and Surrogacy.
4. Nursing personnel should be prepared to take leadership role in educating the mothers and relatives to develop positive attitude regarding surrogacy..
5. The nurse administrators should explore their potentials and encourage innovative ideas in preparation of appropriate teaching material. She should organize to see that sufficient manpower,

money and material for disseminating health information.

Nursing Research

Various studies conducted by researchers showed that the Infertility is increasing through the world. There is need for extensive research towards the treatment of infertility. Research should focus on improvement of knowledge, attitude and practice women regarding treatment modalities of infertility. Research should be done on new methods of teaching to enable women to improve knowledge on surrogacy.

The study will motivate the beginning researchers to conduct same study with different variables on a large scale.

Nurses should come forward to take up unsolved questions in the field and nursing fraternity. The public and private agencies should also encourage researcher in the field through materials and funds.

Thus, the present investigation offers infinite scope and potential implications for nursing practice, training and research aspects of surrogacy.

Limitations

1. The study is limited only to women who are attending selected infertility clinics in Bengaluru.
2. The study did not use control group.
3. Small number of respondents and convenient sampling limits the generalization of the study.
4. The sample was limited to 60 only.
5. Long-term follow-up could not be carried out due to time constraints.

Suggestions

- a) Awareness programmes can be arranged for the parents regarding Surrogacy in community setup.
- b) A planned teaching programme can be conducted on knowledge, attitude and practice regarding Surrogacy.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study the following recommendations are made.

- 1) A similar study may be conducted on a larger sample for wider generalization.
- 2) A similar study can be conducted among students and staff nurses.
- 3) A similar study may be conducted in community areas.
- 4) Manuals, information booklets and self-instruction module may be developed.
- 5) The comparative study can be conducted on urban hospital and rural hospital.
- 6) An experimental study can be conducted with structured teaching programme on knowledge, and attitude regarding surrogacy among couples attending infertility clinics.

- 7) Assess the effectiveness of video assisted teaching programme regarding antenatal care of surrogate mothers at selected infertility clinics.
- 8) Follow up study can be conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of IGS.

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