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Knowledge and Attitudes towards Epilepsy among Parents in Osogbo Lga Osun State, Nigeria

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Abstract: Background Epilepsy is a disease characterized by abnormal brain activities causing seizures or unusual behavior, feelings and sometimes loss of awareness. It has neurological, cognitive, psychological and social after-effects and it affects people of all ages, race, social classes, and geographical location. It constitutes a major portion of the global burden of disease, affecting around 50 million people worldwide. This study therefore aims to explore the knowledge and attitudes towards epilepsy among parents in Osogbo LGA Osun state, Nigeria.

MATERIALS AND METHODS: A descriptive cross-sectional study design was used and 234 participants living in Osogbo Local Government Area were used. The data collected was on knowledge of and attitude towards epilepsy. Data was analyzed using SPSS version 23. Chi square and binary logistic regression were used.

RESULTS: Most respondents (94%) have heard of epilepsy with their main sources of information from mass media, health worker, relations/friends and internet. 95.3% of respondents had good knowledge of epilepsy, while 59% had positive attitude to epilepsy. Predictors of respondents' attitude towards people living with epilepsy, respondents with age group of 36-45 years (OR= 0.316, Cl= 0.146 - 0.686, P= 0.004). Also respondents with good knowledge are eight times more likely (8.597) to have poor attitude towards people living with epilepsy.

CONCLUSION: In conclusion, parents living in Osogbo local government area as represented by the study sample have a good level of knowledge on epilepsy and good attitude towards epilepsy in general. There is still a need for continuous community education about epilepsy with the aim of improving the knowledge and attitude of members of the community towards the disease

Keywords: Epilepsy, Knowledge and Attitude.

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BACKGROUND

Epilepsy is a disease characterized by abnormal brain activities causing seizures or unusual behavior, feelings and sometimes loss of awareness. It has neurological, cognitive, psychological and social after-effects and it affects people of all ages, race, social classes, and geographical location. It constitutes a major portion of the global burden of disease, affecting around 50 million people worldwide (World Health Organization 2019). Epilepsy is a chronic neurological disorder characterized by unpredicted, periodic seizures (Fiest KM et al., 2017).

The prevalence rate of epilepsy in children ranges from 3.2% to 5.5% in developed countries and 3.6% to 4.4% in underdeveloped countries (Camfield P, Camfield C 2015), which is mostly related to underlying genetic conditions or brain injuries at childbirth, etc. Previous studies have shown that about 30% of children with epilepsy still had seizures after antiepileptic drug (AED) therapy (Moosa Anv. 2015). The number of people with epilepsy is increasing due to rising life expectancy worldwide and an increasing number of people surviving insults which lead to epilepsy, such as birth trauma, traumatic brain injury (TBI), infections of brain and stoke (World Health Organization 2019).

In African continent, epilepsy remains a major public health problem, not only because of impact on health but also the socio-cultural, psychological, and economic impact. Active epilepsy is estimated to affect 4.4 million people in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), whilst lifetime epilepsy is estimated to affect 5.4 million with the peak in the third decade of life (A. Paul et al., 2012)

The importance of addressing epilepsy was also underlined in a World Health Assembly resolution on the global burden of epilepsy in 2015. The resolution requests that WHO provide technical support to countries for epilepsy management, especially those with the lowest access to services and resources, where the burden of epilepsy is greatest. (WHO World health organization. 2019).

These underlying genetics or metabolic conditions, along with poor seizure control, will have negative effects on their cerebral and psychological development. However, it has been suggested that the most weakened CWE are not necessarily those who have the most constant seizure attacks, but those who do not get sufficient social support (Kinariwalla N and Sen A. 2016). Parents are undisputed the main source of social support (Mahon NE, and Yarcheski A 2017). Apart from offering financial support for antiepileptic drug (AED), their attitudes toward epilepsy will directly affect the CWE's perception of epilepsy (Sigueira NF et al., 2015) since CWE are too young to get independent and comprehensive views of epilepsy, and cultural restrictions often lead to unsound judgment. Incomplete perception of epilepsy will place them at elevated risk for physiological complications including mental discomfort related to education, marriage, employment, and social life (Tsuji S. 2004). Hence few work in epilepsy before found more severe symptoms of anxiety and depression and poorer sleep quality among parents of CWE, especially in the infants group (Yang HJ et al., 2020). they believe that mental stress may stem from the pessimism or attitudes toward epilepsy, and the increasing mental stress may in turn aggravate stigma and negative attitudes. This theory highlights the importance of evaluating CWE parents' attitudes toward epilepsy and identifying related factors for positive intervention to promote the efficacy of long-term treatment and reduce the risk of mental disorders.

The physical, psychological and social sequelae of epilepsy lay large burden on people living with epilepsy and their families. Around the world, people with epilepsy and their families experience stigma and discrimination, they constantly face severe hardship in schooling, working, conjugality and reproduction and epilepsy causes low self-esteem and prevent people from being social. About 80% of people living with epilepsy live in low and middle- income countries (LMICs), where there is poor access to care. (World Health Organization 2018). In low and middle-income countries of Africa, that have the greatest number of the world's population under age of 15 (Baingana Fk, & Bos ER.,2012), children with epilepsy suffer especially poor health outcomes and have high risk of serious comorbidities and injuries (Keezer M.R et al., 2016). Epilepsy is one of the most common neurological disease, with prevalence rate varying from 2.8 to 19.5/1000 in the general population (Owolabi LF et al.,2019). Epilepsy is still concealed in misinformation and misbelieve

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(Kaddumukasa M et al., 2018) The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which sought to achieve universal economic, social and environmental sustainable development by 2030, will not be realized without investment in physical and mental health for all people, including those living with epilepsy. (World Health Organization 2019).

Seizures may be associated with fever or may occur without it. Seizures associated with fever occur mainly in children below the age of five years and are referred to as febrile convulsions or febrile seizures, epilepsy is generally defined as a clinical conditions characterized by the occurrence of two or more episodes of a febrile seizures or convulsions (Patel N et al., 2015).

Epilepsy is not contagious. Although many underlying disease mechanisms can lead to epilepsy, the causes of epilepsy are mainly due to brain damage from prenatal or perinatal causes (e.g. a loss of oxygen or trauma during birth, low birth weight), congenital abnormalities or genetic conditions with associated brain malformations and a severe head injury. Preventing head injury is the most effective way to prevent post-traumatic epilepsy. Adequate perinatal care can reduce new cases of epilepsy caused by birth injury (World Health Organization 2018).

PROBLEM STATEMENT

Epilepsy accounts for a significant proportion of the world's disease burden, affecting around 50 million people worldwide. The estimated proportion of the general population with active epilepsy (i.e. continuous seizures or with the need for treatment) at a given time is between 4 and 10 per 1000 people (World Health Organization 2018)

In 2018, the WHO joined efforts with the International League Against Epilepsy and IBE to create the first WHO global report on epilepsy: "Epilepsy: A Public Health Imperative (World Health Organization 2019). However, the ILAE and IBE also recognize that comprehensive and inclusive advocacy actions require multilateral initiatives involving global partners with the capacity to reach local health service decision-makers and grassroots organizations. For decades, the advocacy endeavors of the ILAE and IBE have engaged the WHO in constructing a growing "Global Burden of Epilepsy and the Need for Coordinated Action at the Country Level to Address Its Health, Social and Public Knowledge Implications." Endorsed by all 194WHO member states. This historic resolution consists of four sections: (1) recognition of the global burden of epilepsy; (2) need for country-level actions such as urging member states to take specific actions in the areas of health policy, health care action plans, health care coverage, education and research, and public engagement; (3) an invitation for multilateral engagement; and (4) a call for the WHO secretariat to improve health information and surveillance systems to get a clearer picture of the global burden of epilepsy and its economic impact, as well as to measure progress in improving access to care for people with epilepsy(Covanis A et al., 2015).

Globally, an estimated 5 million people are diagnosed with epilepsy each year. In high-income countries, there are estimated to be 49 per 100 000 people diagnosed with epilepsy each year. In low-and middle-income countries, this figure can be as high as 139 per 100 000. This is likely due to the increased risk of endemic conditions such as malaria or neurocysticercosis; the higher incidence of road traffic injuries; birth-related injuries; and variations in medical infrastructure, the availability of preventive health programs and accessible care. Close to 80% of people with epilepsy live in low-and middle-income countries (World Health Organization 2018).

Its burden include a time based measure that combines years of life lost due to premature mortality and lived in less than full health. Thus, epilepsy has significant economic implications in terms of health-care needs, premature death and lost work productivity (World Health Organization 2018).

JUSTIFICATION OF THE STUDY

Studies indicate epilepsy accounts for a significant proportion of the world's disease burden and it is of public health importance. Although, several studies have reported high level of awareness in various population, the reported misconceptions, religious and cultural beliefs about the cause and management of epilepsy and stigma experience of people with epilepsy have made the life of these people miserable indicating urgent need to address these research findings (Ibor, E.K et al., 2018).



Epilepsy in Nigeria as in most parts of sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) has only been superficially researched.

Survey on parent's knowledge and attitude towards people living with epilepsy is useful in decreasing discrimination; in general, it is believed that measures put in place to improve knowledge about epilepsy in the general public should reduce prejudices. Identifying the basis for misunderstanding and misconception, which usually form the basis for discrimination and stigma, in our environment, will serve as a springboard to launch programs or campaigns specifically targeted towards addressing them.

Few studies have investigated the problems of the knowledge and attitudes of the general public, and especially the parents, towards epilepsy in Nigeria. This study, therefore, aims to provide information about the knowledge and attitudes of these critical members of the population towards epilepsy

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- 1. What is the knowledge of epilepsy among parents in Osogbo LGA Osun state, Nigeria?
- 2. What is the attitude towards epilepsy among parents in Osogbo LGA Osun state, Nigeria?
- 3. What are the factors that influences parent's attitude towards epilepsy in Osogbo LGA Osun state, Nigeria?

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

General Objective: The general objective of this study was to explore the knowledge and attitudes towards epilepsy among parents in Osogbo LGA Osun state, Nigeria.

Specific objectives:

- 1. To assess the knowledge of epilepsy among parents in Osogbo LGA Osun state, Nigeria.
- 2. To assess the attitude towards epilepsy among parents in Osogbo LGA Osun state, Nigeria.
- 3. To investigate the factors that influence parent's attitude towards epilepsy in Osogbo LGA Osun state, Nigeria.

Hypothesis Testing

- 1. H0: There is no significant association between knowledge and attitude towards epilepsy among parents in Osogbo LGA Osun state, Nigeria
- 2. H1: There is a significant association between knowledge and attitudes towards epilepsy among parents in Osogbo LGA Osun state, Nigeria

MATERIALS AND METHODS

STUDY AREA

This study was conducted in Osun State. Osun is one of the states in southwestern Nigeria, with a population of about 4.4 million (NPC, 2022). There are 3 senatorial districts distributed among 30 Local Government Areas (LGAs) with Area council at Ife. There are 2 teaching hospitals, nine general hospitals, and numerous Primary Health Care centers and private hospitals providing primary care services in Osun state. This study was carried out in Osogbo, Osun State Nigeria. Osogbo the capital city of Osun State. There are 3 local Government Area within Osogbo namely Olorunda, Osogbo and Egbedore Local Government Areas. Cross sectional study design was adopted to determine the knowledge and attitudes towards epilepsy among parents in Osogbo LGA Osun state, Nigeria. The target population of this study include only parent living in Osogbo local government area, Osun State. Multistage sampling technique was used as the sampling technique to select the participants.



Data Analysis

The data collected was coded, cleans, computed and analyzed using SPSS version 23.0 (Statistical Product and Service Solution version 23.0). Descriptive analysis was used and data was presented in frequency tables and percentages and inferential statistics such as the chi square test to determine the level of association between two categorical variables that is respondents' socio-demographic characteristics and the knowledge and attitudes among parent towards epilepsy in Osogbo local government area, Osun state, Nigeria.

Binary logistic regression was used to identify the knowledge and attitude among the respondents with P value < 0.05 & confidence interval = 95%.

ETHICAL CONSIDERATION

Ethical clearance was obtained from the Health Research and Ethics Committee. Verbal Consent were also obtained from respondents after the reason for the study had been explained to them. The respondents were assured of confidentiality and security of data. They were also assured that they can decline participation in the research without any prejudice, before questionnaires were administered.

RESULTS 4.1. Table 1: Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Respondents (N=234)

VARIABLE	SUB VARIABLE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Age group	19-29years	13	5.6
	30-39 years	95	40.6
	40-49 years	73	31.2
	50 and above	53	22.6
Level of Education	None	49	20.9
	Primary	1	0.4
	Secondary	14	6
	Tertiary	170	72.6
Ethnicity	Yoruba	194	82.9
	Hausa	15	6.4
	Igbo	22	9.4
	Others	3	1.3
Occupation	Employed	67	28.6
	Self-employed	132	56.4
	Unemployed	35	15.0
Religion	Islam	66	28.2
	Christianity	158	67.5
Marital Status	Single	35	15.0
	Married	177	75.6
	Divorced	14	6
	Widower	8	3.4
Sex	Male	87	37.2
	Female	147	62.8

Table 1 above shows socio-demographic characteristics of respondents. Majority of the respondents had tertiary education (72.6%), majority originated from Yoruba tribe (82.9%). More than half (56.4%) were self-employed, and 15.0% of them were unemployed. About two-third (67.2%) practiced Christianity as a religion, 28.4% practiced Islam, while others practiced the traditional religion. Also, majority (75.4%) were married and 62.9% of them were female

4.2. Table 2: Knowledge of Respondents on Epilepsy (N=234)

Variable	Sub-variable	Frequency	Percentage
Have you Heard of Epilepsy	Yes	220	94
	No	14	6
Source of information (N=220)			
Mass Media	Yes	157	71.4
	No	63	28.6
Health worker/Practitioner	Yes	116	52.7
	No	104	47.3
Relations/Friends	Yes	138	62.7
	No	82	37.3
Internet	Yes	126	57.3
	No	94	42.7
Risk factor			1-17
Family History	Yes	128	54.7
Turning Tristory	No	106	45.3
Head Injuries	Yes	38	16.2
Tieuu injuries	No	196	83.8
Brain Abnormalities	Yes	57	24.4
Diam / Monormanues	No	177	75.6
Prenatal Injury	Yes	40	17.1
i renatai mjury	No	194	82.9
Infections	Yes	49	20.9
infections	No	185	79.1
Is Epilepsy Contagious	Yes	84	35.9
Is Ephepsy Contagious	No	90	38.5
	INO	90	25.6
	I don't know	60	
Γable 2b: Knowledge of Respondents on Epileps			
· · ·		00	
If yes, it can be transmitted through(N=84)	sy		13.1
· · ·	sy Yes	11	13.1 86.9
If yes, it can be transmitted through(N=84) Sexual Route	yes No	11 73	86.9
If yes, it can be transmitted through(N=84)	Yes No Yes	11 73 11	86.9 13.1
If yes, it can be transmitted through(N=84) Sexual Route Shaking Hands	Yes No Yes No	11 73 11 73	86.9 13.1 86.9
If yes, it can be transmitted through(N=84) Sexual Route	Yes No Yes No Yes No Yes	11 73 11 73 3	86.9 13.1 86.9 3.6
If yes, it can be transmitted through(N=84) Sexual Route Shaking Hands Sharing Plate	Yes No Yes No Yes No Yes No	11 73 11 73 3 81	86.9 13.1 86.9 3.6 96.4
If yes, it can be transmitted through(N=84) Sexual Route Shaking Hands	Yes No Yes No Yes No Yes No Yes No Yes	11 73 11 73 3 81 21	86.9 13.1 86.9 3.6 96.4 25
If yes, it can be transmitted through(N=84) Sexual Route Shaking Hands Sharing Plate Kissing	Yes No Yes No Yes No Yes No Yes No Yes No	11 73 11 73 3 81 21 63	86.9 13.1 86.9 3.6 96.4 25 75
If yes, it can be transmitted through(N=84) Sexual Route Shaking Hands Sharing Plate	Yes No Yes	11 73 11 73 3 81 21 63 33	86.9 13.1 86.9 3.6 96.4 25 75 39.3
If yes, it can be transmitted through(N=84) Sexual Route Shaking Hands Sharing Plate Kissing Sneezing	Yes No	11 73 11 73 3 81 21 63 33 51	86.9 13.1 86.9 3.6 96.4 25 75 39.3 60.7
If yes, it can be transmitted through(N=84) Sexual Route Shaking Hands Sharing Plate Kissing	Yes No Yes	11 73 11 73 3 81 21 63 33 51	86.9 13.1 86.9 3.6 96.4 25 75 39.3 60.7 21.8
If yes, it can be transmitted through(N=84) Sexual Route Shaking Hands Sharing Plate Kissing Sneezing Spiritual Attack	Yes No	11 73 11 73 3 81 21 63 33 51	86.9 13.1 86.9 3.6 96.4 25 75 39.3 60.7
If yes, it can be transmitted through(N=84) Sexual Route Shaking Hands Sharing Plate Kissing Sneezing Spiritual Attack Causes of mental disorder	Yes No	11 73 11 73 3 81 21 63 33 51 51 183	86.9 13.1 86.9 3.6 96.4 25 75 39.3 60.7 21.8 78.2
If yes, it can be transmitted through(N=84) Sexual Route Shaking Hands Sharing Plate Kissing Sneezing Spiritual Attack	Yes No Yes	11 73 11 73 3 81 21 63 33 51 51 183	86.9 13.1 86.9 3.6 96.4 25 75 39.3 60.7 21.8 78.2
If yes, it can be transmitted through(N=84) Sexual Route Shaking Hands Sharing Plate Kissing Sneezing Spiritual Attack Causes of mental disorder Mental disorder	Yes No	11 73 11 73 3 81 21 63 33 51 51 183	86.9 13.1 86.9 3.6 96.4 25 75 39.3 60.7 21.8 78.2 22.6 77.4
If yes, it can be transmitted through(N=84) Sexual Route Shaking Hands Sharing Plate Kissing Sneezing Spiritual Attack Causes of mental disorder	Yes No Yes	11 73 11 73 3 81 21 63 33 51 51 183	86.9 13.1 86.9 3.6 96.4 25 75 39.3 60.7 21.8 78.2

	1		T
	No	179	76.5
I don't know	Yes	64	27.4
	No	170	72.6
Presentation of epilepsy			
Jerking of The Body	Yes	72	30.8
	No	162	69.2
Loss of Consciousness	Yes	67	28.6
m 11 6	No	167	71.4
Table 2c:	***	10	7.7
Abnormal behavior	Yes	18	7.7
	No	216	92.3
Convulsion	Yes	82	35
	No	152	65
Foaming from the mouth	Yes	167	71.4
	No	67	28.6
Do you consider epilepsy as a treatable illness	Yes	158	67.5
	No	15	6.4
3371	I don't know	61	26.1
Who can treat epilepsy	37	101	51.7
Doctors	Yes	121	51.7
A1C	No	113	48.3
Alfas	Yes	44	18.8
TT 1 1' 4	No	190	81.2
Herbalist	Yes	79	33.8
D. /	No	155	66.2
Pastors	Yes	46	19.7
What will you do rehan company is convenience	No	188	80.3
What will you do when someone is convulsing	Vas	110	47
Move the person away from harm	Yes	110	47
Dut comething into the mouth	No Voc	124	53
Put something into the mouth	Yes	42	17.9
Call a doctor as fact as possible	No Voc	192	82.1
Call a doctor as fast as possible	Yes No	93	60.3 39.7
Dun ayyay	Yes	14	
Run away	168	14	6
	No	220	94
Table 2d:			
Start praying	Yes	25	10.7
Suit plujing	No	209	89.3
Have You Seen a Person Convulsing Before	Yes	113	48.3
and a contract was a contract with the contract was a contract win	No	91	38.9
	I don't know	30	12.8
Is epilepsy a mental disease	Yes	89	38
T AP-J	No	58	24.8
	I don't know	87	37.2
Do people discriminate those with epilepsy	Yes	171	73.1
The first section of the first	No	20	8.5
	I don't know	43	18.4
Epilepsy is common in urban than rural area	Yes	43	18.4
	No	70	29.9
	I don't know	121	51.7
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Epilepsy can lead to depression	Yes	171	73.1
	No	13	5.6
	I don't know	50	21.4
Can epilepsy kill	Yes	116	49.6
	No	36	15.4
	I don't know	82	35

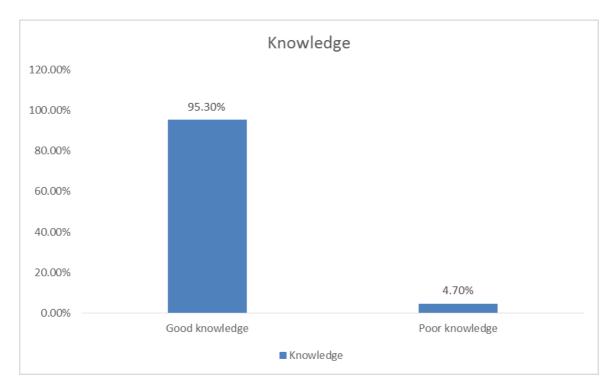


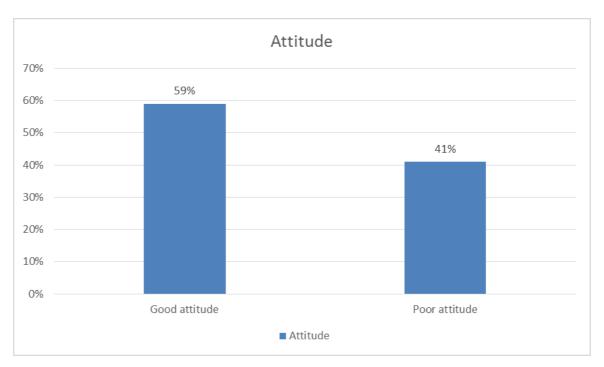
Fig.1: Categorized knowledge of respondents on epilepsy Fig.1 shows majority of the respondents had Good knowledge (95.3%)

Table 2 above shows knowledge of respondents on epilepsy. Majority of them (94%) have heard of epilepsy from different sources. About 67.5% of the total respondents had their source of information to be mass media, 49.6%, 59%, and 53.8% heard from health workers, relatives/friends and internet respectively.

As regards risk factors of epilepsy, about 54.7% of confirmed one with family history of epilepsy is at risk, 83.8% knew epilepsy can't be caused by head injuries, 75.6% said it can be through brain abnormalities, 82.9% said through prenatal injuries and 20.9% said it could be causes by infections. About 38.5% knew epilepsy is not contagious. Majority of the respondents said epilepsy is not caused by mental disorder (77.4%), 70.5% said not by lizard, 76.5% said it is not an inherited disorder and 27.4% didn't know the causes of epilepsy. Majority of the respondents can correctly identify presentation of epilepsy. About two-third (67.5%) knew epilepsy is treatable, Majority felt it can be treated by Alfas, 66.2% felt herbalist can and 80.2% felt it can be treated by pastors. About 47% of the respondents wouldn't move anyone convulsing, 82.1% would put something in their mouth, majority wouldn't run away, and 10.7% said they would start praying.

4.3. Respondents' Attitude Towards Epilepsy

Variable	Sub-variable	Frequency	Percentage
	Stongly		
People with epilepsy should go to school	Disagree	7	3
	Disagree	8	3.4
	Undecided	23	9.8
	Agree	118	50.4
	Strongly Agree	78	33.3
	Stongly		
People with epilepsy can ahead to marry	Disagree	4	1.7
	Disagree	12	5.1
	Undecided	23	9.8
	Agree	140	59.8
	Strongly Agree	55	23.5
	Strongly		
Child with epilepsy should attend	Disagree	6	2.6
special schools	Disagree	63	26.9
	Undecided	57	24.4
	Agree	68	29.1
	Stongly Agree	40	17.1
	Strongly		
Child with epilepsy should attend	Disagree	16	6.8
open system schools	Disagree	35	15
	Undecided	83	35.5
	Agree	82	35
	Strongly Agree	18	7.7
D 1 11 1 11 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Strongly	10	
People living with epilepsy should	Disagree	19	8.1
not be a factory worker	Disagree	20	8.5
•	Undecided	61	26.1
	Agree	92	39.3
	Strongly Agree	42	17.9
Can you allow your child or relatives To marry someone that	Yes	56	23.9
has epilepsy	ies	30	23.9
	No	178	76.1
Can you keep friends with someone living with epilepsy	Yes	153	65.4
	No	81	34.6
Can you play with people living epilepsy	Yes	151	64.5
	No	83	35.5
Can people living with epilepsy have	Yes	181	77.4
Children	No	53	22.6



4.3.1. Fig. 2: Categorized attitude of respondents towards epilepsy

Fig. 2 shows that more than half of the respondents (59%) had good attitude while 41% had poor attitude towards epilepsy

Table 3 above shows attitude of respondents towards people living with epilepsy. Majority of the respondents said people with epilepsy should be given the opportunity to go to school (504%&33.3%), also majority said people with epilepsy should have the privilege of getting married (59.8% & 23.5%), 46.1% of them thinks children with epilepsy should attend special schools (29.1% &17.1%), while on the opposite 42.7% thinks children with epilepsy should attend open system school. More than half of the respondents (39.3% & 17.9%) said people living with epilepsy should not be a factory worker, majority (76.1%) would not allow their children marry someone that has epilepsy, also about 64.5% has poor attitude of not playing with people living with epilepsy and majority thinks people living with epilepsy should have children (77.4%).

4.4. Association Between Socio-Demographic Characteristics and Knowledge of Respondents

		Categorized	knowledge	Statistics	
Variable	Sub-variable	Good knowledge	Poor knowledge	X^2 , p	
Age Group	19-29 years	12(92.3%) 1(7.7%)			
	30-39 years	92(96.8%)	3(3.2%)	$X^2 = 1.663$	
	40-49 years	70(95.9%)	3(4.1%)	P = 0.645	
	50years and above	49(92.5%)	4(7.5%)		
Level of	None	44(89.8%)	5(10.2%)		
Education	Primary	1(100%)	0(0%)	$X^2 = 4.528$	
	Secondary	14(100%)	0(0%)	P = 0.210	
	Tertiary	164(96.5%)	6(3.5%)		
Ethnicity	Yoruba	184(94.8%)	10(5.2%)		
	Hausa	14(93.3%)	1(6.7%)	$X^2 = 2.609$	
	Igbo	22(100%)	0(0%)	P = 0.456	
	Others	3(100%)	0(0%)		
Occupation	Employed	64(95.5%)	3(4.5%)	$X^2 = 0.090$	
	Self-employed	126(95.5%)	6(4.5%)	P = 0.956	
	Unemployed	33(94.3%)	2(5.7%)		
Religion	Islam	62(93.9%)	4(6.1%)	$X^2 = 1.038$	
	Christianity	152(96.2%)	6(3.8%)	P = 0.595	
	Traditional	9(90%)	1(10%)		

Marital Status	Single	35(100%)	0(0%)	
	Married	168(94.9%)	9(5.1%)	$X^2 = 4.350$
	Divorced	13(92.9%)	1(7.1%)	P = 0.226
	Widower	7(87.5%)	1(12.5%)	
Sex	Male	83(95.4%)	4(4.6%)	$X^2 = 0.000$
	Female	140(95.2%)	7(4.8%)	P = 1.000 P = 0.601

Table 4: shows association between respondents socio-demographic characteristics and knowledge of epilepsy. None of the sociodemographic status has a statistical significant association with their knowledge. Hence, there is no relationship between respondents' knowledge and their sociodemographic status.

4.5. Association between Socio-Demographic Characteristics and Attitude of Respondents towards Epilepsy.

		Categorize	Statistics	
Variable	Sub-variable	Good attitude	Poor attitude	
Age Group	19-29 years	9(69.2)	4(30.8)	$X^2 = 9.244$
	30-39 years	59(62.1)	36(37.9)	P = 0.026
	40-49 years	33(45.2)	40(54.8)	
	50 years and above	37(69.8)	16(30.2)	
Level of Education	None	31(63.3)	18(36.7)	
	Primary	1(100)	0(0)	$X^2 = 1.576$
	Secondary	8(57.1)	6(42.9)	P = 0.665
	Tertiary	98(57.6)	72(42.4)	
Ethnicity	Yoruba	121(62.4)	73(37.6)	
	Hausa	6(40)	9(60)	$X^2 = 6.096$
	Igbo	9(40.9)	13(59.1)	P=0.107
	Others	2(66.7%)	1(33.3%)	
Occupation	Employed	43(64.2)	24(35.8)	$X^2 = 1.183$
	Self-employed	76(57.6)	56(42.4)	P = 0.554
	Unemployed	19(54.3)	16(45.7)	
Religion	Islam	41(62.1)	25(37.9)	$X^2 = 0.636$
	Christianity	92(58.2)	66(41.8)	P = 0.728
	Traditional	5(50)	5(50)	
Marital Status	Single	18(51.4)	17(48.6)	$X^2 = 2.825$
	Married	109(61.6)	68(38.4)	P = 0.419
	Divorced	6(42.9)	8(57.1)	
	Widower	5(62.5)	3(37.5)	
Sex	Male	49(56.3)	38(43.7)	$X^2 = 0.403$
	Female	89(60.5)	58(39.5)	P = 0.526

Table shows association between sociodemographic status of respondents and their attitude towards people living with epilepsy. There was a significant relationship between age group and attitude (X² = 9.244, p=0.026). Other variables were not statistically significant

4.6. Association between Respondents' Knowledge and Attitude Towards Epilepsy

		Categorized A	Statistics	
Variable	Sub-variable	Good Attitude	Poor Attitude	X^2 , p
Knowledge	Good Knowledge	136(61%)	87(39%)	$X^2 = 6.268$
	Poor Knowledge	2(18.2%)	9(81.8%)	P=0.012

Table 6 shows association between knowledge of respondents and attitude towards people living with epilepsy. About 71% of respondents had good knowledge had good attitude which is statistically significant (X^2 =6.268, p=0.012)

4.7. Binary Logistics Regression of the Outcome Variable "Respondents' Attitude" and Selected Socio-demographic Predictors

Variable	Odds ratio	95% CI		P-values
		Lower	Upper	
Age group				
19-25	0.974	0.247	3.841	0.970
26-35	0.629	0.298	1.327	0.223
36-45	0.316	0.146	0.686	0.004
Knowledge				
Good knowledge	8.597	1.749	42.247	0.008

Table 7 above shows predictors of respondents' attitude towards people living with epilepsy. Respondents within age group of 36-45 years are less likely (OR=0.316) to have poor attitude towards people living with epilepsy (C.I = 0.146-0.686, P=0.004). Also, respondents with good knowledge are eight times more likely (8.597) to have poor attitude towards people living epilepsy.

DISCUSSION, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Epilepsy is one of the most common neurological disorders worldwide. This study aimed to understand the knowledge and attitude of the parent living in Osogbo local government towards epilepsy. The finding of the study was discussing in the term of objectives and hypothesis stated for the study. Almost all of our respondent were aged less than 45 years which is similar to a study where the majority of respondents were aged less than 45 years (M. Shafiq et al., 2007). In this study majority of the participant had tertiary level of education which disagree with a study where (47.50%) had secondary level of education (Sell; 2009).

This study shows a good knowledge which disagree with a study where (27%) of the respondents had no information's about epilepsy (Alemayehu et al., 2021) and agree with another study in which parent were found to have good knowledge (Sakubita et al., 2015). In our study, most of the respondents were female.

Majority of the parent have heard of epilepsy which is similar to another study where among the study participant (97%) ever heard of epilepsy(andualem and tafesse 2017), regarding to the source of information, large number of the study participant heard from mass media seconded by relatives and friends which disagree with a study in which (37.4%) of them heard about epilepsy from their relatives (Alemayehu et al., 2021) In our study a few numbers of parent thought epilepsy is contagious and this agree with a study where a few number of parent(1.6%) thought that epilepsy is contagious(Helen et al., 2021), in our study majority of the parent knew at least one of the possible causes of epilepsy which is similar to a study where most of the parent(43.5%) knew at least one possible cause of epilepsy(Helen et al., 2021). Quarter of the respondent chose lizard as cause of the disorder while one third of the participants do not know the causes of epilepsy, this disagree with a study where the causes of the disorder is not known to majority of the parents (93.93%).

Although, most of the respondents knew that epilepsy could be treated with medication and majority choose doctors as a major person that can treat epilepsy, this contradict a study where majority underestimates the role of surgery in treating epilepsy (Maha et al., 2017). Few of the respondent



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choose religion (pastor, alfa and herbalist) treatment for epilepsy this contradicted a study where religious/spiritual treatment was chosen as the most effective treatment by (33.1%) (M. Shafiq et al., 2007)

In the present study, more than half of the respondents said they would call the doctor as soon as possible when they see somebody convulsing this disagree with a study where less than half of the respondents said they would perform first aid for someone that is convulsing (Alaqueel and Sabbagh. 2013)

In our study, most of the respondents have had direct contact with someone convulsing which is in contrast with a study where it is only one third of them that have come in contact with the disease (Oriano et al., 2011), however in line with several report from developed and developing countries (Alikor, & Essien. 2005). Majority of the respondents felt epilepsy is a mental disorder, more than half of the respondents and almost all said the disease can kill and can also cause depression because of their knowledge and experience about the disease.

The attitude of parent towards children with epilepsy is influenced by the level of their knowledge about the condition. Most of the parent had positive attitude towards epilepsy which agree with the attitude of parent towards epilepsy in another study (M J Bannon et al., 2022) and also contradict another study where majority of the parent had poor attitude towards epilepsy (L. Zaini et al., 2013)

Most of the respondents agreed that people with epilepsy should marry and almost half of the participants agreed that they should not be a factory worker which contradict a study that shows epilepsy is an obstacle to marriage and also agree with the same study that is obstacle to employment of an affected individual (Thacker et al., 2008).

Most of the respondents thought that people living with epilepsy should be separated from those that are without the disease i.e they should go to a special school this is similar to a study where high percentage of population in Italy thought that people living with epilepsy should separate from people that are without the disease (Savarese et al., 2015).

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, although parents living in Oshogbo local government area as represented by the study sample have a good level of knowledge on epilepsy and good attitudes towards epilepsy in general. Because some of the parents still has misconceptions and negative attitude towards people living with epilepsy.

Our results show that there is increased familiarity in form of people knowing and have seen people living with epilepsy. Similarly, those who had received any amount of school education were likely to have positive attitude about epilepsy, although almost all them cannot allow their relatives or children to marry people living with epilepsy. This indicates that education alone can potentially bring about significant and desirable changes in some of the attitude regarding epilepsy. It also indicates that the concept of not marrying people living with epilepsy appears to be the most recalibration, and one which should probably be a focus for any future public awareness campaign.

Epilepsy education campaign and health promotions have been shown to be effective in improving health outcome of people with epilepsy. Educational programme to enhance epilepsy self-management have often shown improvement in knowledge. A study carried out in Hungary (Mirnics et al., 2001) demonstrated that educational campaign is effective in changing as well as improving knowledge about epilepsy among the population and diminish negative attitude against people with epilepsy (A. Falavigna et al., 2007)

RECOMMENDATIONS

The media as well as government authorities should play a major role in increasing public awareness, such as educational programs should target parents. There is no doubt that some of the difficulties faced by people living with epilepsy is the social stigma that the disease attracts. Epilepsy remains a poorly understood and sometimes feared illness by the general public. Perhaps the time has now come for a similar campaign to increase awareness of childhood epilepsy in order to reduce



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its ongoing stigma. Such a campaign would do much to facilitate the successful integration of children who have epilepsy into mainstream schools.

There is still a need for continuous community education about epilepsy with the aim of improving the knowledge and attitude of members of the community towards the disease. Also, healthcare workers need to be trained so that they can anchor the education of community members on epilepsy. This will correct the misconceptions about this disease and reduce significantly the stigma and discrimination suffered by people with epilepsy.

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APPENDIX I: HEALTH RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE



Osun State University, Osogbo

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Office of the Provost

3rd June, 2022 Dr Rabiu (Principal Investigator), Isaac P.A, Ishaq U.O, Ogbara O. Osun State University, Osogbo UNIOSUNHREC2022/PBH/040

RE: KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDES TOWARDS EPILEPSY AMONG PARENTS IN OSOGBO LGA, OSUN STATE, NIGERIA

I wish to inform you that the UNIOSUN Health Research Ethics Committee has granted you an approval to proceed on the above study following appropriate review.

- You are to note that this approval is given on the basis of your corrected protocol and for one (1) year in the first instance. Any proposed change in the protocol should be communicated to the Committee for consideration ahead of execution.
- Kindly inform the Committee when the study is to commence to facilitate monitoring by designated representative(s) of the HREC Committee.
- Please regard this letter as the Certificate of UNIOSUN Health Research Ethics Committee Approval.

Kind regards.

FAIDE

Professor Akinwusi P.O Chairman, UNIOSUN HREC Committee

APPENDIX II: QUESTIONNAIRE

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY MEDICINE, FACULTY OF CLINICAL SCIENCES, OSUN STATE UNIVERSITY, OSOGBO, OSUN STATE

We are 400l public health student of Osun State University, Osogbo. This research is one of the requirements to attaining Bsc. public health. It is strictly for research purpose and your confidentiality is assured.

KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDES TOWARDS EPILEPSY AMONG PARENTS IN OSOGBO LGA OSUN STATE, NIGERIA.

Kindly tick in your answers in the box provided ()

SECTION A: SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC

- 1. .Age as at last birthday_____
- 2. Educational level (a) No formal education () (b) Highest level of education attained
- 3. Ethnicity (a) Yoruba () (b) Hausa () (c) Igbo () (d) Other, specify_____
- 4. What is your occupation (a) employed (b) self-employed (c) unemployed
- 5. What is your Religion (a) Islam () (b) Christianity () (c) Traditional ()
- 6. What is your Marital status (a) Single () (b) Married () (c) Divorced () (d) Widower ()
- 7. Sex (a) Male () (b) Female ()

SECTION B: KNOWLEDGE OF EPILEPSY AMONG PARENTS IN OSOGBO LGA OSUN STATE, NIGERIA.

- 8. Have you ever heard of epilepsy? (a) Yes () (b) No ()
- 9. If yes, what was the source of information? MULTIPLE CHOICE (a) Mass media (TV, radio, newspaper) () (b) Health worker/practitioner () (c) Relations/friends () (d) internet () (e) all of the above ()
- 10. The following are the risk factors of epilepsy. MULTIPLE CHOICE (a) family history () (b) head injuries () (c) brain abnormalities () (d) prenatal injury () (e) infections
- 11. Epilepsy is contagious? (a) Yes () (b) No () (c) I don't know ()
- 12. If yes, contagious by what? (a) sexual route (b) shaking hands (c) sharing plate (d) kissing (e) sneezing
- 13. What are the causes of epilepsy? MULTIPLE CHOICE (a) spiritual attack () (b) mental disorder () (c) lizard () (d) inherited disorder () (e) I do not know
- 14. Clinical manifestations of epilepsy MULTIPLE CHOICE. (a) Jerking of the body (b) loss of consciousness (c) abnormal behavior () (d) convulsions () (e) foaming from the mouth ()
- 15. Do you consider epilepsy as a treatable illness? (a) yes () (b) no () (c) I do not know ()
- 16. If yes ,who can treat epilepsy? MULTIPLE CHOICE (a) doctors () (b) Alfas () (c) herbalist () (d) Pastors (e) all of the above
- 17. What will you do if you see someone convulsing? MULTIPLE CHOICE (a) move the person away from harm () (b) put something into the mouth () (c) Seek for help () (d) run away () (e) start praying ()
- 18. Have you seen a person convulsing before? (a) yes () (b) no () (c) am not sure ()
- 19. Can epilepsy also be a mental disease? (a) yes () (b) no () (c) I do not know ()
- 20. Do people discriminate those with epilepsy? (a) Yes () (b) no () (c) I do not know ()
- 21. People living in Urban area have epilepsy than those living in the village (a) yes () (b) no () (c) I don't know ()
- 22. Can epilepsy leads to depression (a) yes () (b) no () (c) I don't know ()
- 23. Can epilepsy kill? (a) Yes () (b) no () (c) I don't know ()



SECTION C: ATTITUDE TOWARDS EPILEPSY AMONG PARENTS IN OSOGBO LGA OSUN STATE, NIGERIA.

		Strongly disagree	Disagree	Undecided	Agree	Strongly agree
24.	People living with epilepsy should go to school					
25.	People living with epilepsy can go ahead to marry					
26.	Child with epilepsy should attend special system school					
27.						
	Child with epilepsy should attend open system school					
28.	People living with epilepsy should not be a factory worker					

- 24. Can you allow your child or relatives to marry someone that has epilepsy? (A) yes () (b) No ()
- 25. Can you keep friends with someone living with epilepsy? (a) Yes () (b) No ()
- 26. Can you play with people living with epilepsy? (a) yes () (b) No ()
- 27. Can people living with epilepsy have children? (a) yes () (b) No ()

APPENDIX III: BUDGET

S/N	ACTIVITIES	PRICE	UNIT	COST
1.	Printing of pre-test questionnaires	20	24	480
2.	HREC	1500	1	1500
3.	Printing of questionnares	40	234	9,360
4.	Printing of powerpoint slide	960	6	5.760
5.	Printing of project work	2000	4	8.000
6.	Printing of Hard bond copies	3000	5	15,000
7.	Miscellaneous			2000
8.	Total			N 42,100