

A Comparative Study to Assess the Knowledge and Practices regarding Components of First Aid Management among Students of Selected Government and Private Schools of Palampur, District Kangra (HP)

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Abstract

Injuries are most common problems faced by the children and adolescents. Basic first aid knowledge helps children to deal with emergency. In the hills of Himachal Pradesh, health facilities are usually located far off places due to typical topography. Keeping this fact in view, this study has been planned to assess knowledge and practices regarding components of first aid management among students. A quantitative research approach and non-experimental comparative descriptive design was used to conduct study on 100 students from selected government and private schools by non-probability purposive sampling technique. A self-structured tool was adopted to assess knowledge and practices regarding components of first aid. Result showed that 72 percent students in government school and 88 percent students in private school were having average knowledge; 68 percent students in government school were following good practice and 54 percent in private school were following average practices. The mean scores obtained by government school students and private school students were 17.46 ± 3.483 and 15.68 ± 3.310 respectively. Computed t value is 2.619 which is more than table value and shows that there is a significant difference in knowledge level between students of selected government and private schools at the level of 0.05 df. Mean practice scores of government school students and private school students were 9.70 ± 1.474 and 8.82 ± 1.480 respectively. Computed t value is 2.978 hence there is a significant difference in the practice scores of government and private schools students. Computed r values for government school and private school students were 0.389 and 0.359 respectively. It was concluded that there is a significant difference between the knowledge and practices regarding components of first aid management among students of selected government and private schools.

Key words: First aid, Knowledge, Practices

First aid is first assistance given to a casualty for injury or illness before the arrival of an ambulance, a qualified paramedical or before arriving at a facility that can provide professional medical care. School age children become more independent with age. This independence leads to an increased self-confidence and decreased fears, which may contribute to accidents and injuries and hence require first aid more often than do adults. Overall, majority of the injuries among children are directly related to outdoor physical activities, of which 20 percent occur in school.

Basic first aid knowledge helps children to deal with emergency. Children should be taught

about different first aid measures, both at home and at school, this enables them to overcome difficult situations like emergencies. First aid is all about using common sense in the hour of need.

First aid is not only just about helping crash victims at roadside or in the hospital. But also calming an injured person. Certain self limiting illnesses or minor injuries may not require further medical care immediately if first aid is given. It aims to preserve and protect life, prevent further injuries or deterioration of health, and promote recovery. First aid box includes first aid manual, thermometer, safety pins, triangular bandage, tweezers, scissors, antiseptic wipes or solution, gloves, bandages, gauze roll and packs, instant ice pack, elastic bandage, cotton, adhesive tape, band aids, analgesics, sprays, antiseptic creams,

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emergency contact numbers information etc. In developing countries, school health services are often neglected, this directly influences the management of common illnesses such as first aid or referral.

Need for the study

Lifestyles throughout the different global regions, are changing rapidly, deeply affecting the working condition, living environment and occupational hazards. In such a milieu it is imperative that every responsible citizen should have sufficient knowledge of rendering first aid to the sick or injured persons till the victims reach the safe hands of qualified personnel. Safety and security are of paramount importance in school environment. School life is a remarkable period in children's life where each one of them faces a whole world. Knowledge of first aid promotes healthy environment. Having staff and students who are well equipped with first aid skills contributes to enhancing the safety of the schools as well as community.

In the hills of Himachal Pradesh, injuries are very common either due to natural calamities or man-made situations. Health facilities are usually located at very far off places due to typical topography. It is therefore important to equip the people of Himachal Pradesh with the skills of first aid right from their school level; to handle any situation requiring first aid before the qualified medical help reaches the point. Keeping these facts in view, this study was planned to assess knowledge and practices regarding components of first aid management among students. This will be beneficial for prevention of many morbidities and mortalities in future as it will sensitise the students to learn first aid management.

Review of Literature

Alshammari O Khalid (2021) conducted a study on assessment of knowledge, attitude, and practice about first aid among male school teachers in Hail city. Sample size was 604 teachers who completed an online structured questionnaire. Among them, 90.9 percent knew about first aids; 58.28 percent teachers had not taken first aid training and 87.9 percent need to learn first aid principles. Age, sex, and marital status were significantly associated with the knowledge.

Semwal Jayanti et al (2017) conducted a descriptive cross-sectional survey in public school of Doiwala, Dehradun for one year among school children of class 9 to 12. Knowledge, attitude and practices regarding common medical emergencies were assessed with help of questionnaire. Out of 441 students, 91 percent had heard about the

first aid. Only 17 percent students had complete knowledge about first aid and 33 percent of students had partial knowledge.

Gupta Khushboo et al (2019) did a comparative study of first aid knowledge and attitude among medical, dental and pharmacy students in AIMST University Malaysia. Data from 222 students was collected by self-administered questionnaire. Result showed that overall medical students answered most questions in comparison to dental and pharmacy students. The p value computed was less than 0.05 showing that there is a significant difference in terms of knowledge between the three faculties. However the p value obtained for the attitude was more than 0.05 citing no significant difference in attitude among the students from the three faculty.

Objectives

- To assess the knowledge scores and practice scores regarding components of first aid management among students of selected government and private schools of Palampur, District Kangra (HP).
- To compare the knowledge scores and practice scores regarding components of first aid management among students of selected government and private schools of Palampur, District Kangra (HP).
- To determine the relationship between knowledge score and practice scores regarding components of first aid management among students of selected government and private schools of Palampur, District Kangra (HP).
- To find out the association of knowledge score and practice scores regarding components of first aid management among students of selected government and private schools with their selected socio demographic variables.

Operational definition: In this study the term components of first aid management refers to the items used in first aid of fall, bruises, bleeding, fracture, choking and burn.

Result and Discussion

Seventy-two percent students in government school and 88 percent students in private school were having average knowledge; 68 percent students of government school were following good practices; 54 percent students of private school were following average practices (Table 1). Similar descriptive study conducted by Kala et al (2019) to assess the knowledge regarding first aid measures for common injuries in children among school teachers showed that 47 percent had adequate knowledge, 33 percent had moderate

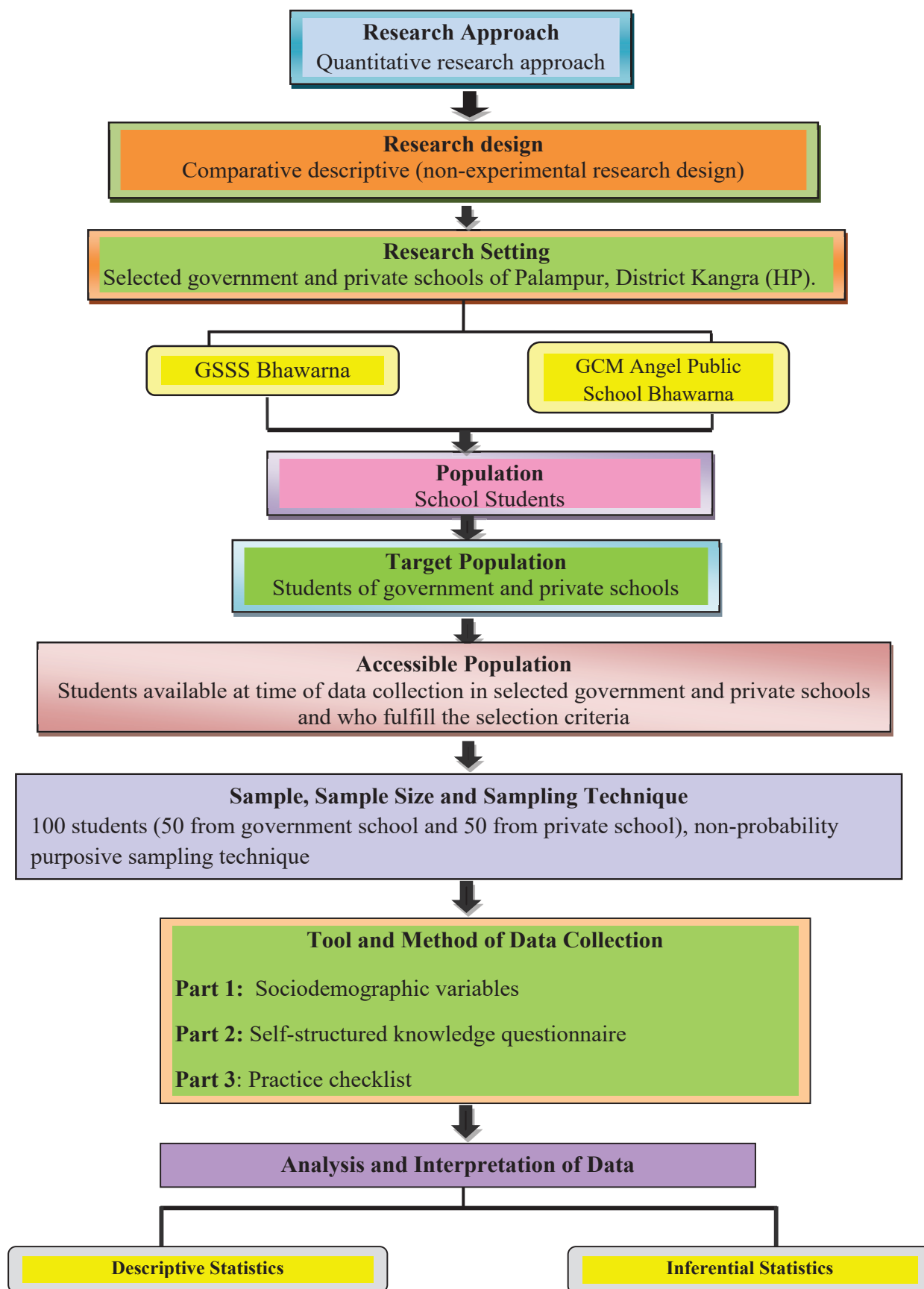


Fig 1: Methodology.

Table 1: Frequency, percentage distribution of selected socio demographic variables of students of selected government and private schools (N=100)

S. No.	Sociodemographic variables	Government schools		Private schools	
		(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)
1	Age (years)				
	11-12	01	02.00	01	02.00
	13-14	40	80.00	45	90.00
	15-16	09	18.00	04	08.00
2	Gender				
	Male	29	58.00	31	62.00
	Female	21	42.00	19	38.00
3	Religion				
	Hindu	48	96.00	48	96.00
	Muslim	01	02.00	00	00.00
	Sikh	00	00.00	00	00.00
	Others	01	02.00	20	04.00
4	Place of residence				
	Rural	44	88.00	50	100.00
	Urban	60	12.00	00	00.00
5	Type of school				
	Government	50	100.0	00	00.00
	Private	00	00.00	50	100.00
6	Class				
	8th	25	50.00	25	50.00
	9th	25	50.00	25	50.00
7	Type of family				
	Nuclear	28	56.00	18	36.00
	Joint	22	44.00	31	62.00
	Extended	00	00.00	10	02.00
8	Health camp attended				
	Yes	20	40.00	42	84.00
	No	30	60.00	80	16.00
9	Previous source of information				
	Yes	30	60.00	33	66.00
	No	20	40.00	17	34.00
10	If yes, then specify				
	Book	22	44.00	18	36.00
	Family	02	04.00	09	18.00
	Peer group	01	02.00	00	00.00
	Mass media	05	10.00	06	12.00

knowledge and 20 percent had inadequate knowledge. Overall mean scores were 13.7 ± 3.86 . There was a significant association between age, gender, religion, education, occupation, class, past experience, communication and previous exposure of information with the level of knowledge among school teachers regarding first aid measures for

Table 2: Comparison of knowledge scores regarding components of first aid among students of selected government and private schools (N=100)

Group	Mean	Median	S.D	t value	p value
Group A	17.46	17.5	3.483	2.619*	0.010
Group B	15.68	16.0	3.310		

Table 3: Comparison of practice scores regarding components of first aid among students of selected government and private schools (N=100)

Group	Mean	SD	t value	p value
Group A	9.70	1.474	2.978*	0.004
Group B	8.82	1.480		

* Significant at $p < 0.05$ level

Table 4: Correlation between knowledge and practice scores regarding components of first aid among students of government and private schools (N=100)

Group	Knowledge scores		Practice scores		r value
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	
Group A	17.46	3.483	9.70	1.474	0.389*
Group B	15.68	3.310	8.82	1.480	0.359*

*Significant at $p < 0.05$

common injuries.

In current study (Tables 2-4) mean scores obtained by government school and private school students were 17.46 ± 3.483 and 15.68 ± 3.310 respectively. Computed t value was 2.619 which showed that there is a significant difference in knowledge level between students of selected government and private schools at the level of 0.05 df. Mean practice scores of government school students and private school students were 9.70 ± 1.474 and 8.82 ± 1.480 respectively. Computed t value is 2.978, hence there is a significant difference in the practice scores of government and private schools students. Computed r values for government school and private school students were 0.389 and 0.359 respectively. It was concluded that there is a significant difference between the knowledge and practices regarding components of first aid management among students of selected government and private schools.

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Mean knowledge scores of students of gov-

ernment and private schools were 17.46 ± 3.483 and 15.69 ± 3.310 and mean practice scores were 9.70 ± 1.474 and 8.82 ± 1.480 respectively. Computed r values for students of government school and private school were 0.389 and 0.359 respectively. Hence, it was inferred that there was a positive correlation between the level of knowledge and practices regarding components of first aid among students of government and private schools.

There was significant association between the knowledge score, practice scores and selected sociodemographic variables among students of government and private schools.

Nursing Implications

- Conduct workshops or conferences and health camps for students regarding first aid management.
- Information booklet and continuing education programme should be developed for the students and nursing personnel regarding first aid management.
- Nurses should use adequate evidence-based practices of first aid.
- Nursing administration can organise conferences, seminars, mock drills and workshops for nurses to enhance knowledge and skills regarding first aid management. It can provide financial support to the nurses in organising first aid workshops and camps for the school students.
- Disseminate the findings of research through different mediums.
- Use findings as evidences in the future studies.
- Conduct researches regarding components of first aid management on broad setting.

Recommendations

- Similar study may be replicated on large sample and different populations.

- Similar study can be carried out using various research designs.

Conclusion

From the result of the study it was concluded that there is a significant difference between the knowledge and practice regarding components of first aid management among students of government and private schools of Palampur, Kangra (HP).

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