

Assessment of the Level of Knowledge and Attitude towards Down Syndrome among the Population of Arar City, Saudi Arabia

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ABSTRACT

Background: Down syndrome is a congenital anomaly that incurs significant medical and social expenses. The aim of this study is to evaluate the level of knowledge and attitude toward down syndrome individuals among the population of Arar city, Saudi Arabia.

Methodology: The study was conducted as questionnaire-based cross sectional study. The questionnaire included two parts, the first one about the participants' demographic data while the second part about the knowledge and attitude towards the down syndrome. Once the data was collected, it underwent statistical analysis via (SPSS).

Results: The total participants were 526 with 30.6% were females and 69.4% were males. Knowledge questions revealed that 33.7% of participants correctly identified Down syndrome as a genetic disease. While 83.3% recognized that individuals with Down syndrome are born with the condition. However, there were misconceptions as Down syndrome can be cured as the individual grows up, with only 2.1% disproving this conception. Additionally, 40.1%, incorrectly believed that Down syndrome is preventable. Regarding attitude questions, a significant proportion of participants expressed positive attitudes towards individuals with Down syndrome. Data revealed that participants' knowledge levels were significantly affected by age (p value=0.025) and marital status (p value=0.003).

Conclusion: Several misconceptions about Down syndrome are apparent in this community sample regarding the basic facts of Down syndrome, but there was a positive attitude towards patients with down syndrome. These findings underscore the importance of targeted education and awareness campaigns to regarding Down syndrome within the community of Arar city, Saudi Arabia.

Keywords: Down syndrome, knowledge, Attitude, Arar, Saudi Arabia.

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