

Synopsis

Title: Health Literacy Among Older Adults in Bihar, Delhi NCR, and Kolkata: Impact on Healthcare Utilization

Introduction

Health literacy is a crucial determinant of health outcomes, especially for older adults who often manage multiple chronic conditions and navigate complex healthcare systems (1). This study assesses the health literacy levels of older adults in Bihar, Delhi NCR, and Kolkata and examines how these levels influence healthcare utilization patterns. Understanding health literacy's role in healthcare utilization can help improve health outcomes and reduce the burden on healthcare systems (2).

Research Question

What is the health literacy levels among elderly patients in Bihar, Delhi NCR, and Kolkata, and how do these levels affect healthcare utilization?

Objective

1. To assess health literacy levels among elderly individuals in Bihar, Delhi NCR, and Kolkata.
2. To determine how health literacy influences healthcare-seeking behaviours among these elderly patients.

Hypothesis

Higher health literacy levels among elderly patients are associated with more proactive healthcare-seeking behaviours and better health outcomes.

Study Design - Descriptive and cross-sectional.

Setting - Bihar, Delhi NCR, and Kolkata.

Study Population - Elderly patients residing in Bihar, Delhi NCR, and Kolkata.

Sample Size - 60 participants.

Sampling Technique - Online interviews conducted using Google Forms, distributed via WhatsApp, email, and phone calls.

Operational Definition

- **Health Literacy:** The ability to obtain, comprehend, and make informed choices about one's health based on essential health information and services.
- **Healthcare Utilization:** The frequency and types of healthcare services used by the study participants.

Data Analysis Plan

- **Quantitative Data:** Descriptive statistics to summarize health literacy levels and healthcare utilization patterns; inferential statistics to explore the correlation between health literacy and healthcare utilization.
- **Qualitative Data:** Open-ended survey responses to uncover recurring themes regarding health literacy and healthcare utilization.

References

1. D'Cruz AM, Shankar Aradhya MR. Health literacy among Indian adults seeking dental care. *Dent Res J (Isfahan)*. 2013 Jan;10(1):20–4.
2. Liu C, Wang D, Liu C, Jiang J, Wang X, Chen H, et al. What is the meaning of health literacy? A systematic review and qualitative synthesis. *Fam Med Community Health*. 2020 May;8(2):e000351.