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ABSTRACTS

Joint Annual Conference of Indian Association of Preventive and Social Medicine-GC (31st)
and Indian Public Health Association-GC (13th) Hosted by IIPH Gandhinagar

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From the Desk of Organizing Chairperson

We are pleased to present the selected abstracts from the **‘Joint Annual Conference of Indian Association of Preventive and Social Medicine-GC (31st) and Indian Public Health Association-GC (13th)’**, held on 29th and 30th November 2024 at IIPH Gandhinagar.

This conference served as a platform for researchers, academicians, and professionals to exchange knowledge and discuss advancements on the theme of **‘Building Synergy for Resilient Health System’**.

The Scientific Presentations at the conference have undergone a thorough evaluation process to ensure the quality of research contributions. These selected works reflect innovative findings, emerging trends, and significant advancements in the field. Dissemination of research findings through abstracts publication in the journal will provide valuable insights to the scientific community and encourage further research and collaboration.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the authors for their valuable contributions, the reviewers for their insightful evaluations, and the Editorial Team of **‘Healthline Journal’** for their support in facilitating this publication.



Organizing Chairperson

HM PATEL AWARD ABSTRACT 1**Antenatal Breastfeeding Counselling to Improve the Rates of Early Initiation and Exclusive Breastfeeding (EBF) among Primigravida Women in a Medical College Hospital of Ahmedabad City**

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Abstract

Background: Breastfeeding is critical for improving infant nutrition and reducing childhood morbidity and mortality. This study aimed to assess and compare the rates of early initiation of breastfeeding and exclusive breastfeeding (EBF) among counselled and non-counselled mothers. **Methodology:** An intervention study was conducted at a medical college hospital in Ahmedabad city in 2023. A total of 260 primigravida antenatal women from the Obstetric OPD were enrolled on alternate days, with 130 women in each of the intervention and control groups. The intervention group received two antenatal breastfeeding counselling sessions conducted by a skilled counsellor (between 28 and 36 weeks of gestation), along with an IEC (Information, Education, and Communication) material. All 260 women were followed up three times: first after delivery before discharge, second after 3 months, and third after 6 months, to assess early initiation and EBF. **Results:** Most participants were homemakers (96.9%), Hindu (78%), and aged between 21-25 years (57%). The intervention group had higher rates of early breastfeeding initiation (24%) compared to the control group (14.87%). Common reasons for delayed initiation of breastfeeding in both groups included caesarean sections and episiotomy pain. Pre-lacteal feeding was given to 8.8% of newborns in the intervention group and 15.7% in the control group. Significant differences in EBF rates were observed at the second (86.5% vs. 69.3%, $p=0.001$) and third (68.1% vs. 38.4%, $p<0.0001$) follow-ups, but not at the first follow-up ($p=0.09$). The main reasons for not practicing EBF included pre-lacteal feeding and a lack of specific reasons provided by mothers in both groups. **Conclusion:** Antenatal counselling by a skilled lactation counsellor can significantly improve the rates of early breastfeeding initiation and help mothers sustain exclusive breastfeeding practices.

Keywords: Antenatal breastfeeding counseling, early initiation, exclusive breastfeeding, primigravida, intervention study

HM PATEL AWARD ABSTRACT 2:**Identifying Implementation Bottlenecks for Improving Access to Zero Dose Children in GIDC Areas of Gujarat**

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Abstract

Introduction: Immunization coverage in Gujarat has been improving over time, but migrant populations, particularly in the GIDC areas, continue to be underserved, with a large proportion of zero-dose children in these communities. These children miss out on essential vaccines, putting them at greater risk of preventable diseases. The objective of this study was to assess the barriers and bottlenecks in immunization access for zero-dose children in these underserved populations, with the aim of improving strategies for better outreach and coverage. **Objectives:** The main objectives of the study were threefold: first, to identify the zero-dose populations and assess their immunization status; second, to identify the implementation bottlenecks and barriers that hinder access to immunization services, and third, to develop area-specific strategies to improve immunization coverage in GIDC areas, formulated through consultations with key stakeholders. **Methodology:** This cross-sectional study employed a mixed-methods approach. A secondary desk review of various datasets, including HMIS, TeCHO+, NID, IMI5.0, mapping data, HR availability, and CSR models, was conducted to assess the immunization status of children under five years (U5) from migrant families. Additionally, interviews were conducted with a variety of stakeholders, including caregivers, frontline workers, program managers, civil society organizations (CSOs), and private sector representatives. The data collection process spanned from August 2023 to May 2024. **Observations:** The secondary desk review revealed that 25% of the population in temporary settlements and non-notified areas constituted the zero-dose group. The study identified 73 families with 99 U5 children from an underserved population of approximately 23,000 people living in slum-like or migrant conditions. Of these children, 57% had not received the vaccines appropriate for their age. The immunization status revealed that 12% were unimmunized, 41% were partially immunized, and 17% were zero-dose. Several barriers to immunization were identified, including a lack of awareness regarding the location of vaccination centers (47% for zero-dose and 67% for unimmunized children), no perceived need for vaccination (41% for zero-dose and 17% for unimmunized children), conflicts with working hours (30% for zero-dose and 17% for unimmunized children), and vaccine hesitancy (18% for zero-dose and 8% for unimmunized children). **Conclusion :** Based on the challenges identified and discussions with government bodies, GIDC, and UNICEF, area-specific strategies were developed to address the gaps in immunization coverage. Key recommendations include mapping underserved communities for coverage under the Urban Primary Health Centers (UPHC), enhancing inter-sectoral coordination with industrial associations to deliver outreach services, and using technology-driven solutions to track migrant populations and ensure supportive supervision. Other strategies include mobile outreach for UHSND/Mamta Diwas, after-hours vaccination clinics, and the development of Social and Behavior Change Communication

(SBCC) strategies to increase awareness and overcome vaccine hesitancy. By addressing these implementation bottlenecks and focusing on these tailored strategies, it is possible to improve immunization coverage and reduce the number of zero-dose children in GIDC areas.

Keywords: Immunization, Migrants, Zero dose children, Inter-sectoral coordination, Mamta Diwas

HM PATEL AWARD ABSTRACT 3**Analysis of Reasons for Pending & Rejected Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) Claims at Secondary & Tertiary Care Public Health Institutes (PHIs) in a District of Western India**Rajdeep Chaudhary¹, Umed Patel²¹2nd Year Resident, PDU Government Medical College, Rajkot²Associate Professor, PDU Government Medical College, Rajkot**Abstract**

Introduction: The Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) is a national health insurance scheme aimed at providing financial protection for health services to underprivileged sections of society. Mehsana district in Gujarat has been a leader in the state, enrolling the highest number of PMJAY cards until July 2024. However, despite the impressive enrollment, the district has faced challenges with the Transaction Management System (TMS), leading to many claims being pending or rejected. These issues predominantly affect secondary and tertiary care Public Health Institutes (PHIs), prompting an analysis of the reasons behind the rejection and delay of claims. **Objectives:** The objectives of this study were twofold: first, to analyze the proportions and reasons for the rejection and pendency of PMJAY claims; and second, to recommend solutions to address these challenges within secondary and tertiary care PHIs. **Methodology:** This retrospective analytical observational study focused on all PMJAY claims initiated between January and June 2024 in two major health institutions: the District Hospital (DH) Mehsana and the Community Health Centre (CHC) Langhnaj, both of which had the highest claim volumes in Gujarat during the first half of 2024. A purposive sampling method was used to select these PHIs. Data was analyzed using Microsoft Office Excel 2019 to identify trends and common causes of claim rejection and delay. **Results:** The findings revealed that approximately 8-9% of claims were canceled by the hospital itself. Out of the remaining claims, around one-third were either rejected or pending at the Pre-auth Penal Doctor (PPD) and Claim Processing Doctor (CPD) levels in the TMS. Specifically, 33% of claims at CHC and 28% at DH faced rejection or delay at the PPD and CPD levels. Common reasons for rejection at the PPD level included false package selection, duplication (especially at DH), and pending necessary diagnostic documents. At the CHC, the most frequent cause for rejection was pending investigations. At the CPD level, common issues included missing treatment documents such as the patient's photograph, discharge summary, OT notes, C/S reports, and Histopathological Examination (HPE) reports. **Conclusions :** The study highlights the need for improved documentation and adherence to package-specific checklists to avoid claim rejections. It is recommended that each department maintain standard treatment guidelines and regular checks to ensure that all necessary documents are submitted. Furthermore, training and sensitization sessions for Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Mitras and Medical Coordinators by the insurance company and the State Health Agency are essential to reduce errors. Additionally, it is proposed that CHCs establish necessary laboratory services or tie-ups, and that DHs form a dedicated PMJAY claim team, consisting of medical, paramedical, and financial staff, to streamline the claim processing system.

Keywords: PHI, PMJAY, Claim, Reject, Pending

HM PATEL AWARD ABSTRACT 4**Determinants of Delay in the Presentation, Diagnosis, and Treatment of Cervical Cancer Patients in a Tertiary Care Hospital: A Mixed-Methods Study**Aromal¹, Mamta Verma², J.K. Kosambiya³¹Resident Doctor, Government Medical College, Surat²Assistant Professor, Government Medical College, Surat³Professor and Head of Department, Kiran Medical College, Surat**Correspondence:** Dr Aromal, Email: aromalvijayarajan@gmail.com**Abstract**

Background: In India, most of the cervical cancer patients is diagnosed at advanced stage with an estimation of 79906 cervical cancer deaths in 2022 indicating the delay in presentation, diagnosis and treatment of cervical cancer. **Objectives:** To document the delay in presentation, diagnosis and treatment among cervical cancer patients and its associated factors. To explore the symptom appraisal and help-seeking behaviour in patients with delay. **Methodology:** An explanatory sequential mixed-methods study was done among cervical cancer patients in Lion Cancer Detection Center, Surat. A quantitative study was done in 110 patients to identify various delays and in-depth interviews were conducted in 10 patients to explore the reasons in delay using the framework “Model of Pathway of Treatment”. **Results:** In 110 patients, 47.3% had delay in presentation with median delay of 78 days. 35.5% had delay in diagnosis with a median delay of 16 days. 53.6% had delay in treatment with a median delay of 19 days. Patient factors such as trivializing symptoms as insignificant (29.3%), seeking traditional medications (20.7%) and being ashamed to consult doctor (14.7%) contributed to presentation delay. Healthcare-provider factors such as diagnostic error and inadequate management (42.4%) was the primary cause for delayed diagnosis. Health system factors such as lack of accessibility of specialized care (14.2%) contributed to both diagnostic and treatment delay along with financial burden (30.7%). Delay in diagnosis was significantly associated with factors such as misinterpretation of symptoms by consultants ($p<.000$), no per-speculum examination ($p<.000$) and initial consultation in local clinics ($p<0.003$). Themes regarding symptom appraisal and help-seeking includes : (1) detection and interpretation of symptoms (2) lay-consultations and stigmatization on symptoms (3) Trial of traditional-medications (4) Perceived barriers for healthcare. **Conclusion:** Rectifying awareness shortfalls in the community and training for enhancing expertise in primary healthcare-providers is necessary to prevent delay.

HM PATEL AWARD ABSTRACT 5:**Stolen Smiles: Tracing the Merciless Progression of Oral Lesions in Tobacco Users of Gujarat**

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Abstract

Background and Objectives: Tobacco use is a major risk factor for oral lesions and cancer, particularly in Gujarat, India, where 38.7% of adult males use tobacco. Despite this high prevalence, the relationship between tobacco use patterns and oral lesion development remains under-explored in this population. This study aims to: 1) determine the prevalence of oral lesions among tobacco users in Gujarat, 2) analyze relationships between tobacco use patterns and oral lesion presence, and 3) identify threshold points in tobacco exposure that significantly increase oral lesion risk. **Methods:** A cross-sectional study was conducted among 310 tobacco users at Gujarat Cancer and Research Institute, Ahmedabad, from January to February 2024. Participants underwent oral examinations and provided information on tobacco use habits. Statistical analyses included descriptive statistics, chi-square tests, logistic regression, and changepoint analysis. **Results:** The prevalence of oral lesions was high, with discoloration (84.52%) and OSMF (26.13%) being most common. Significant associations were found between lesion presence and tobacco use frequency, duration per instance, and years of exposure. A threshold of 5.8 years of tobacco use was identified, after which lesion risk increased more rapidly. **Conclusion:** The high prevalence of oral lesions and identified risk factors underscore the need for targeted tobacco cessation interventions, particularly after 5-8 years of tobacco use.

Keywords: Tobacco use, Oral lesions, OSMF, Risk factors, India

HM PATEL AWARD ABSTRACT 6:**Development of the Comprehensive Care Model for Sickle Cell Disease in Chhotaudepur District of Gujarat: An Intervention Study**Shaily Surti¹, Bontha V. Babu²¹Assistant Professor, Department of Preventive and Social Medicine, Parul Institute of Medical Sciences & Research, Parul University, Vadodara, Gujarat.²Scientist-G & Head, Division of Socio-behavioural, Health Systems & Implementation Research (SHI), Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi.**Correspondence:** Dr. Shaily Surti, Email: sejusurti@gmail.com**Abstract**

Introduction: In Gujarat, there is an estimated 900,000 individuals with sickle cell trait and 70,000 Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) patients. Despite the high burden, there has been a lack of integrated efforts for the prevention, control, and management of the disease. This study aimed to develop an effective comprehensive care model for SCD patients, focused on improving access to the healthcare system and building the capacity of healthcare providers for the prevention and management of SCD. **Methodology:** This was a quasi-experimental study conducted in three phases—formative, intervention, and evaluation—in 4 Primary Health Centres (PHCs) of Chhotaudepur district, Gujarat. **Formative Phase:** Assessments were carried out to gauge the community's knowledge (1646 quantitative surveys, 8 Focused Group Discussions (FGDs), 26 Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)), healthcare providers' understanding (26 in-depth interviews), and health-system readiness (8 observations at subcentres and PHCs). **Intervention Phase:** The intervention included screening and diagnosis, advocacy, health system strengthening, and community mobilization. **Evaluation Phase:** The evaluation measured the impact of the intervention on community knowledge (1631 quantitative surveys, 4 FGDs, 12 KIIs) and healthcare providers' knowledge, the acceptability of the intervention, and the challenges faced during implementation (26 IDIs). **Observations:** Out of 1526 suspected cases screened at subcentres, 752 individuals tested positive on solubility testing, and 670 underwent electrophoresis. Of those, 52 were diagnosed with SCD, and 396 had the Sickle Cell trait. The study found significant improvement in the knowledge of both the community and healthcare providers after the intervention. During the formative phase, only 20% of the patients could identify the correct cause of the disease, but this rose to 62% post-intervention. **Conclusions & Recommendations:** The intervention had a positive impact on both the community and healthcare providers. This comprehensive care model has proven to be feasible for implementation through the public health system and could be scaled up to other SCD-endemic districts. The findings support its potential for wider application to improve the prevention, management, and treatment of Sickle Cell Disease in Gujarat and beyond.

Keywords: Sickle Cell Disease, Implementation Research, Knowledge, Awareness, Health Education

ORAL ABSTRACT 1**‘Knowledge and Perceptions of Sex vs. Gender Among MBBS Students of Pramukhswami Medical College, Karamsad, Bhaikaka University**Khushal Teraiya¹, Manisha Gohel², Renu Khanna³¹Junior Resident Doctor, Bhaikaka University, PSMC, Karamsad, India ²Professor, Pramukhswami Medical College, Karamsad, India ³Director, SAHAJ NGO, Vadodara, India**Correspondence:** Dr Khushal Teraiya, Email: khushalteraiya@gmail.com**Abstract**

Introduction: “Sex” and “gender” are two concepts that are often misunderstood, despite sounding like they overlap. Sex is a biological variable, while gender is a subjective concept shaped by personal, societal, cultural, and political experiences. The distinction between these two concepts is particularly relevant in health contexts. This study aimed to assess the knowledge and perceptions of MBBS students at Pramukhswami Medical College (PSMC), Karamsad, regarding the differences between sex and gender, with a focus on their implications for health. **Objectives:** The primary objective of this study was to evaluate the impact of an educational intervention on the knowledge and perceptions of sex versus gender among MBBS students. **Method:** A cross-sectional study was conducted at PSMC, Karamsad. Knowledge and perceptions about the concepts of sex vs. gender were assessed using a Google Form questionnaire, administered before and after an educational intervention. The intervention consisted of an interactive session that included visual aids such as pictures and videos, followed by a question-and-answer session. **Results:** The majority of participants had knowledge about the difference between sex and gender. The average pre-test and post-test mean scores were 1.47 and 1.51, respectively. The average pre-test and post-test standard deviations were 0.44 and 0.38, respectively. **Conclusions:** The study found that the majority of MBBS students had a sufficient understanding of the difference between sex and gender. This indicates that targeted educational interventions can improve students' knowledge and perceptions of these concepts.

Keywords: Sex, Gender, Women, Men, Education

ORAL ABSTRACT 2**Exploration of Self-Care Practices Among Type 2 Diabetes Patients of Anand District: A Cross-Sectional Study**Dr. Birva B. Vyas¹, Dr. Dinesh Kumar²¹Resident Doctor, Bhaikaka University, Pramukhswami Medical College, Karamsad, Anand, Gujarat²Professor, Bhaikaka University, Pramukhswami Medical College, Karamsad, Anand, Gujarat**Correspondence:** Dr. Birva B. Vyas, Email: birvavyas14@gmail.com**Abstract**

Introduction: India has one of the highest numbers of diabetes cases worldwide, with an estimated 77 million diagnosed individuals, making it the second most affected country after China. Type 2 diabetes is largely linked to poor lifestyle habits, and while the condition is manageable, many patients fail to acknowledge the importance of continuous self-care to prevent complications. Active management through self-care behaviors can significantly aid in reducing the risk of diabetic complications. This study focuses on assessing the self-care practices among type 2 diabetes patients in Anand district to identify gaps and provide insights into improving diabetes management. **Objectives:** The study aimed to explore the self-care practices followed by type 2 diabetes patients, with a particular focus on identifying areas where patients may require additional support or education to improve their diabetes management. **Methods:** This was a cross-sectional study conducted with a structured questionnaire, which was adapted from previous studies. The questionnaire assessed self-care practices across seven key domains, based on the “AADE 7 Measures of Outcome Measurement” by the American Association of Diabetes Educators. The study population consisted of known diabetic patients from the service areas of Pramukhswami Medical College in Anand district, specifically from urban (Petlad) and rural (Bhadran) areas. A total of 100 participants, 50 from each area, were randomly selected from data collected through an NCD survey conducted by local social workers. **Results:** Out of the 100 participants, 56 were male and 44 were female, with a mean age of 56 years. The mean duration of diagnosed diabetes among participants was 7.36 years, and 54 participants had a family history of diabetes. The mean self-care score was 31.62 out of a possible 90. Significant differences ($p < 0.05$) were observed for various self-care practices based on factors such as family history of diabetes, education level, gender, occupation, and area of residence. These differences were particularly notable in areas like diet, exercise, medication adherence, blood sugar monitoring, problem-solving, and foot care. **Conclusions:** The mean self-care score of 31.62 indicates that the self-care practices of the participants were suboptimal. This suggests that there is a significant gap in diabetes management, highlighting the need for further intervention to improve self-care behaviors. Educational interventions and support programs targeting specific areas of diabetes management, particularly for individuals with a family history of diabetes and those with lower levels of education, could significantly enhance self-care practices and reduce the risk of complications associated with diabetes.

ORAL ABSTRACT 3**Is She Ready and Prepared for Childbirth and Related Complications? A Safer Motherhood Community-Based Cross-Sectional Study in Surat, Gujarat**

Dr. Hinalkumari N. Chudasama¹, Dr. Prakash Patel², Dr. Anupam Verma³, Dr. Ajay Pawar⁴, Dr. Swati Patel⁵

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Abstract

Background: Birth Preparedness and Complication Readiness (BPCR) play a crucial role in enhancing timely maternal and neonatal care, thereby reducing delays in labor and preventing complications. Despite improvements in health indicators in Gujarat, raising awareness about pregnancy danger signs remains essential to address the slow reduction in maternal mortality. BPCR ensures that pregnant women are well-prepared for childbirth and equipped to handle potential complications, ultimately improving maternal and neonatal outcomes. **Objectives:** The primary objective of this study was to assess pregnant women's knowledge regarding antenatal care, birth preparedness, and complication readiness. Additionally, the study aimed to analyze the socio-demographic factors that influence BPCR among pregnant women. **Methods:** This cross-sectional study was conducted from December 2023 to May 2024, surveying 380 pregnant women from urban and rural antenatal clinics affiliated with a tertiary care hospital in Surat, Gujarat. Data were collected through structured interviews using a validated questionnaire in the local language. BPCR was assessed based on eight key indicators, derived from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. To evaluate the relationship between socio-demographic factors and BPCR, bivariate and multivariate logistic regression analyses were performed, and odds ratios were calculated. Statistical significance was set at a 95% confidence interval with a p-value of < 0.05 . **Results:** Among the 380 pregnant women surveyed, 63.7% were well-prepared for birth and complications, meeting at least seven of the eight BPCR indicators. Additionally, 54.2% of the participants demonstrated good knowledge of antenatal care, scoring at least six out of eight on the knowledge assessment. Socio-demographic factors significantly associated with BPCR outcomes (p-value < 0.05) included factors such as residence, age, caste, education, occupation, socio-economic status, family size, and age at marriage and first pregnancy. Specifically, unemployed women (adjusted odds ratio (aOR): 3.26), unskilled to skilled workers (aOR: 10.04), husbands with low education (aOR: 5.66), lower socio-economic status (aOR: 3.02), and first pregnancies at or below 23 years of age (aOR: 7.56) were strongly linked to BPCR outcomes. **Conclusions:** The study found that socio-demographic factors such as education, occupation, socio-economic status, and age at first pregnancy significantly impact BPCR outcomes. Addressing these factors through targeted interventions can improve BPCR practices, which will ultimately enhance maternal and neonatal health outcomes. Further efforts should focus on increasing awareness and education, particularly in low socio-economic groups, to improve BPCR preparedness and reduce maternal and neonatal complications.

ORAL ABSTRACT 4:**Awareness and Attitudes of Medical Undergraduate Students towards Human Rights of Mentally Ill Patients and the Mental Healthcare Act 2017 in Medical College of Central Gujarat: A Cross-Sectional Study**

Dr. Aditya Babaria, Dr. Prashant Dave

Abstract

Background: Every individual has the inherent right to access mental health care without facing any barriers. Unfortunately, human rights violations are more prevalent among individuals with mental health issues. To address this and protect the rights of mentally ill individuals, the Mental Healthcare Act (MHCA) was enacted in India in 2017. Despite the introduction of this legislative measure, human rights violations persist due to a lack of awareness regarding the provisions of the MHCA. This study aimed to assess the baseline knowledge and attitudes towards the human rights of mentally ill patients and the Mental Healthcare Act 2017 (MHCA-2017) among medical undergraduate students. **Aim:** The primary aim of the study was to evaluate the awareness and attitudes of medical undergraduate students regarding the human rights of mentally ill patients and their understanding of the Mental Healthcare Act 2017. **Methodology:** This cross-sectional study was conducted among 561 MBBS undergraduate students from one medical college in Central Gujarat using purposive sampling. Data was collected through a semi-structured questionnaire, which included 13 questions on the human rights of mentally ill patients and 30 questions assessing knowledge and attitudes towards the MHCA-2017. **Results:** Out of the 561 participants, the study found that only 35.7% of the participants had a good level of knowledge about the Mental Healthcare Act, while 57.6% were unaware of the decriminalization of suicide. Furthermore, 60.8% demonstrated poor knowledge regarding the use of anesthesia during electroconvulsive therapy (ECT), and only 25.1% were aware that Gujarat allocates a significant budget to mental health services. On the other hand, 82.9% had a good understanding of the human rights protection for mentally ill individuals, and 69.9% knew about the existence of supervised government-run homes for mentally ill persons. The study also identified a statistically significant association between knowledge of the Mental Healthcare Act, attitudes towards the MHCA, and attitudes towards the human rights of mentally ill individuals. **Conclusion:** This study highlighted a significant lack of awareness among medical undergraduate students regarding both the Mental Healthcare Act and the human rights of mentally ill patients. These findings emphasize the need for improved education and awareness programs within medical curricula to address these gaps and ensure better advocacy for the rights and care of mentally ill individuals.

ORAL ABSTRACT 5:**DIABETES DETECTION UNCOVERED: STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES IN ACTIVE CASE DETECTION (ACD) WITHIN URBAN PRIMARY HEALTH SYSTEMS**

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Abstract

INTRODUCTION: Active Case Detection (ACD) in diabetes involves systematically identifying individuals with undiagnosed diabetes within a given population. It plays a crucial role in the National Programme for Non-Communicable Diseases (NP-NCD), as it serves as the initial step toward the prevention of diabetes-related morbidity and mortality. The success of this program heavily depends on the identification of undiagnosed cases, which makes ACD a focal point of this study. The program's effectiveness in identifying diabetes cases directly impacts the overall utility of NP-NCD, hence the importance of evaluating ACD strategies in urban primary healthcare systems. **AIM:** The aim of this study is to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of ACD strategies used for identifying undiagnosed diabetes at the community level, specifically in urban settings under the NP-NCD framework. This evaluation will focus on understanding the efficiency and limitations of ACD methods in an urban primary healthcare system. **METHODOLOGY:** This qualitative study is being conducted in areas covered by Urban Primary Health Centres (UPHCs). Active diabetes case-searching activities are being assessed through the evaluation of input, process, and output indicators. Input indicators assess the availability of staff, their level of knowledge, and the functionality of available equipment. Process indicators focus on the testing methods, referral systems, follow-up procedures, and challenges faced during the screening process. Output indicators include the number of individuals screened, the number of cases under treatment, and the number of non-compliant cases. To gain deeper insights into the factors influencing ACD, Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) will be conducted with grassroots workers, and beneficiary interviews will be carried out to identify both enablers and barriers in the active case detection process. Beneficiaries from diverse communities, including slum, non-slum, and migrant populations within the UPHC areas, will be included in the study. **RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS:** One of the key strengths of the ACD activity is the house-to-house screening approach, which ensures broad and effective coverage of the population. Additionally, screening and management camps with specialist consultation services are conducted in certain areas, further enhancing case detection and management. However, a significant weakness of the program lies in its limited operational hours, as it is primarily carried out in the mornings. This timing excludes a large portion of the working population, preventing them from accessing the screening services. This limitation affects the overall effectiveness of the ACD initiative. The study is ongoing, and further results will be shared upon its completion.

KEYWORDS: Diabetes, Active Case Detection, Screening Camp, ASHA Worker, Primary Healthcare, Focus Group Discussion (FGD)

ORAL ABSTRACT 6:**Knowledge of Rabies and Wound Care after Animal Bite Among Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) in Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC): A Cross-Sectional Study.**

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Abstract

Background: Rabies is a vaccine-preventable disease with a 100% fatality rate. In India, it is responsible for 18,000-20,000 deaths annually. Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) play a crucial role in addressing dog and other animal bites, and therefore, it is essential that they possess adequate knowledge regarding Rabies and wound care following animal bites. Enhanced knowledge among ASHAs can help raise community awareness and contribute to the prevention of Rabies. **Objectives:** Assess the knowledge of Rabies among ASHAs. Evaluate their understanding of wound care following animal bites. Examine the association between various sociodemographic factors and the knowledge of Rabies and wound care among ASHAs. **Methodology:** This cross-sectional study was conducted on ASHAs from seven randomly selected Urban Primary Health Centres (UPHCs) across seven zones of Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation. A self-administered questionnaire was developed and validated by subject experts. A pilot study was conducted, and based on feedback from ASHAs, the questionnaire was revised. Institutional Review Board (IRB) permission was obtained to carry out the study. Data were entered into MS Excel and analyzed using SPSS version 27. **Results:** The mean age of the ASHAs was 45 years, with most having completed higher secondary education and over 15 years of work experience. The study revealed that 42.9% of ASHAs recognized Rabies as a preventable disease, and 57.1% identified that Rabies could be transmitted by bites from cats, dogs, wild animals, rodents, and monkeys. However, 85.7% were aware of the Rabies vaccine, but none knew the vaccine schedule. Furthermore, 71.4% of ASHAs understood the importance of using antiseptics for wound care. **Conclusion:** The knowledge of ASHAs regarding the transmission of Rabies and the vaccination schedule is inadequate. Although most ASHAs are aware of Rabies as a preventable disease and the general concept of wound care, there is a significant gap in their detailed knowledge of prevention and the proper vaccination schedule, highlighting the need for further education and training.

Keywords: Knowledge, Rabies, ASHA, Wound care

ORAL ABSTRACT 7:**Study on the Differences and Determinants of Self-Esteem and Mindfulness Skills in Rural and Urban Adolescents in Anand, Gujarat**

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Abstract

Background and Objectives: Adolescence is a critical stage for the development of self-esteem and mindfulness skills, both of which play a significant role in mental health, well-being, and resilience. This study aims to explore the differences in self-esteem and mindfulness skills between rural and urban adolescents and to identify the key determinants of these variables.

Methodology: This cross-sectional analytical study includes 600 adolescents, with 300 participants from rural areas and 300 from urban areas, recruited from two schools and two colleges—one in each setting. Each unit set comprises 150 students, including 50 students from science, commerce, and arts streams. The pilot study involved 113 students from one of the schools in the RHTC area. Feasibility studies for data collection were conducted using Epi Info software, with five laptops used simultaneously for data entry. Questionnaires were translated into Gujarati for better accessibility. The study included sociodemographic variables and three standardized scales: the Brief Resilience Coping Scale (BRCS), the Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale (RSES), and the Kentucky Inventory of Mindfulness Skills (KIMS). Descriptive statistics were used to analyze the data and explore the relationships between the variables and self-esteem using SPSS. **Observations:** In the pilot study, 113 students participated, with 64.6% females and 34.5% males. The sample included 50 students from the science stream, 38 from commerce, and 25 from arts. The majority (96.5%) of the participants were from rural areas, and 89.4% belonged to upper-class families. Among the students, 16.8% had normal self-esteem, while 83.2% had low self-esteem. A significant difference was found between rural male and female adolescents in the "Describing" domain of the KIMS, which supports the nomological validity of the study. No significant differences were found in other mindfulness domains. **Conclusion:** Preliminary findings suggest a high prevalence of low self-esteem among rural adolescents, with notable gender differences in specific mindfulness traits. These results underscore the need for targeted interventions aimed at enhancing self-esteem and resilience among rural adolescents. Further analysis, including data from the urban sample, will be presented at the upcoming conference.

Keywords: Self-esteem, Mental Health, Mindfulness Skills, Well-being, Resilience Coping

ORAL ABSTRACT 8:**Effectiveness Of Compression Only Life Support Training Program Among School Teachers of Dahod - A Quasi Experimental Study.**

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Abstract

Background: Cardiovascular disease is one of the most pressing global challenges. Out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (OHCA) is one of India's leading causes of death. 90% of cardiac arrest patients die, with 70% occurring at home or work. One of the primary causes of high fatality rates is a low incidence of bystander CPR. As a result, non-medical personnel are being educated in Compression Only Life Support (COLS), to activate the chain of response. **Objective:** To ascertain the effectiveness of knowledge gained after a compression only life support training among teachers of Dahod district. **Method:** A quasi-experimental study was done among 126 school teachers of Dahod using convenient sampling technique. Pre-test data was obtained by a validated questionnaire, followed by COLS training through an interactive lecture, demonstrations, and hands-on practice on mannequin. Participants' understanding of COLS was assessed by comparing the scores obtained in post-test using the same questionnaire. **Result:** The results showed that mean post-test knowledge score (3.7 ± 0.99) was significantly higher than the pre-test knowledge (1.01 ± 0.86). The paired-t value was 23.02 was significant at <0.05 . Pre-test questions about term COLS, first step, rate, depth, and location of compression, correct answers were 28.5%, 7.9%, 24.6%, 20.6% and 19.8%, respectively. In post-test correct answers were 91.2%, 62.7%, 69%, 70.6% and 79.3%, respectively. The mean post-test confidence score (6.9 ± 1.92) was significantly higher than the pre-test confidence (2.2 ± 1.69). The paired-t value was 20.60 was significant at <0.05 . There were improvements in knowledge and confidence after COLS training. **Conclusion:** programs like COLS can significantly improve the Knowledge amongst the lay person, thereby increasing the survival chance of the “out of the hospital cardiac arrest” (OHCA) victim.

ORAL ABSTRACT 9:**Chandipura Virus Outbreaks in India: A Spatio-Temporal and Spatial Autocorrelation Analysis (2009-2023)**Asokan D¹, Ramalingam A², Nadeem T³, Mall A⁴, Pardeshi G⁵¹Dinesh Asokan - Junior Resident II, Department of Community Medicine²Ajith Ramalingam- Junior Resident I, Department of Community Medicine³Talha Nadeem - Junior Resident I, Department of Community Medicine⁴Anjali Mall – Associate Professor, Department of Community Medicine⁵Geeta Pardeshi – Professor and Head of the Department, Department of Community Medicine
Grant Government Medical College and Sir JJ Group of Hospitals, Mumbai, Maharashtra.**Abstract**

Background: The Chandipura virus has reemerged as a public health concern in India, with some reported outbreaks in 2024. It is primarily transmitted by sandflies and causes Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES). The 2014 surge marked a peak in the virus's spread, emphasizing the need for thorough understanding and intervention. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) are crucial for analyzing spatial trends, identifying hotspots, and guiding public health strategies.

Objectives: To analyze temporal trends of Chandipura virus outbreaks from 2009 to 2023, assess spatial autocorrelation, and explore spatial correlations between forest areas and Chandipura virus cases in Gujarat. **Methods:** A secondary data analysis was conducted using weekly reports of IDSP (2009-2023). GIS and statistical analyses, including spatial autocorrelation and Geographically Weighted Regression (GWR) were done using R software version 4.3.2.

Results: All Chandipura virus outbreaks in India from 2009 to 2023 occurred exclusively during the monsoon season. The highest outbreak activity was observed in 2014, followed by a smaller peak in 2019. Geographic analysis identified hotspots in districts of eastern and central Gujarat. Global Moran's I indicated significant positive spatial autocorrelation (Moran's I = 0.46, $p < 0.001$), confirming clustering of cases. Local Moran's I revealed high-high clusters in Dahod, Panchmahal, Vadodara, and Kheda, with statistically significant clusters ($p < 0.01$) in Dahod, Panchmahal, and Vadodara. GWR indicated a positive spatial correlation between forest cover and Chandipura virus cases, especially in Dahod, Panchmahal, and Vadodara. **Conclusions :** The study provided insights into the spatial clustering and environmental influences on Chandipura virus outbreaks. Significant clusters were identified in some districts, with a strong monsoon seasonal correlation. Also, there is an association of outbreaks with forest cover. Enhanced surveillance, particularly in high-risk districts and during the monsoon, is recommended to effectively manage future outbreaks.

Keywords: Chandipura virus, GIS, Spatial Autocorrelation, Geographically Weighted Regression.

ORAL ABSTRACT 10:**Reasons of high HIV positivity in “at risk” Non-High-Risk Groups (HRGs) of Gujarat.**

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Abstract

Background: Rising trend of HIV has been observed among ‘at risk non HRGs’ as compared to HRGs recently. It is important to understand sexual behavioral patterns for high positivity among ‘at risk non HRGs. **Objectives:** To understand the socio-demographic profile, knowledge of HIV transmission and patterns of high-risk sexual behaviour among ‘at-risk non HRGs’. **Methodology:** A cross-sectional study was conducted among “At risk non HRG” PLHA above 18 years of age registered at ART (1-4-2020 to 31-3-2022) were selected based on patient load proportion to achieve the sample size of 240. 180 (75%) and 60 (25%) from Ahmedabad and Sabarkantha district respectively in consensus with GSACS. A semi-structured questionnaire was used for data collection, entered in Microsoft excel and analyzed for proportion, mean and percentages. **Results:** About 35.4% PLHA belonged to age >45 years with education up to secondary class (45%). 70.8% PLHA were married and 22% of PLHA were married <18 years. About 35% of PLHA had sex prior to marriage among which 95% had sex with other than to be spouse with poor usage of condoms. While diagnosis of HIV, only 7% of PLHA opted for self-testing. <50% PLHA had awareness about HIV/AIDS before they tested positive. 28.3% PLHA had sex with other than spouse/regular partner; with poor usage of condoms (66.2%). 30% PLHA were not aware about HIV status of their partners. 4% PLHA who were MSM had high frequency of sex with no knowledge of HIV status of partner and poor condom usage. 70% PLHA had probably acquired HIV infection through sexual route. **Conclusion:** 83.3% were literate and had first sexual inter course before age of 20 years with poor usage of condoms; awareness for HIV and safe sexual practices especially among adolescent with accessibility to risk assessment tool shall be ensured.

ORAL ABSTRACT 11:**Mapping Dengue and Chikungunya Outbreaks and Syndemics in India: A Decade-Long Analysis Using Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme Data**

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Abstract

Background: This study examines the geographic distribution, temporal trends, and syndemic interactions between Dengue and Chikungunya outbreaks in India from 2014 to 2023, using data from the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP). Understanding trends offers critical insights to enhance public health responses to co-occurring vector-borne diseases.

Objectives: The study aims to analyze the trends, geographic distribution, and syndemic interactions between Dengue and Chikungunya. It highlights patterns, high-burden areas, and seasonal dynamics to inform public health interventions for mitigating the dual burden.

Methods: This was a secondary data analysis using IDSP records from January 2014 to December 2023. Temporal trends of outbreaks were analyzed, and districts were categorized by severity through spatial mapping and bivariate analysis, employing statistical quartiles to assess the co-occurrence and syndemic nature of Dengue and Chikungunya. **Results:** Dengue outbreaks increased significantly from 2014 to 2017, peaking at 175 outbreaks, followed by fluctuations until a peak of 200 outbreaks in 2023. In contrast, Chikungunya outbreaks peaked in 2017 at 77 outbreaks and subsequently declined to 19 outbreaks by 2023. Geographic analysis indicated a high Dengue burden in districts such as East Siang (Arunachal Pradesh), Birbhum (West Bengal), and Pune (Maharashtra), while Chikungunya was most severe in Thanjavur, Theni, and Vellore (Tamil Nadu). A bivariate choropleth analysis identified regions with significant syndemics such as Pune (Maharashtra), Tumkur (Karnataka), and Kamrup (Assam), classified as **High-High**. Additional districts such as Sangli and Satara (Maharashtra) were categorized as **High-Moderate**, while Puducherry and Junagadh (Gujarat) were noted as **Moderate-High** for Dengue & Chikungunya respectively. **Conclusions:** The findings underscore significant variability in Dengue and Chikungunya syndemics across India, highlighting regions with severe dual burden. Enhanced surveillance for close watch on syndemic occurrence and its impact needs to be studied which is essential to reduce both the incidence and study its compounded public health impacts.

Keywords: Vector-borne diseases, Dengue, Chikungunya, Syndemic, GIS.

ORAL ABSTRACT 12:**Assessment Of Dietary and Lifestyle Factors associated with Urinary Stones: A Case-Control Study in Surendranagar City.**

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ABSTRACT

Background: Urinary stones are a condition that occurs when stones form in the urinary tract. It is considered one of India's most prevalent urological diseases and a common public health problem. Responsible risk factors for the development of urinary stones are diet, age, race, obesity, co-morbidities, less physical activity, temperature, genetics, and medications as found by many researchers. **Objectives:** This study aimed to assess sociodemographic, dietary & lifestyle factors associated with urinary stones among the population. **Methods:** A case-control study was conducted in C.U. Shah Medical College in Surendranagar district, Gujarat, between 1 April 2024 to 30 September 2024. Assuming the proportion of cases and controls exposed as 50% and 25% respectively, with alpha error as 5%, power as 80%, and allocation ratio kept at 1:1. A Total of 60 cases was selected from the hospital and 60 controls were selected from the community. Age and gender matching were done. Data were collected through personal interviews and analyzed using MS Excel V.2021 and SPSS V.26. **Results:** - Sociodemographic factors like primary education(OR:7.5,p=0.002), rural locality(OR:2.98,p=0.028),heavy worker(OR:13.67,p=0.015) and past history of urinary stone (OR:2.58, p=0.02) were found associated with urinary stone. Urinary stone was associated with dietary factors such as daily consumption of soft drinks(OR:6.7,p=0.006), tomatoes(OR:3.12, p=0.049), milk & its products(OR:7.18,p=0.003) and never consumption of lemons(OR:2.88, p=0.03). The association between urinary stones and lifestyle factors such as drinking water <6 glasses(OR:6.79,p=0.001), and holding of urine(OR:19.92,p=0.005) were found statistically significant. **Conclusion:** - Heavy worker, lower education, rural locality, past history of urinary stones, never consumption of lemon, daily consumption tomatoes, soft drinks, milk & products, drinking water <6 glasses in a day, and holding of urine for a long time could be predictors for development of urinary stones.

Keywords: -Urinary stones, Dietary factors, Lifestyle factors, Case-control study, Odd's ratio

ORAL ABSTRACT 13:**A Cross-Sectional Study of Elder Abuse and Quality of Life in Urban and Rural Communities**Dipti Rana¹, Dr. Sukesha Gamit², Dr. Mohua Moitra³¹Resident Doctor, Government Medical College, Surat, Veer Narmad South Gujarat University²Assistant Professor, Government Medical College, Surat³Professor and Head of Department of Community Medicine, Government Medical College, Surat**Correspondence:** Dr Dipti Rana, Email: diptirana2898@gmail.com**Abstract**

Introduction: The global aging population presents significant challenges, particularly for developing countries like India, where elderly individuals currently constitute 8.6% of the population. The World Health Organization (WHO) projects this figure will increase substantially by 2050. This demographic shift will put additional strain on healthcare and social services, underscoring the need for policies that support the health and well-being of older adults. The concept of Quality of Life (QOL) for the elderly is multifaceted, encompassing subjective elements such as successful living, happiness, and an active lifestyle. In recent years, QOL has gained increased attention, especially in relation to social issues affecting older individuals, such as elder abuse. Abuse of the elderly is a serious public health concern. **Objectives:** To document the quality of life among the elderly. To assess the magnitude of elder abuse in the population. **Methodology:** This cross-sectional, community-based study was conducted in the urban and rural field practice areas of a tertiary care center in South Gujarat. A total of 250 individuals aged 60 years and above were randomly selected for the study. Quality of Life (QOL) was assessed using the WHOQOL-BREF scale, while elder abuse was measured by asking participants about their experiences of abuse over the last six months. **Observations:** The study interviewed 250 elderly participants, with a mean age of 66.79 ± 5.68 years. Approximately 14% of older adults reported experiencing some form of abuse. Of these, 16.8% were from urban areas, while 10.4% were from rural areas. The QOL assessment revealed that those who had not experienced abuse scored significantly higher in various domains. The physical (67%), environmental (67%), and psychological (63%) domains outperformed the social relationships domain, which scored 56%. **Conclusion & Recommendations:** The study was limited to specific field practice areas, which may affect its generalizability to the broader elderly population. To improve the quality of life for older adults, it is crucial to promote local activities and raise awareness to prevent elder abuse. Enhanced awareness and social support systems are necessary to safeguard the well-being of elderly individuals and improve their quality of life.

Keywords: Elder Abuse, Quality of Life, Urban, Rural

ORAL ABSTRACT 14:**Assessment of Anxiety and Depression among cancer patients attending regional cancer institute: A Cross-sectional study.**

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Abstract

Background: Cancer diagnosis usually have a significant impact on mental health and wellbeing in majority of people. This psychological distress results in anxiety and depression, which hinder cancer treatment, adherence and overall treatment outcome. Identifying the levels and correlates of psychological distress among cancer patients is essential to provide holistic care and address their mental health needs alongside physical treatment. **Objectives:** To estimate the prevalence of anxiety and depression among cancer patients. To explore associations between anxiety, depression, and demographic factors, cancer type, duration of diagnosis. **Materials and Methods:** Cross sectional study was conducted among 214 cancer patients attending Regional Cancer Institute during first half of 2024, using convenient sampling. A self-prepared questionnaire along with the HADS scale was used to collect the required data. Data was collected from patients who provided consent through face-to-face interviews. The data were entered into Microsoft Excel and analysed using SPSS. **Results:** 45 (21%) patients had abnormal anxiety score (cases) and 81 (37.9%) patients had Borderline anxiety score (Borderline cases). Abnormal and Borderline depression score were found in 28 (13.1%) and 67 (31.3%) patients, respectively. Significant association was noted between anxiety and variables like the age group of the patients, the type of cancer, gender, phase of treatment, time since diagnosis. Significant association was noted between depression and variables like time since diagnosis, type of cancer and phase of treatment. **Conclusion:** This study shows high prevalence of anxiety and depression among cancer patients. The psychological burden experienced by these patients underscores the importance of integrating mental health screening and support into routine oncology care.

Key words: Cancer, Anxiety, Depression, Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HADS)

ORAL ABSTRACT 15:**Challenges and Opportunities for Optimum Breastfeeding Practices Among Healthcare Workers in the Twenty-First Century: A Cross-Sectional Study**

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Abstract

Introduction: Breastfeeding is universally recognized for its health benefits to both mothers and infants and for its positive impact on society. However, ideal breastfeeding practices are often questioned, even among healthcare workers, despite their crucial role in promoting and encouraging these practices. **Objectives:** To document the current breastfeeding practices among healthcare workers. To identify the challenges faced by healthcare workers in achieving optimum breastfeeding. To explore potential opportunities for improving breastfeeding practices among healthcare workers. **Methodology:** This cross-sectional study involved 186 female healthcare workers (42 doctors, 144 nurses) from a tertiary care hospital in South Gujarat. Participants were either currently breastfeeding or had breastfed in the past. A pre-designed, semi-structured questionnaire was used for data collection. Data entry and analysis were performed using Microsoft Excel. **Results:** Out of the 186 participants, about one-third had returned to work within three months of delivery. Among the mothers who returned to work within six months of childbirth, 37% managed breastfeeding by expressing breast milk, 37% used formula milk, and 11% used cow's milk. While almost all (94%) were aware of expressed breast milk, only 28% expressed breast milk once a day. Despite 96.7% awareness of milk banking, only 14% were willing to donate milk, and 88% were unwilling to use donated milk for their children. Furthermore, 96.2% reported the absence of crèche facilities, and 89% lacked designated rooms for breastfeeding or expressing milk at the workplace. About 78% received one breastfeeding break, but only 51% felt comfortable with their breastfeeding status at work. **Conclusion:** While healthcare professionals advocate for correct breastfeeding practices, many healthcare mothers face significant challenges in maintaining breastfeeding at the workplace. These challenges include the lack of crèche facilities, absence of designated rooms for breastfeeding or expressing milk, and an uncomfortable work environment. These findings emphasize the need to normalize breastfeeding in the workplace and promote supportive policies for working mothers.

Keywords:

Healthcare Workers, Creche, Breastfeeding, Workplace, Challenges

ORAL ABSTRACT 16:**Adolescent Health Assessment at an Adolescent Friendly Health Center (AFHC): A Situational Analysis in South Gujarat**

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Abstract

Introduction: In India, approximately 1 in every 5 individuals is an adolescent, highlighting the need for targeted health interventions. Adolescent health has received growing recognition, leading to the establishment of Adolescent Friendly Health Centers (AFHC) under the Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram. The present study assesses the health and nutritional status of adolescents attending an AFHC in South Gujarat. **Objectives:** To assess the health and nutritional status of adolescents. To evaluate the reach of program components and their association with demographic and health factors. **Methodology:** This interim data is part of an ongoing activity at the AFHC. After obtaining informed consent, the sociodemographic and health profiles of 425 participants were collected, including measurements of BMI, hemoglobin (Hb), and random blood sugar (RBS). Data analysis was performed using SPSS. **Results:** The mean age of participants was 14.08 ± 2.637 years (85.1% females, 14.9% males), with a dropout rate of 28.7%. A significant number of girls were pursuing education. Among the participants, 70% were underweight, 4.3% were overweight, and 5.2% were obese, with females and older adolescents showing significantly higher BMI. RBS was measured in 204 adolescents, with 16% having values above 120 mg/dl. Of the adolescents, 28.8% took iron-folic acid (IFA) tablets during the first visit, which increased to 44% on the second visit. Out of 177 adolescents with measured Hb levels, 53.6% had mild anemia. Vaccination rates also improved, with only 20.1% fully vaccinated during the first visit, increasing to 35.2% on the second visit. Additionally, 46.7% of participants were not vaccinated against tetanus-diphtheria (Td), with a higher proportion of females being unvaccinated. **Conclusion:** The study highlights the challenges in reaching adolescents and addressing gaps in socio-demographic and health factors. Frequent visits and continuous support have led to measurable improvements, reinforcing the importance of sustained efforts for long-term positive outcomes in adolescent health.

Keywords: Adolescent, Nutrition, Anaemia, Socio-demography

ORAL ABSTRACT 17:**Quality Assessment of Verification Indicators Under “TB Mukht Panchayats” of Surat District, Gujarat**

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Abstract

INTRODUCTION: “The TB Mukht Panchayat initiative” (2023) was launched to measure the magnitude of the problems associated with Tuberculosis, take necessary actions towards solving them and also to create healthy competition amongst panchayats. The progress towards TB elimination is measured through the indicators; the quality of processes involved in deriving these indicators is equally important. Mere achievements of targets without quality work may pose hurdles in TB elimination. **OBJECTIVES:** To assess quality of verification indicators under “TB Mukht Panchayats” in Surat district. **METHODOLOGY:** This cross-sectional study involved review of the TB Laboratory registers, TB notification registers and Nikshay portal to identify the lacunae in achieving the TB Mukht Panchayat indicators. Thirty (30) panchayats qualified as “TB Mukht panchayats” in 2023 were assessed for quality parameters in verification indicators: 1. Presumptive TB examinations 2. TB notification, 3. Treatment success rate, 4. Drug susceptibility testing, 5. Nikshay Poshan Yojana and 6. Receipt of nutritional support. **RESULTS:** Most panchayats had one village and median population of 1167 with median presumptive TB examinations 38 per 1000 population. The collection of specimens was not throughout the year and majority of the examinations were in the October to December. Cough was the commonest symptom (87%) and the sample was saliva in 63% examinations. The key population was not specified in 78%. The patients were screened for HIV and diabetes in 44% and 56% respectively. 95% of the notified cases were new, 59% microscopically confirmed and 82% pulmonary TB. 82% patients were tested for drug sensitivity by CBNAAT. 95% had received minimum one instalment of Nikshay Poshan Yojana and 91% had received nutritional support. **CONCLUSION:** Presumptive examinations for TB need to be strengthened by proper selection of key population, testing patients suffering from cardinal symptoms of TB, quality sputum samples and performing the examinations throughout the year.

Keywords: TB Free, NTEP, Nikshay Poshan Yojana

ORAL ABSTRACT 18:**Outcome prediction of Drug sensitive tuberculosis patients using discriminant function**Dr. Meet Chauhan¹ and Dr. K. A. Varghese²¹Professor and Head, Department of Community Medicine, Shantabaa Medical College, Amreli, Gujarat²Statistician, Department of Community Medicine, PIMS, Udaipur, Rajasthan**Abstract**

Background: Tuberculosis is a social disease influenced by social factors like poverty, illiteracy, ignorance, poor sanitation, overcrowding etc. The specific objectives of this study were; to assess the treatment outcome of drug sensitive newly diagnosed tuberculosis patients, to examine statistical significance of multivariate vectors of socio-economic factors and to estimate and test a function to discriminate between cured and not cured patients. **Methodology:** The study was based on 192 drug sensitive newly diagnosed tuberculosis patients registered during 1st July to 31st December 2014 in an urban area of Gujarat, a western state of India. Pre-validated and semi structured questionnaire was used to obtain information regarding history of illness and socio-demographic details. Compliance and treatment outcome were confirmed by follow-up visits at 3 and 6 months after initiation of treatment. The multivariate normal distribution of socio-economic variables like occupation, educational level, income level, type of house, duration of chief complaint and working status of patients after coding were used along with actual weight and age of patients. The socio-demographic factors were included as the components of multivariate vectors for both cured and not cured patients after completion of treatment. The equality of mean vectors for cured and not cured patients was tested through Hotelling's T^2 test. The linear discriminant function was estimated, tested for statistical significance and validated on the sample data under multivariate approach. **Results:** Out of 192 patients, cure rate was found to be 84.37%. The mean vectors of socio- demographic variables were found statistically significant for cured and not cured patients. The duration of chief complaint is also less for cured patients implying that the cured patients started treatment early as compared to not cured patients. The functional status of cured patients was also better for cured patients. The cured patients were found to have higher starting weight also. The estimated statistically significant discriminant function could correctly classify with 94% accuracy among the successful treatment outcome cases. **Conclusion:** The socio- demographic factors play a crucial role in discriminating the treatment outcome of tuberculosis patients and discriminant function can be used to predict the future treatment outcome. Study included only eight variables related to demographic factors. Further research needs to be carried out using other clinical variables.

ORAL ABSTRACT 19:**Organ-Tissue Donation: Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practice among Auxiliary Nurse Midwifery (ANM) Workers in Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation**

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Abstract

Introduction: Organ-tissue donation plays a critical role in saving lives, yet its promotion among healthcare workers remains a challenge due to gaps in knowledge, awareness, and attitudes. This study focuses on primary healthcare workers, particularly ANMs, working under the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation. The aim is to assess their understanding, attitudes, and practices related to organ-tissue donation and identify barriers affecting engagement. **Objective:** To evaluate the level of knowledge about various types of organ and tissue donations, the procedures involved, and the associated benefits among ANM. To assess awareness of the aspects of organ donation, eligibility criteria, and existing donation programs. To assess attitudes, beliefs, and personal willingness towards organ and tissue donation, including the influence of socio-demographic, cultural, and religious factors. **Method:** A cross-sectional, observational study was conducted among healthcare workers, focusing on ANMs in multiple UPHCs under Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation. Data collection involved a self-administered questionnaire capturing socio-demographic details, knowledge of donation procedures, and cultural influences. Correlations between knowledge, attitudes, and practices were analyzed using SPSS. **Result:** Preliminary findings reveal younger participants (45.5% aged 18-25) and graduates (27.3%) scored higher in knowledge and practice, with a positive average attitude score of 76%. However, over 50% of respondent's average awareness score was 24%, indicating limited familiarity with laws and campaigns. Older healthcare workers (18.2%) and those with 11-15 years of experience showed lower performance, highlighting the need for refresher training. A strong correlation was observed between knowledge and practice scores (72.5%) and between attitude and practice scores (72.3%). **Conclusion:** The study recommends to providing regular training to improve organ donation efforts. These insights will help shape future policies and enhance healthcare workers' ability to promote organ-tissue donation within their communities.

Key-words: Organ-tissue donation, Primary healthcare workers, Knowledge, Attitude, Practice, Barriers.

ORAL ABSTRACT 20:**Exploratory Study of Barriers and Facilitators of “Reaching the Last Mile”- Stakeholders’ Narratives**

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Correspondence: Dr Anjali Modi, Email: dranjalimodi@gmail.com**Abstract**

Introduction including objectives: In India, transmission of HIV from mother to newborn, in terms of pooled prevalence is 8.76%. The studies on prevention of parent/mother to child transmission (PPTCT) cascade show 25 to 52% loss to follow up rates (LTFU) of mothers and HIV-exposed infants at various retention points-of-care. Specific context-based qualitative research exploring and identifying bottlenecks and gains in PPTCT program implementation may solidify the target of “zero new HIV transmission in newborns”. **Methods:** This qualitative research involving in-depth interviews of stakeholders, policymakers, program managers and key-informants of PPTCT program was conducted at tertiary care associated anti-retroviral therapy (ART) center in western India. Seventeen in-depth key informant interviews were conducted with the help of interview guide based on “a-priori” and emerging themes. Due to paucity of Indian data, review of socio-ecological model and themes from international research studies was used to formulate the codebook and qualitative software based analysis. The in-depth interviews of key informants lasted thirty minutes on an average and ranged between twenty to forty minutes. The interviews were audio-recorded, translated and transcribed to English. Computer Assisted qualitative (CAQDAS) N-vivo software-based direct content analysis on “a-priori” and “emerging” themes was conducted to create final model of enablers and barriers for Indian PPTCT program **Results:** Health care providers, policy makers and program managers including counselors having more than five years of program work experience participated in present study. Codebook definitions were used for software-based coding and word cloud generation from seventeen interview transcripts. The most common words found in the key informants interviews and discussions are “Counselling”; “Treatment” and “Medicines” were required by “positive mother” with the “support” of “husband and family”. The individual theme were coded as knowledge of HIV and PPTCT; belief in ARV efficacy ; personal motivation of mother to initiate; and continue the PPTCT program. The interpersonal level factors were HIV status disclosure to partner and family workers; and quality of interaction with health workers. The institutional level factors were considered as waiting times on each PMTCT visit; quality of HIV post-test counselling, confidentiality and privacy; stigma and discrimination from health workers and their skills to deliver the program. HIC disclosure and stigma followed by discrimination were the community factors while the national and regional policy factors were coded separately. **Conclusions:** The present study is one of the first effort to explore and understand program makers, policy-planners and implementers experiences and perspectives in retention of prevention of parent to child transmission of HIV program. The Themes/ Framework provides important perspective to qualitative analysis of care continuum cascade. At all dimensions– Individual, Interpersonal, Institutional and Policy levels; Vertical Themes keep appearing as factors influencing adherence/ compliance. These vertical planes are – family support, partner status and stigma associated with the disease.

Keywords: Qualitative Research, Key informants, Prevention of parent to child transmission (PPTCT), Mother to child transmission (MTCT), Elimination of vertical transmission of HIV (EVTH)

ORAL ABSTRACT 21:**Organ-Tissue Donation: Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practice among Auxiliary Nurse Midwifery (ANM) Workers in Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation**

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Abstract

Introduction: Organ-tissue donation plays a critical role in saving lives, yet its promotion among healthcare workers remains a challenge due to gaps in knowledge, awareness, and attitudes. This study focuses on primary healthcare workers, particularly ANMs, working under the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation. The aim is to assess their understanding, attitudes, and practices related to organ-tissue donation and identify barriers affecting engagement. **Objective:** To evaluate the level of knowledge about various types of organ and tissue donations, the procedures involved, and the associated benefits among ANM. To assess awareness of the aspects of organ donation, eligibility criteria, and existing donation programs. To assess attitudes, beliefs, and personal willingness towards organ and tissue donation, including the influence of socio-demographic, cultural, and religious factors. **Method:** A cross-sectional, observational study was conducted among healthcare workers, focusing on ANMs in multiple UPHCs under Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation. Data collection involved a self-administered questionnaire capturing socio-demographic details, knowledge of donation procedures, and cultural influences. Correlations between knowledge, attitudes, and practices were analyzed using SPSS. **Result:** Preliminary findings reveal younger participants (45.5% aged 18-25) and graduates (27.3%) scored higher in knowledge and practice, with a positive average attitude score of 76%. However, over 50% of respondent's average awareness score was 24%, indicating limited familiarity with laws and campaigns. Older healthcare workers (18.2%) and those with 11-15 years of experience showed lower performance, highlighting the need for refresher training. A strong correlation was observed between knowledge and practice scores (72.5%) and between attitude and practice scores (72.3%). **Conclusion:** The study recommends to providing regular training to improve organ donation efforts. These insights will help shape future policies and enhance healthcare workers' ability to promote organ-tissue donation within their communities.

Key-words: Organ-tissue donation, Primary healthcare workers, Knowledge, Attitude, Practice, Barriers.

ORAL ABSTRACT 22:**Stunting and Domestic Environmental Hygiene: A Latent Class Analysis of Factors Influencing Childhood Stunting in Sabarkantha District, Gujarat**

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Abstract

Stunting continues to pose a significant public health challenge worldwide, particularly affecting children under five. This study aims to understand complex factors contributing to stunting by examining the relationship between childhood stunting and domestic environmental hygiene. Study being conducted in Talod and Khedbramha blocks of Sabarkantha had a sample of 1,246 children. Around 51.8% of the children in the study were male, with a majority (97.3%) born at full term. The mean age of mothers was 29.4 ± 4.768 years. Prevalence of stunting was 42.5%. Notably, nearly 90.6% households reported to have safe source of drinking water, while 38.5% practised open defecation. These characteristics highlight the diverse living conditions that can influence the risk of stunting among children. Using LCA, households were classified based on 32 categorical variables, including maternal age, child age, birthweight, sanitation practices, food hygiene, illness history, and household structure. The analysis identified an optimal 3-class model that reflects the varying circumstances of these families (AIC = 66100.33, BIC = 67448.92). The classes revealed distinct profiles: **Class 1** (30.58%) consisted of households with better hygiene and fewer health issues; **Class 2** (32.15%) represented families with moderate resource access; and **Class 3** (37.27%) included households facing poor hygiene, higher food insecurity, and more frequent illnesses. The fit of our model was supported by a likelihood ratio/deviance statistic ($G^2 = 47820.44$), indicating that this three-class solution effectively captures the diversity within our data. This study's findings highlight distinct population subgroups that experience varying levels of risk factors associated with childhood stunting. The LCA approach provided valuable insights for tailoring interventions to address the specific needs of each group, particularly in improving domestic hygiene and food security in vulnerable populations. Future work will focus on designing targeted interventions to reduce stunting rates based on these latent profiles.

Keywords: Stunting, breastfeeding, dietary diversity, latent class analysis

ORAL ABSTRACT 23:**A Community-Based Cross-Sectional Study on Prevalence & Determinants of Antibiotic Consumption in the Catchment Area of UHTC, Ahmedabad**

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Abstract

Background: India is the largest consumer of antibiotics globally. Misuse and overuse of total antibiotic consumption has given rise to antimicrobial resistance. **Objectives:** 1) To estimate the community-based prevalence and determinants of antibiotic consumption and find out the association between epidemiological determinants and antibiotic consumption. 2) To find the most commonly consumed antibiotics as per WHO AWaRe criteria. **Methodology:** A community based cross-sectional study was conducted from May- August 2024 using 15 cluster sampling techniques to identify the participants having illness episodes in the last 3 months in the catchment area of Ognaj. As per the WHO multi-country survey, antibiotic consumption prevalence of 76%, sample size was 315(21 participants X 15 clusters). House survey was continued to obtain 21 participants from the entire area of the cluster. Those having confirmed history of antibiotics were identified and interviewed and segregated as per WHO AWaRe criteria. **Observations:** Out of 2278 population from 247 families, 349 (15.3%) members had a history of illness in the last 3 months. Overall prevalence of antibiotics consumption was 117/349 (33.5%), whereas 55(42.6%) in children (<18years) and 62(28.2%) in adults. There was a significant association for determinants like age, gender, prescription by qualified doctors and antibiotic consumption. As per WHO AWaRe criteria, antibiotic consumption for watch 91/117(77.8%), for access and reserve group was 59(50.4%) and 2(1.7%) respectively. **Conclusions & Recommendations:** Out of total 117 of the participants three-fourths consumed the watch group and half consumed the access group of antibiotics. There is an urgent need to avoid overuse of antibiotics.

Keywords: Prevalence of antibiotic consumption, AWaRe criteria, determinants

ORAL ABSTRACT 24:**Out-pocket expenditure of Pediatric Tuberculosis Patients in Surat City.**

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Abstract

Background: Total Tuberculosis (TB) incidence is 199 per 1 lakh population in India (2022). Even though India provides free-of-cost diagnosis and treatment of TB, the out-of-pocket expenditure burden on TB patients is more than 21 thousand crores INR. However, there is little information on out-of-pocket expenditure of Paediatric TB patients instead the burden of TB and multi-drug resistance (MDR) TB is high in India. **Objectives:** Estimation of out-of-pocket expenditure in Paediatric TB patients in Surat City. **Methods:** 100 paediatric TB patients taken from various Urban Health Centres (UHCs) of Surat city and ask questions to their parents regarding their out-pocket expenditure. The questionnaire includes the out-of-pocket expenditures such as expenditures related to Consultation, Medication, Investigation, Travelling, Wage loss of accompanying person and other expenditure with number times of visits to health centres. Additionally, the survey investigates the utilization of incentives. Statistical measures such as Mean, Standard Deviation (S.D.), Proportions are used. **Results:** The total out-of-pocket expenses amount to Rs. 4733 ± 10129 (Mean ± SD). These are classified into two main categories: **Medical Costs** (Rs. 3473 ± 7128), which include: Rs. 882 ± 2271 for consultation fees, Rs. 949 ± 2607 for medications, Rs. 1643 ± 2787 for investigations. **Non-Medical Costs** (Rs. 1260 ± 4054), comprising: Rs. 307 ± 634 for travel, Rs. 393 ± 1202 for wage loss, Rs. 560 ± 3324 for other miscellaneous expenses. **Conclusions:** Based on the above results, the out-of-pocket expenses for paediatric TB patients reveal a substantial financial burden. Medical costs, particularly for consultations, medications, and investigations, represent the majority of the expenses. These findings highlight the need for targeted financial support and interventions to reduce the economic strain on families of paediatric TB patients, especially considering the high variability in costs.

ORAL ABSTRACT 25**A Study to Assess the Knowledge, Attitude, and Practices Regarding Hepatitis B Infection and Vaccination Among UG Medical Students of Government Medical College, Bhavnagar**

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Abstract

Introduction: Hepatitis B virus (HBV) is a major cause of liver disease globally, with healthcare workers at higher risk due to exposure during their training. This study aims to assess the knowledge, attitude, and practices (KAP) regarding Hepatitis B infection and vaccination among undergraduate (UG) medical students at Government Medical College, Bhavnagar. **Methodology:** A cross-sectional study was conducted among UG medical students from the 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 batches at Government Medical College, Bhavnagar. Data were collected from 349 students using a self-administered questionnaire distributed via Google Forms. Data analysis was performed using Microsoft Excel. **Observations:** Out of 349 participants, 233 were male (66.7%) and 116 were female (33.3%). Regarding knowledge of Hepatitis B and its vaccination, 18% had poor knowledge, 30% had average knowledge, and 52% had good knowledge. A positive attitude toward Hepatitis B control and vaccination was observed in 89% of the students. However, only 133 (38%) students were vaccinated against Hepatitis B, with 81 (61%) of them being fully vaccinated. **Conclusion:** While nearly half of the students had good knowledge about Hepatitis B infection and its vaccination, and the majority held a positive attitude towards its control, the vaccination coverage was suboptimal. Only around one-third of students were vaccinated, with many still being partially vaccinated. This highlights the need for increased awareness and vaccination efforts among medical students.

Keywords: Hepatitis B, Knowledge, Attitude, Practice

ORAL ABSTRACT 26:**Unlocking insights for strengthening Home Based Newborn and Child Care in Aspirational districts of Gujarat**

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Abstract

Background: Aspirational districts of Narmada and Dahod are one among the first districts to implement Home-Based Newborn Care (HBNC) program since 2011 Home-Based Care for Young Child (HBYC) program since 2018. The programmes focused to cater rural and hard to reach areas through scheduled home visit by ASHAs. **Objectives:** 1. To understand the status of implementation of HBNC/YC program, bottlenecks and document good practices. 2. To draft recommendations for strengthening the service delivery. **Methods:** A cross-sectional descriptive, mixed method study in 52 PHCs of two aspirational districts. The study included assessment of knowledge and practices of 104 ASHAs along with supportive supervision of home visits under HBNC/YC; knowledge of mothers on danger signs; in-depth interviews of health workers and program managers. **Results:** ASHAs had good knowledge about schedule of visits (85%) management of diarrhoea (84%) and poor knowledge on developmental milestone (23%), attachment and position for breast feeding (41%), incentive for follow up of SNCU discharged babies (475). Identifying sick child and sick mother was relatively low (65%). About 85% ASHAs were trained and 57% ASHAs reported no skill-building training/mentoring during supportive supervision. However, the challenges were – resistant behaviour in tribal community, delayed grant release from the administration, lack of staff, and inadequate utilisation of supportive supervision tool. **Conclusion and recommendations:** Enhance the capacity of ASHA facilitators and ANMs in supportive supervision for HBNC/YC orienting them using handbook available for supervisors. Digital record keeping and reporting of HBNC and HBYC programme (TeCHO+). Standardize content and quality of materials used in the ECD kits and monitor uninterrupted supply and replenishment plan. Integrate capacity building package on ECD/parenting in the revised HBNC/YC guidelines.

ORAL ABSTRACT 27:**Family Adoption Programme (FAP) – A Way Forward as a Unique Opportunity for Competency Based Medical Education (CBME)**

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Abstract

Introduction: The Family Adoption Programme (FAP) was introduced by the National Medical Commission (NMC) in the new Competency-Based Medical Education (CBME) curriculum starting in 2021-22. The program aims to improve healthcare access, particularly in rural populations. Despite several challenges in implementing FAP, it presents a unique opportunity for both teachers and students to engage in teaching and learning essential competencies in Community Medicine through practical, real-world exposure. **Objectives:** To map subject-specific competencies that can be effectively taught through FAP, based on feasibility and relevance. To list specific learning objectives (SLOs) aligned with these competencies, paired with appropriate teaching and learning methods (TLMs) and lesson plans. To suggest suitable assessment methods (AMs) for evaluating the acquired competencies. **Methodology:** For mapping the competencies, the *Competency-Based Undergraduate Curriculum for the Indian Medical Graduate 2018 & 2024* (Volume II) was referenced. The identified competencies were categorized into different phases (I, II, III) based on their criticality and relevance. SLOs were developed for each competency, with corresponding TLMs, lesson plans, and assessment methods. **Results:** A total of 50 competencies were identified (16 in Phase I, 14 in Phase II, and 20 in Phase III), categorized by their criticality and feasibility at the institutional level. Domain-wise SLOs were framed, covering cognitive, psychomotor, and affective domains. For each subtopic, lesson plans were created, which included field-based skill sessions using methods like Demonstration, Observation, Assistance, and Performance (DOAP) with Peyton's Four-Step Approach, direct observation, case presentations with One Minute Preceptor (OMP), and SNAPPS (Summarising, Narrowing, Analysing, Probing, Planning the management, and Self-directed learning). **Conclusion:** The Family Adoption Programme (FAP) offers a unique opportunity for effective teaching and learning within the CBME framework, provided that it is accompanied by well-structured lesson plans, appropriate teaching-learning methods, and effective assessment techniques. FAP can serve as a comprehensive approach to learning, ensuring proper feedback and assessment for better educational outcomes.

Keywords: Family Adoption Programme, Opportunity, Competency

ORAL ABSTRACT 28:**Awareness, perceptions and practices pertaining to human papillomavirus cancers and vaccination among undergraduate medical students in tertiary care institute, Western India: Cross-sectional study**

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Abstract

Introduction: Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) is an important cause for cervical cancer among women. Safety and effectiveness of HPV vaccines are sufficiently established for its introduction in India. Knowledge and practices of HPV vaccination among medical students is vital as these may strongly determine intention to recommend vaccination to others in future. **Objectives:** To study knowledge about HPV related cancers and to assess awareness, perceptions and choices of medical students pertaining to HPV vaccination. **Methodology:** Present cross-sectional study was conducted among 3rd year MBBS medical students (response rate 70.5%) of tertiary care teaching hospital in western India. Information regarding HPV cancers and vaccines was collected using self-administered google form after obtaining written consent. Data was analysed using Microsoft Excel and Jamovi version 2.6.2. **Results:** Out of 303 participants, majority (75.6%) were in 19-21 years of age-group, M:F ratio was 1:0.7 and equal proportion of participants were in 3rd first and final year. Most of the participants (97%) knew about HPV related cancers. Only 40% participants mentioned correct age for HPV screening, 68% knew about recommended age-group for vaccination and less than one-fourth (18%) were vaccinated against HPV. Significant positive association was found between 19-21 years age-group and knowledge regarding HPV-related cancers. Vaccine availability and recommended age for HPV vaccination were significantly associated with female participants. A similar trend was observed with HPV vaccination practices, where majority females were vaccinated. Knowledge about HPV types, HPV-related cancers, correct screening methods and awareness of HPV vaccines were significantly associated with final year MBBS students ($p < 0.05$). **Conclusions:** Knowledge and uptake of HPV vaccination among medical students in India is poor. These findings highlight the importance of targeted interventions to improve HPV vaccination rates, particularly among younger individuals and it is suggested that medical students, an important group to focus for disseminating accurate HPV information.

Key words: Human papilloma virus cancers, HPV vaccination, Awareness, Perception, Medical students

ORAL ABSTRACT 29:**Assessment of Breakfast consumption patterns and its health implications in college going students**

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Abstract

Background: Breakfast is one of the important meals of the day. It starts person's day with energy and refreshment. Breakfast not only fuels the body but also helps performing whole day activities smoothly by providing the required energy especially in adolescents. But the intake of breakfast has declined in past 25 years especially among adolescents. **Objectives** -This study aimed at - Exploring the breakfast consumption pattern among college students in Pune city in India. To find prevalence of habit of skipping breakfast. Identify barriers in consumption of breakfast. To enlist various health implications related to it **Method:** A cross-sectional study was conducted among the college going students between ages 18-25 studying in Pune city. A customised pre-validated semi structured questionnaire was utilized to collect data related to breakfast consumption pattern, prevalence of skipping breakfast, barriers for taking breakfast and various health implications related to it. **Results:** In a sample of 110 students, majority of students (84 (77%)) lived away from their home in hostel, sharing apartment, paying guest etc compared to (11) 10% students living at their home. 43% (48) of respondents reported to have breakfast every day against 20% (22) consuming breakfast for 5-6 days in a week and other 29% (32) for 3-4 days a week. 87% (96) students admitted that skipping breakfast reduces their efficiency to work and concentrate. Almost 82% (90) students feel weak or tired without breakfast. 71% (78) students admitted to experience headache, heart burn, weakness or vertigo after skipping breakfast and having exertion. Various reasons were shared by students for skipping breakfast as lack of time (77%), laziness (8%), not feeling hungry and engagement in classroom at breakfast time (10%). Among the menu preferred in breakfast by students was bread and dairy products (20%) followed by Poha and South Indian breakfast (17%) fruits and cereals (21%) mainly. More than half of the students i.e. 53% had breakfast at canteen. **Conclusion:** Majority of students experience reduced efficiency to work and concentration after skipping breakfast. They feel tired and weak on exertion without having breakfast. Students have a varied pattern of breakfast and lack of time following busy academic schedule along with staying away from home were found to be a major reason for not perusing daily breakfast consumption habit.

Keywords: Breakfast, health implications

ORAL ABSTRACT 30:**A Prospective Study of the Epidemiological Profile of Dog Bite Cases and Determinants of Anti-Rabies Vaccination (ARV) Compliance at a Rural Health Training Centre (RHTC) of GMERS Medical College Sola, Ahmedabad**

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Abstract

Introduction/ background, including objectives: India is endemic for rabies and accounts for 35% of the world's rabies cases. ARV is the only effective way of preventing deaths still, compliance is a real concern. Study was conducted with objectives to document the epidemiological profile and to assess the ARV compliance, its determinants and reasons for poor compliance among dog bite cases. **Methodology:** A prospective study conducted at PHC Rancharda which is also RHTC. All the consecutive incident dog bite cases registered during FY 23-24 included in the study to achieve 210 sample size. These cases were followed up till last dose (4th) and up to 60 days to assess compliance. **Observations:** Total 221 cases were registered. As per epidemiological profile of dog bite cases, there were more males 167(75.6%) than females. Mean age was 26.8 ± 15.1 years and 40.7% cases didn't do anything at home for wound management. Agent factor showed 175(79.2%) cases were stray dog bite and 173(78.3%) were unprovoked, Accessibility to health centre in terms of distance for 82(37.1%) cases was more than 5 km. Maximum cases were cat II (58.4%) followed by III (30.3%) and I (11.3%). Among 196 cases of Cat II and III, 121(61.7%) had full ARV compliance. Reasons for poor-compliance were feeling cured, out of station and lack of specific reasons. Occupation($p=0.02$) and animal vaccination($p=0.02$) shows significant associations with compliance **Conclusions & Recommendations:** Only 61.7% cases had full ARV compliance which shows community are not enough aware about dog bite and its management. Community awareness for management and ARV compliance should be strengthened.

Keywords: Dog bite, Epidemiological profile, ARV compliance, Determinants

ORAL ABSTRACT 31:**Evaluation of knowledge, attitude and practice regarding stress management among undergraduate medical students at SMIMER Medical College, Surat, Gujarat**

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Abstract

Background: Medical education is inherently stressful, often leading to adverse effects on students' mental health and well-being. Despite the prevalence of stress among undergraduate medical students, there is limited research on the effectiveness of stress management strategies.

Objectives: This study aims to evaluate the knowledge, attitude and practice of stress management among undergraduate MBBS students at SMIMER Medical College & Hospital, Surat, Gujarat. **Methods:** A total of 333 undergraduate students of first year, second year, third year and final year of MBBS were explained the aims and objectives of the study and informed consents were obtained. The questionnaire consisted of 13 questions regarding knowledge, attitude and practice. The questionnaires were submitted online and evaluated for their completeness. The data were recorded in Microsoft Excel and analysed. **Results:** Out of 333 total undergraduates, 30.03%, 27.33%, 24.62% and 18.02% of students were of first, second, third and final year MBBS, respectively. 45.34% students gave a relevant definition of stress. The most common condition related to stress is anxiety (60.1%). Most common stressors were extensive course and challenging subjects (31.5%) followed by Less self-study time (18%). 48.9% of students agreed that they have feel home sickness or had trouble adjusting to a new environment, 66.4% students had confronted stress because of competition related stress. Most commonly used stress relieving activities by the students was listening to music (63.1%), followed by watching youtube videos (14.4%). Meditation and prayer were practiced by only 28.8% of students. 60.1% of students indulged themselves in their favourite hobbies when felt stress out and 2.4% students became addicted to smoking and alcohol. **Conclusion:** There was significant level of perceived stress among majority of medical undergraduates owing to various stressors such as academic, environmental, psychological and socio-economic factors.

Key word: Medical undergraduate, Stress Management, Addiction, Physical exercise, Mental Health

ORAL ABSTRACT 32**Comparison of Anthropometric Measures of Nutritional Status in Children Under 2 Years of Age Using WHO Anthro Software: A Hospital-Based Case-Control Study**

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Abstract

Introduction: Malnutrition is a life-threatening condition, and acute malnutrition is an indicator of an emergency requiring urgent action. However, there is no single ‘gold standard’ anthropometric measurement to diagnose child undernutrition, as all have their pros and cons.

Objectives: To compare different anthropometric measurements to assess child malnutrition.

Methodology: Using WHO’s MGRS Criteria (2006), cases and controls were selected with matching for age and sex. The calculated sample size was 154 (77 cases and 77 controls), determined using the STATCAL application of Epi-Info, assuming a two-sided confidence level of 95%, a study power of 80%, a 1:1 case-control ratio, and a 10% non-response rate. Lack of exclusive breastfeeding was taken as an exposure factor. Weight and height were measured using an infantometer, and Z-scores (WFH, HFA, WFA) were calculated using WHO Anthro software. MUAC was measured using Shakir’s tape. Sensitivity, specificity, and accuracy were calculated for each anthropometric measure. **Observations:** Most cases (79.2%) were in the 7–24 months age group. Among cases, 48.05% were severely stunted and 15.58% were stunted (HAZ between -2 and -3 SD). Among controls, 19.48% were severely stunted, 16.88% were stunted, 7.79% were severely underweight, and 10.39% were underweight. The sensitivity and specificity of MUAC for diagnosing severely stunted children were 71.15% and 60.78%, respectively. The sensitivity of MUAC for diagnosing severely underweight children was 86.05%. The accuracy of MUAC in diagnosing chronic malnutrition was 64.29%. **Conclusions:** A combined approach using multiple anthropometric measurements to screen for chronic malnutrition in the community is strongly recommended. Additionally, developing software similar to WHO’s Anthro software in local languages could assist grassroots workers in the early and accurate diagnosis of SAM children.

Keywords: WHO Anthro Software, Sensitivity, Specificity, MUAC

ORAL ABSTRACT 33:**Adherence to Iron-Folic Acid Supplementation and Its Impact on Anaemia Among Antenatal Women: A Mixed-Methods Study**

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Abstract

Introduction: Anaemia during pregnancy is a significant public health issue affecting millions of women globally. This study aimed to assess the impact of iron-folic acid (IFA) supplementation adherence on anaemia and identify factors influencing adherence or non-adherence. **Methodology:** This mixed-methods study involved 80 pregnant women attending antenatal services at the Urban Health Training Centre of a tertiary healthcare facility in South Gujarat from October to December 2023. For the quantitative component, participants aged 18-40 years, in their second and third trimesters, were prescribed IFA, and documented haemoglobin levels were included. Exclusions were made for those with pre-existing conditions affecting haemoglobin, history of blood transfusions, or missing IFA prescriptions/haemoglobin data. Data were collected using a structured, pre-tested questionnaire and analysed using MS Excel 2016 and SPSS version 26. Univariate analysis was performed, Fisher's Exact test was used for associations, and an independent t-test assessed mean weight differences between IFA users and non-users. For the qualitative component, in-depth interviews (IDI) were conducted with 10 purposively selected participants (5 adhering to IFA and 5 not adhering) and analysed using thematic analysis. **Results:** The study of 80 pregnant women (mean age 23, SD = 3.477) revealed that 96.3% were housewives, 52.5% had secondary education, 48.8% were primigravida, and 3.8% had a history of abortion. Anaemia was present in 78.8% of the participants. Non-adherence to IFA (9 participants) was attributed to distance, side effects, and forgetfulness. IFA adherence ($p = 0.004$) and occupation ($p = 0.025$) were significantly associated with better anaemia outcomes. An independent t-test showed no significant difference in mean weight between IFA users and non-users ($p = 0.324$). **Conclusions:** Adherence to IFA supplementation significantly improved anaemia outcomes, with occupation influencing results. Barriers to adherence included distance, side effects, and forgetfulness. Targeted interventions are necessary to enhance adherence and reduce anaemia among pregnant women.

Keywords: Adherence, Anaemia in pregnancy, IFA supplementation, Maternal health

ORAL ABSTRACT 34:**High Blood Pressure Among College Students: Unraveling Prevalence and Contributing Factors Through a Cross-Sectional Study**Dr. Maulikbhai Desai¹, Dr. Piyushkumar C. Parmar², Dr. Rucha Dave³, Dr. Ijaj Aevara⁴¹Post Graduate Resident, Department of Community Medicine²Associate Professor, Department of Community Medicine³Post Graduate Resident, Department of Community Medicine⁴Post Graduate Resident, Department of Community Medicine

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Correspondence: Dr. Maulikbhai Desai, E-mail: desaimaulik52@gmail.com**Abstract**

Introduction: Some studies have indicated that medical students have higher rates of high blood pressure (hypertension). Several physical, social, and mental factors contribute to this. Given their exposure to rigorous medical education and potentially stressful academic environments, it is essential to understand the prevalence and the physical, mental, and social contributing factors of hypertension among medical students. By examining these factors, targeted interventions can address modifiable risk factors and reduce the incidence of hypertension and its complications.

Methodology: In this cross-sectional study, 88 students from MBBS, BDS, and BPT courses at Sumandeep Vidyapeeth University, Vadodara, were enrolled. Blood pressure, height, and weight were measured under standardized conditions. Participants were surveyed using pretested, semi-structured questionnaires to gather information on factors such as anxiety levels, physical activity, and academic stress. **Observations:** The study, involving 88 students with a mean age of 21 years, found that 63.6% were female and 36.4% male. Among females, 50% had normal blood pressure, while 48.2% were prehypertensive and 1.8% hypertensive. In males, 37.5% had normal blood pressure, 46.9% were prehypertensive, and 15.6% were hypertensive. Anxiety levels significantly impacted blood pressure, with students experiencing severe anxiety showing higher rates of hypertension. Additionally, 65.91% of participants who engaged in regular physical activity had better blood pressure profiles. Academic stress was associated with increased blood pressure, with 53.41% of students experiencing occasional academic stress showing a mix of normal and elevated blood pressure levels. **Conclusions:** The study highlights a significant prevalence of hypertension and prehypertension among undergraduate students at Sumandeep Vidyapeeth University, emphasizing the complex interplay of academic stress, physical inactivity, and psychological stressors. Severe anxiety was particularly influential in elevating hypertension risk, suggesting the need for comprehensive wellness programs that incorporate mental health support, stress management, and regular physical activity. Targeted interventions focusing on lifestyle modifications could mitigate hypertension risks, promoting healthier future healthcare professionals capable of advocating for and implementing effective hypertension prevention and management strategies.

Keywords: Blood pressure, Hypertension, Medical students, Determinants

ORAL ABSTRACT 35:**Perception and outlook of ICTC and ART counsellors for high HIV positivity in “at risk” Non-High-Risk Groups (HRGs) of Gujarat; A qualitative study**

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Abstract

Background: Rising trend of HIV has been observed among ‘at risk non HRGs’ as compared to HRGs recently and it is vital to understand the sexual behavioral patterns for high positivity among ‘at risk non HRGs. **Objectives:** To understand the socio-demographic profile, knowledge of HIV transmission and patterns of high-risk sexual behavior among ‘at-risk non HRGs’. **Methods:** In-depth interviews (IDIs) were conducted with counsellors working at ART, link ART and ICTC centers of Ahmedabad and Sabarkantha district respectively (in consensus with GSACS). 19 IDIs were conducted to know the perceptions and viewpoint regarding changing pattern of high positivity rate in ‘at risk non HRGs’ till saturation of responses was observed after obtaining consent. All the audio-recorded IDIs were transcribed in local language (Gujarati) and translated in English. Themes and sub themes were identified from the data sources. **Results:** Non HRG PLHA belonged to mainly to. Workplace exploitation (hotel/catering, construction industry, migrants, agricultural labourers), night duties, outstation work are common occupational risk factors. MSM activities were augmented because of easy sexual encounters on dating apps, easy availability of male partners, bisexuality and female partner refuses oral/anal sex. Reasons for poor usage of condoms were interference with pleasure, get less money if insist on use of condoms, customer does not bring condom, poor knowledge that condoms prevent HIV infection and MSM are not concerned about HIV status of partners status/risk of infection. Female partners/spouse conceal their HIV status from family and refrain from HIV testing due to fear of abandonment. MSM have multiple sexual partners and tracking and testing of male partners is not possible as they keep changing. Advanced connectivity facilitates inquisitiveness in general population, especially among adolescents leading to early sexual exposure. Socially acceptable practice of live in relationship (polygamy/polyandry) in tribal areas facilitates spread. **Conclusion:** Sex education shall be given from school till post-graduation along with intensified testing in construction workers and other high-risk occupations. Involvement of stakeholders in creating awareness as well as reducing stigma and discrimination.

ORAL ABSTRACT 36:**Assessing Obstetric Sonography Awareness and Acceptance Among Pregnant Women in Rural Areas of Gujarat**Dr. Abhishek Malu¹, Dr. Nilesh G. Patel², Dr. Dhruv J. Pandya³

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Correspondence: Dr. Abhishek Malu, E-mail: abmalu11@gmail.com**Abstract**

Introduction: Obstetric ultrasonography plays a crucial role in monitoring fetal development and maternal health. However, its accessibility is limited in resource-poor regions such as rural South-East Asia. In Gujarat, India, socio-economic and cultural barriers hinder access, as indicated by NFHS-5 data. Understanding the awareness of obstetric ultrasound among pregnant women in these areas is vital to improving maternal and fetal health outcomes. This study aims to assess the baseline awareness, identify influencing factors, and address barriers to improving obstetric ultrasound awareness and acceptance among pregnant women in rural Gujarat.

Methodology: This cross-sectional study assessed the awareness and acceptance of obstetric sonography among pregnant women in Sankheda Taluka, Chhotaudepur District, Gujarat. A total of 100 pregnant women from Bahadarpur village and Sankheda town were selected. A pre-tested, structured questionnaire was used to evaluate their awareness and acceptance of obstetric sonography. The sample size was determined based on fertility and abortion rates. Data were collected through household visits to identify eligible participants. **Observations:** Among the 100 participants, 88% were aged 20–30 years, 8% were under 20, and 4% were over 30. Most participants were Hindu (82%), and 59% were primigravida. In terms of knowledge about obstetric sonography, 27% had poor understanding, while 73% had good to excellent knowledge. Notably, 31% were unaware of obstetric sonography, with 96.44% of them being primigravida. Additionally, 63% were unaware of the cost, with 79.36% being primigravida. Regarding the purpose of obstetric sonography, 60% believed it confirmed pregnancy, and 11% mentioned determining the fetal gender. Fifty-two percent believed it could be performed at any time during pregnancy, while 8% considered it harmful. Awareness of the PC-PNDT Act (1994) was low (15%), with most aware participants being multigravida (73.33%). While 58% acknowledged that sex determination is a crime, 42% did not, with 66.67% being primigravida.

In terms of practices, 39% had not undergone obstetric sonography in their current pregnancy, and 23% were dissatisfied with the procedure. Barriers to access included lack of healthcare availability (99%), financial constraints (100%), educational gaps, and cultural beliefs (97%).

Conclusions & Recommendations: This study highlights significant gaps in awareness, knowledge, and access to obstetric sonography among pregnant women in rural Gujarat. While most participants had some understanding of sonography's role in confirming pregnancy, a considerable proportion lacked knowledge about its purpose, cost, and safety, especially among primigravida women. Cultural beliefs, financial constraints, and limited access to healthcare further hindered the acceptance and use of sonography. These findings underscore the need for targeted educational initiatives and enhanced healthcare infrastructure to improve the accessibility and acceptance of obstetric sonography, ultimately leading to improved maternal and fetal health outcomes.

Keywords: Obstetric Ultrasonography, Maternal Health, Tribal Gujarat, Pregnancy Awareness, Healthcare Utilization

ORAL ABSTRACT 37:**Profile and Utilization of Antenatal Care Services at a Rural Health Facility of Ahmedabad District.**

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Abstract

Background: The importance of maternal health services in lessening maternal mortality, morbidity and neonatal death has received substantial recognition in the past decade. Antenatal care is an essential component of that. The lack of Antenatal care has been identified as a risk factor for maternal mortality and other adverse pregnancy outcomes. **Objectives:** The present study was carried out to study sociodemographic profile of Antenatal women, identify proportion of high-risk pregnancies. And identify the factors affecting Antenatal care services. **Methodology:** A cross-sectional descriptive study carried out at Primary Health Centre, Jetalpur which is Rural Health Training Centre (RHTC) of NMMC, Ahmedabad. Total 6 camps were conducted by college from June 24 to Sept 24. Google form was prepared with Pre-designed and Pre-tested Questionnaire and responses were recorded. Data was analysed with Microsoft Excel. **Inclusion Criteria:** All pregnant women who attended camp and gave consent. **Exclusion Criteria:** Women with only Gynaecological complaints. **Observations:** Total 149 Antenatal women participated in study. Mean age was 25.28 ± 4.89 years. Forty-eight (32.2%) had secondary education, and 140 (94%) were housewives. Ninety (60.4%) were from joint family. Forty-seven (31.6%) had birth-space interval ≤ 3 years. Prevalence of anaemia was (72.5%) as 108 women were anaemic. 93 (62.4%) were Mildly anaemic while 1 (0.7%) was severely anaemic. Thirty (20.1%) antenatal women were categorized as High-risk with most common reason being history of previous abortion. Rh negative blood group was present in 7 (4.7%). Thirty-nine (26.2%) had future inclination for contraception. Only 20 (13.4%) women were taking benefits of government schemes. Age, birth spacing and parity were not significantly associated with anaemia ($p > 0.05$). **Conclusions:** Even with regular ANC visits, prevalence of anaemia was high indicating the need to focus on it. Also, more emphasis is needed on awareness about birth-spacing, contraception and awareness of various schemes of government.

Keywords: Anaemia, Antenatal Women, Profile, Services, High Risk Pregnancy.

ORAL ABSTRACT 38:**A newly introduced Millet based Take home Ration: Utilization, Strength & Challenges in Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC), Gujarat.**

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Abstract

Background: Take Home Ration (THR) is crucial component of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) providing supplementary nutrition to beneficiaries. AMC has innovatively introduced millet-based THR in 2 blocks of AMC from January'2024. This study aimed to study the utilization, acceptance of Millet THR by beneficiary & strength and challenges associated with implementation of Millet-THR. **Objective:** To study the acceptance and utilization with reasons for non-utilization of millet THR as compared to standard THR To identify barriers in effective implementation **Methodology** Study Design: cross-sectional analytical study, Study area & population: Selected 60 clusters of block 7 and 13 (as intervention group) & block 6 and 14 (as non intervention group) of AMC, here cluster unit is Anganwadi centre, THR Beneficiaries- mother of 6mo-3 year children, pregnant and lactating females, Sample size & sampling technique: WHO cluster sampling method: 30 clusters made in each group, total 60 clusters. N=760 in each group, 1620 total (20 children, 4 pregnant & 4 lactating women / cluster) **Result:** High (>90%) overall utilization of both THR types. Taste and appearance were primary reasons for non-utilization of millet THR. The intervention group used THR significantly more frequently in a week. Lack of awareness and training about new THR **Conclusion:** Need for training of service provider regarding importance of millet in Take Home Ration

Key-words: Millet-THR, Take Home Ration

ORAL ABSTRACT 39:**Development and Validation of a Scale Measuring Awareness Among Doctors about Perinatal Depression in a West India Setting**

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Abstract

Introduction/ Background: Women in the perinatal phase undergo significant physical and emotional changes, making them particularly vulnerable to mental health disorders, with perinatal depression (PND) being the most common. Healthcare workers (HCWs) are often the first point of contact for expectant or new mothers; however, their understanding of PND is documented to be poor in India. This study aimed to develop and validate a tool to measure awareness of PND among HCWs. **Methodology:** Using the Delphi technique, 16 experts from Obstetrics, Psychiatry, Community Medicine, Social Work, and Pediatrics refined the questions over three rounds of deliberation. Thirty questions were selected and rated on a Likert scale (ranging from "strongly disagree" to "strongly agree"). After pilot testing, the tool was administered to 200 doctors working in Anand. The responses were validated using exploratory factor analysis (EFA). **Observations:** EFA, conducted using principal axis factoring and oblique rotation, identified a four-factor solution with a good model fit, explaining 58.23% of the variance in the data. Bartlett's test of sphericity was significant ($p < 0.001$), and the Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin measure was 0.879. Four factors comprising 18 questions were extracted: 'Risk Factors and Management Strategies' (nine questions), 'Myths and Misconceptions' (five questions), 'Symptoms of Maternal Depression' (three questions), and 'Screening and Treatment Approaches' (two questions). **Conclusion and recommendations:** The developed scale is a valid and reliable tool for assessing awareness of perinatal depression among healthcare workers in the West India setting, and can serve as a basis for targeted educational interventions. It is recommended to apply the tool to find awareness about PND in HCWs and plan actions to improve the same accordingly for a healthier society in future.

Keywords: Perinatal Depression, Knowledge Attitudes Practice, Healthcare Workers, Delphi Technique, Psychometrics

ORAL ABSTRACT 40**Awareness of Perinatal Depression Among Doctors in Western India: Cross-sectional Survey Study Using a Context-Specific Scale for Indian Settings**

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Abstract

Introduction: Healthcare workers (HCWs), particularly doctors, are often the first point of contact for expectant or new mothers, yet their awareness of Perinatal depression (PND) is documented to be lacking in India. This study aimed to assess the awareness of PND among HCWs in Western India using a context-specific, validated tool developed for Indian settings.

Methodology: This cross-sectional survey was conducted among 200 healthcare workers (HCWs) in Anand, Gujarat. A context-specific tool comprising 18 questions was used to assess four key domains: (1) Risk Factors and Management Strategies for PND, (2) Myths and Misconceptions About PND, (3) Symptoms of Maternal Depression, and (4) Screening and Treatment for PND. The tool demonstrated good internal consistency (Cronbach's $\alpha = 0.854$). Responses were collected using a 5-point Likert scale, ranging from 'strongly disagree' to 'strongly agree'. Negatively worded questions were reverse-coded. Statistical analyses included chi-square tests and t-tests, with P-values and confidence intervals reported where appropriate. **Observations:** A total of 170 participants responded (response rate = 85%), of whom 57.1% were female, 55.3% were unmarried, and 84.7% were doctors, with 94.1% working in private settings. Of the participants, 24% reported having exposure to a depressed patient in their close circle, and 27% had encountered PND patients. The median (IQR) total score for awareness was 72 (11) out of 90. Awareness was significantly associated with marital status ($P = 0.02$), being a doctor ($P = 0.04$), and exposure to both general depression and PND patients ($P < 0.05$). Gender differences were not significant ($P > 0.05$). **Conclusion:** Awareness regarding domains of "Myths and Misconceptions About PND," "Symptoms of Maternal Depression," and "Screening and Treatment for PND" was found to be suboptimal. Targeted interventions are needed to improve awareness among healthcare workers, in these areas, to enhance early detection and management of perinatal depression.

Keywords: Perinatal-Depression, Knowledge-Attitudes-Practice, Healthcare-Workers, Myths, Awareness.

ORAL ABSTRACT 41**Haematological Markers as Predictive Tools for Tuberculosis in PLHIV: A Retrospective Cohort Study in Gujarat, India****Dr. Yogesh M** , Dr. Roshni Vamja, Dr. Naresh Makwana, Dr. Parth Anilbhai Parmar

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Abstract

Background: Tuberculosis (TB) remains a significant health challenge among people living with HIV (PLHIV), underscoring the need for early diagnosis and prompt treatment. Hematological parameters have emerged as potential markers for predicting and monitoring TB disease. **Objectives:** The present study aimed to assess the utility of hematological parameters in predicting TB disease among PLHIV. **Methods:** This retrospective cohort study was conducted at an Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) Centre in Gujarat, India, including PLHIV registered between January 2018 and March 2024. Hematological parameters, including hemoglobin levels, platelet counts, white blood cell differentials, and derived ratios (monocyte-lymphocyte ratio [MLR] and neutrophil-lymphocyte ratio [NLR]), were extracted from medical records. TB diagnosis was based on bacteriological confirmation or clinical criteria. Cox proportional hazards models and Kaplan-Meier survival analyses were performed to assess the association between hematological parameters and TB disease, adjusting for potential confounders. **Results:** Among 810 PLHIV, 202 (25%) had TB disease. PLHIV with TB had a higher prevalence of anemia (91.6% vs. 60.0%, $p<0.001$), leucocytosis (16.3% vs. 7.6%, $p=0.0004$), and neutrophilia (25.2% vs. 9.4%, $p<0.0001$) compared to those without TB. A higher MLR ratio (>0.23) was associated with an increased risk of TB (HR: 5.44, 95% CI: 3.94-7.50, $p<0.001$), independent of anemia. Anemia was also an independent predictor of TB (HR: 4.37, 95% CI: 2.72-7.02, $p<0.001$). **Conclusions:** Hematological parameters, particularly the MLR ratio and anemia status, were strongly associated with TB disease among PLHIV. These readily available and cost-effective markers could be incorporated into existing screening and monitoring protocols, potentially enhancing early detection, risk stratification, and targeted interventions for this vulnerable population, especially in resource-limited settings.

POSTER ABSTRACT 1**Assessment of Emotional Intelligence among the Health care providers in a tertiary care hospital: A Cross-sectional Study.**

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Abstract

Background: Emotional intelligence (EI) is the ability to understand and manage one's emotions and those of others, which is essential for healthcare professionals as it impacts their competency and patient care quality. Given the emotional stress involved in patient interactions, effective EI enhances communication and support. However, EI in healthcare remains underexplored in current literature despite its significance. **Objectives:** To measure Emotional Intelligence levels among health professionals using the SSEIT. To estimate the association of EI with professional and personal factors. **Materials and Methods:** A cross-sectional study using convenience sampling was conducted among 179 healthcare providers at Civil Hospital Ahmedabad, which included staff nurses, nursing students, and resident doctors. Data was collected using a self-prepared questionnaire and the SSEIT scale from participants who gave consent. EI scores were calculated based on the SSEIT scale and participants were categorised as having below-average (<110), average (110-138), and above-average (>138) EI scores. The data was recorded in Excel and analysed using SPSS. **Results:** Emotional Intelligence (EI) scores among 179 healthcare providers ranged from 50 to 156, with a mean of 126.15±14.54, indicating that most participants fell into the average EI category. Among them, the highest mean EI scores were observed in 1st to 3rd-year nursing students (129.31±14.26) while final-year nursing students (118.43±17.84) had the lowest scores. Among 179 participants, 67.6% had average EI, 19.6% had above average, and 12.8% had below average scores. EI was significantly related to health profession type, shift patterns, and sources of stress. **Conclusion:** The study's findings of moderate Emotional Intelligence (EI) levels among participants highlight the need for targeted education and training to enhance EI among healthcare professionals. This could be done during orientation sessions taken during the admission of students/staff nurses. Mentor/mentee programmes could be escalated to help manage stress and improve work-life balance.

Keywords: Emotional Intelligence, Health professionals, SSEIT

POSTER ABSTRACT 2**Assessing the Knowledge of Community Health Officers (CHO) in Delivering Comprehensive Primary Health Care (CPHC) Services through Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (AAM) in Gujarat: A Cross-Sectional Study**

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Abstract

Introduction: Primary healthcare is vital for prevention and health promotion, and is essential to achieving Universal Health Coverage. However, low- and middle-income countries often face challenges such as underfunding, inadequate infrastructure, and staff shortages, which hinder the effectiveness of these services. Under the Ayushman Bharat CPHC initiative, Community Health Officers (CHOs) were introduced to strengthen healthcare delivery at the community level. These CHOs play a crucial role in adapting health programs to local needs and delivering essential services through Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (AAMs). This study aims to assess the knowledge and skills of CHOs in providing CPHC, which is essential for improving healthcare outcomes in Gujarat. **Methodology:** The cross-sectional study was based on a list of 731 operational AAMs from the last financial year (April 2024 to March 2025). Data were collected using a semi-structured questionnaire, which assessed CHO knowledge of the seven services under Ayushman Bharat. With a population proportion of 50%, a margin of error of $\pm 8\%$, and a 95% confidence level, the calculated sample size was 125. However, due to the unavailability of some CHOs, the final sample size was 100. **Results:** The assessment of CHOs delivering CPHC services through AAMs in Gujarat revealed varying levels of knowledge. In anemia management, the mean score was 1.43 (SD = 0.62), while postnatal care scored 1.38 (SD = 0.70). Knowledge of child health, particularly recognizing fast breathing, was lower at 0.75 (SD = 0.76). CHOs showed better performance in managing non-communicable diseases (NCDs), with scores of 1.56 (SD = 0.60) for diabetes and 1.64 (SD = 0.55) for hypertension. Biomedical waste management scored 1.47 (SD = 0.66). High proficiency was noted in identifying hypertension (72%), diabetes (62%), and tuberculosis (66%). However, only 52% were proficient in anemia management, and 47% lacked knowledge in recognizing fast breathing in children. These findings underscore the need for targeted training to address these knowledge gaps. **Conclusion:** The assessment of CHOs in Gujarat showed strong knowledge in managing non-communicable diseases like diabetes and hypertension but revealed significant gaps in child health, anemia management, and reproductive health. The low proficiency in recognizing fast breathing in children and managing missed contraceptive pills highlights the need for specialized training to enhance the delivery of comprehensive health services through AAMs. Targeted interventions and training are essential for addressing these gaps and improving overall healthcare outcomes at the community level.

Keywords: CPHC, CHO, AAM, KAP

POSTER ABSTRACT 3**Knowledge and Awareness of Breast and Cervical Cancer among Female Students of Nursing College in Anand District**

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Abstract

Introduction: Cervical cancer, linked to HPV infection, and breast cancer, characterized by uncontrolled cell growth in breast tissue, continue to present significant challenges to women's health. Prevention, early detection, and understanding risk factors are essential to addressing these diseases. This study explores knowledge and awareness related to cervical and breast cancer, aiming to contribute to better interventions and policies to reduce their impact on women's health. **Objectives:** The objective of this study is to assess the knowledge and awareness of cervical and breast cancer among female nursing students in Anand district. **Material and Methods:** This was a cross-sectional study conducted at a nursing college in Anand district. The study gathered data on the basic demographic profile and awareness regarding breast and cervical cancer using a self-administered questionnaire. Following the assessment, an educational intervention was provided in the form of a face-to-face session, which covered information about cancer, risk factors, screening, prevention, and treatment. **Results:** The majority of participants were aware of various types of cancers. However, 5.2% had never heard of breast cancer, and 14.1% were unaware of cervical cancer. Additionally, 21% were unfamiliar with any cancer screening tests, and 40.8% did not perform breast self-examination. Furthermore, 27.2% were not familiar with common signs and symptoms related to breast cancer. Regarding cervical cancer, 24% were unaware that HPV is a risk factor, and 27.2% did not know the common risk factors for cervical cancer. In terms of prevention, 34.7% had never heard of any screening test for cervical cancer, 43.7% were unaware of any vaccine for cervical cancer prevention, and 84% did not know the recommended age group for HPV vaccination. **Conclusion:** The study revealed that most nursing college students lack sufficient knowledge and awareness about the risk factors, signs and symptoms, prevention, and screening of breast and cervical cancer. Routine education sessions should be conducted among the young population to raise awareness and promote better understanding of these diseases.

Keywords: Breast cancer, cervical cancer

POSTER ABSTRACT 4**Transforming Lives: The Impact of Treatment on Elephantiasis**Bhavna Baria¹, Mohmmedirfan H. Momin²¹Resident Doctor, Government Medical College, Surat, Gujarat²Associate Professor, Department of Community Medicine, GMC, Surat**Correspondence:** Bhavna Baria, Email: bhavnabaria309@gmail.com**Abstract**

Introduction: Lymphatic filariasis, commonly known as elephantiasis, is a significant public health concern, affecting millions globally. In India, an estimated 670 million people are at risk, residing in 272 endemic districts across 16 states and 4 Union Territories. The World Health Organization (WHO) strategy focuses on two main components: (1) halting the spread of infection through large-scale annual treatments for all eligible individuals in endemic areas and (2) alleviating suffering caused by the disease by providing an essential care package. In 2004, the Government of India prioritized the elimination of lymphatic filariasis, implementing the Mass Drug Administration (MDA) program with a combination of diethylcarbamazine citrate (DEC) and albendazole. This treatment has been proven to be both microfilaricidal and effective against adult worms, with annual doses given over 5-6 years. **Methodology:** On September 22, 2023, a house-to-house survey was conducted in the RHTC field practice area of the Department of Community Medicine, Government Medical College, Surat. During the survey, a 58-year-old female from Vanz village was found with left foot swelling that had persisted for 9-10 years. She was enrolled for a case study to assess the impact of treatment on her condition. **Case Presentation:** The 58-year-old woman, a widow living alone, presented with soft swelling extending from her left foot up to the knee. She had been residing in Vanz village since her marriage. Since the onset of symptoms, she had not received specific treatment for elephantiasis but had taken various medications (ointments/tablets) provided by a mobile healthcare unit that occasionally visited her area. No mosquito breeding sites were identified around her house, suggesting limited exposure to the vector in her immediate surroundings. **Conclusion:** The case study of this 58-year-old woman underscores the significant impact of elephantiasis on individuals, especially in rural areas like those covered by the RHTC field practice area. Despite the challenges, the comprehensive intervention strategies aimed at disease prevention and management play a crucial role in improving the quality of life for those affected. By providing self-care advice and empowering individuals with knowledge, we can enhance the lives of people suffering from elephantiasis and work toward eliminating this debilitating disease.

Keywords: Elephantiasis, Mass drug administration, House-to-house survey, SDG 3, Self-care

POSTER ABSTRACT 5**Assessment of WASH Component in Ayushman Arogya Mandir Gujarat: A Cross-Sectional Study**

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Abstract:

Introduction: Ayushman Arogya Mandir (AAM), launched under the Ayushman Bharat initiative in 2018, aims to establish 150,000 Health and Wellness Centres across India, transforming the nation's healthcare delivery system. An essential component of these centres is the WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) criteria, which ensures that the basic infrastructure and hygiene standards are met, particularly for infection control and waste management. The aim of this study was to assess the status of WASH components in AAM sub-centres across Gujarat and identify areas for improvement to enhance health outcomes through better facility management. **Methodology: Study Design:** Cross-sectional observational study **Study Setting:** Ayushman Arogya Mandir (AAM) sub-centres in Gujarat **Sampling and Sample Size:** The study employed a purposive sampling method to select operational AAM-SCs from all districts. As of March 2024, there were 10,182 AAM sub-centres listed on the CPHC-AAM portal. With an assumed frequency of 50%, a confidence interval of 10%, and a design effect of 1, the calculated sample size for a 95% confidence level was 96, rounded off to 100 sub-centres. OpenEpi software (version 3) was used for this calculation. **Data Collection:** A checklist based on the WASHFIT tool was used to gather data, focusing on critical components such as water supply, sanitation, hygiene, healthcare waste management, and hand hygiene practices. **Results:** The study revealed promising results regarding the WASH infrastructure at AAM facilities: 84% of AAM sub-centres operate in their own buildings with proper toilets and water supply (n=69). 87% of facilities had antiseptics available for wound care. 90% of facilities were equipped with waste disposal items such as bins and bags, ensuring proper sanitation practices. These findings suggest that many AAM facilities are equipped with essential infrastructure, which is key for the provision of safe healthcare services. **Conclusion:** The Ayushman Arogya Mandir network in Gujarat demonstrates considerable progress in meeting basic healthcare infrastructure standards, including proper sanitation and hygiene practices. However, some areas still need attention, such as ensuring consistent availability of water and sanitation facilities across all centres. Targeted interventions could help address these gaps, further improving the quality of healthcare services provided in these facilities.

Keywords: WASH, Ayushman Arogya Mandir (AAM), healthcare waste management, sanitation, hygiene

POSTER ABSTRACT 6**Effectiveness of Teaching Method – Jigsaw: A Mixed-Method Study**

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Abstract

Small-group discussion, a learner-centered approach, is gaining prominence in medical education. Among its various methodologies, the Jigsaw learning method has shown promise in fostering collaborative learning and skill development. This study aimed to estimate the effectiveness of the Jigsaw learning method in teaching Medical Entomology to second-year MBBS students at PIMSR Medical College, Vadodara, India, in alignment with the shift toward student-centered learning recommended by medical regulatory bodies. This mixed-method study, conducted in January 2024, involved 30 second-year MBBS students. The evaluation tools included pre- and post-tests along with feedback surveys to assess the impact of Jigsaw learning on student performance and perceptions. Absent or unwilling participants were excluded from the study. Significant improvements in test grades ($p < 0.001$) were observed following the Jigsaw learning intervention. Feedback from students indicated a positive perception of cooperative learning, with 76% agreeing that the method enhanced their understanding of Medical Entomology. The majority found the session enjoyable, appreciated its impact on teamwork skills, and suggested that the method could be applied to other topics in Community Medicine. The Jigsaw learning method demonstrated a significant positive impact on students' knowledge acquisition in Community Medicine. Students expressed enthusiasm for this approach and highlighted its potential for broader integration into medical education. However, concerns regarding the duration of the sessions and the lack of engagement from non-participating students during expert sessions were noted.

POSTER ABSTRACT 7**Knowledge, Attitude, and Practice of Usage of Ayushman Bharat Card Among Beneficiaries of Peri-Urban and Rural Areas of South Gujarat: A Cross-Sectional Study**

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Abstract

Introduction: India's economy has been one of the top three fastest-growing economies in the world. However, despite significant progress in various sectors, the supply of adequate and affordable healthcare in India remains a challenge due to the country's large population of over 1.3 billion people. To address these challenges, the Government of India introduced Ayushman Bharat, a two-pronged initiative. This study aims to assess the knowledge, attitude, and practices (KAP) regarding the Ayushman Bharat Yojana among beneficiaries in peri-urban and rural areas. **Objective:** To document the knowledge, attitude, and practice of Ayushman card usage among residents in peri-urban and rural areas. **Methodology:** A cross-sectional study was conducted in the peri-urban and rural populations of Surat and Navsari districts. A total of 40 households were selected conveniently after obtaining informed consent during August 2024. A pre-designed, semi-structured questionnaire was used to collect socio-demographic data, as well as data on the knowledge, attitude, and practices related to the usage of the Ayushman Bharat card. **Results:** All the family heads were male, with a mean age of 45.9 years. Of the participants, 33.3% learned about PMJAY through community meetings, 33.3% from government officials, and 25% from family or friends. About 55% were aware of the eligibility criteria, and 60% knew about transportation expenses. However, 35% were unaware that the card could be used outside their state, and 40% were unfamiliar with the renewal process. While 80% had a positive attitude towards the card, 97% felt it reduced medical expenses. Of the 32 cardholders, 17.5% had used it for hospitalization. Challenges faced by beneficiaries included difficulty in locating empaneled hospitals and delays in services. **Conclusion:** Out of 40 participants, 92% had knowledge of the Ayushman Bharat PMJAY Yojana, but many were unaware of the eligibility criteria, portability, or full usage of the card. It is recommended that field health workers increase awareness about the card's features and benefits to improve its utilization.

Keywords: Ayushman Bharat card, PMJAY, KAP

POSTER ABSTRACT 8**Health Seeking Behaviour among Lymphatic Filariasis patients in Muzaffarpur district, Bihar. Cross Sectional Study**

Dr. Kripanshu Garasiya, Dr. Stutee Waghmare

Abstract

Background: Lymphatic filariasis (LF) poses a significant public health challenge in Bihar, India, with limited understanding of health-seeking behavior among affected individuals. This study examines the factors influencing healthcare utilization in Muzaffarpur, identifying barriers and facilitators to timely diagnosis and treatment. The findings aim to inform targeted interventions for improving access to care and health outcomes in marginalized populations.

Objectives: This study aims to understand the health-seeking behaviour of LF patients in Bihar, focusing on knowledge, influencing factors, and barriers to accessing care. **Methods:** This cross-sectional study investigates the health-seeking behaviour of LF patients in Muzaffarpur, Bihar, an Aspirational District with a significant disease burden. Data will be collected from 502 participants through a pretested survey to analyze demographic factors, disease knowledge, and healthcare utilization patterns. The findings aim to identify barriers and inform interventions for improving access to care and outcomes for affected populations.

Results: Healthcare-seeking behavior showed significant associations with area of residence ($p < 0.001$), with rural residents relying on rural medical practitioners (43.8%) and urban residents preferring private clinics (37.5%). Literacy ($p = 0.01$) influenced preferences, with literates opting for private clinics (47.7%) and illiterates for rural practitioners (48%). Toilet usage ($p = 0.023$) was critical for LF treatment-seeking, as users sought treatment more (26.2%) than non-users (4.5%). Toilet availability ($p = 0.007$) impacted care, with shared flush toilet users seeking treatment at 44.4% compared to 11.1% with shared pit toilets. **Conclusion:** Emphasizing the impact of literacy, comorbidities, and sociodemographic factors on care preferences. Key barriers include affordability, awareness gaps, and cultural misconceptions. Findings highlight the need for targeted interventions to improve healthcare access, awareness, and outcomes for LF patients.

POSTER ABSTRACT 9**Health-Related Quality of Life for Lymphatic Filariasis Patients in Muzaffarpur, Bihar: A Cross-Sectional Study**

Dr. Stutee Waghmare, Dr. Kripanshu Garasiy

Abstract

Introduction: Lymphatic filariasis (LF) is a debilitating condition that has a serious negative influence on the affected individual's psychological health and Health-Related Quality of Life (HRQoL). India has a higher burden of LF cases, endemic across 16 states, including Bihar. This research aims to investigate how sociodemographic factors affect LF patients' HRQoL and depression prevalence. **Objectives:** Study the HRQoL using the EQ 5D-5L and psychological health among Lymphatic Filariasis patients of Muzaffarpur, Bihar. **Methods:** The sample size was determined as 502, and samples were chosen by simple random sampling. Depression (PHQ-9) and HRQoL (EQ-5D-5L) were evaluated using a structured questionnaire. **Results:** Higher grades of lymphedema were consistently linked to lower HRQoL (0.064 ± 0.629), highlighting the significance of managing LF-related complications. Females reported poorer HRQoL (EQ 5D 5L utility scores, with females (Grade I 0.66 ± 0.37 ; Grade II 0.54 ± 0.38); males (Grade I 0.75 ± 0.39 ; Grade II 0.62 ± 0.42 ; $p < 0.01$)) and higher rates of depression (71%) compared to males (58%, $p = 0.03$), emphasizing the need for gender-specific considerations. Education, financial security, stable employment, and higher occupational positions were identified as factors contributing to improved well-being in LF patients. Older age was associated with lower HRQoL, emphasizing the necessity of age-specific interventions. Interestingly, individuals residing in rural areas exhibited higher utility scores, potentially due to better social networks. **Conclusion:** This research study underscores the significance of considering sociodemographic factors, to develop targeted interventions for improving the well-being of LF patients and enhancing their HRQoL.

POSTER ABSTRACT 10**A Cross-Sectional Study to Assess Awareness Regarding Pictorial Warning and Quitline Toll-Free Number on Tobacco Products Among Tobacco Users Attending Fever OPD at Civil Hospital Asarwa, Ahmedabad**

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Abstract

Introduction: Tobacco use is a leading cause of preventable death worldwide, with India reporting approximately 1.35 million tobacco-related deaths annually. As the second-largest producer and consumer of tobacco, India faces significant challenges in controlling tobacco use due to low awareness, affordability, and inadequate regulatory measures. **Objective:** To evaluate the awareness of pictorial warnings and the quitline toll-free number among tobacco users. **Methodology:** The sample size for this study is 170. However, as the study is ongoing, 84 tobacco users attending the Fever OPD at Civil Hospital, Ahmedabad, have been included so far. Data was collected using a semi-structured questionnaire administered through face-to-face personal interviews. The questionnaire gathered information on demographic details, types of tobacco products used, frequency and duration of use, and awareness of pictorial warnings and the quitline number. **Observation:** The study population was predominantly male (82.1%) and urban (81%). Smokeless tobacco (gutkha) was the most commonly used tobacco product (71.4%). Most participants had used tobacco for 1-5 years (59.5%) and used it daily (78.6%). Awareness of pictorial warnings was high (95%), but only 7% found them effective in helping them quit tobacco. Awareness of the quitline number was 32.1%, but among those who knew the number, 98% were unaware of how to use it. Only 1.2% reported using the quitline, and its effectiveness was not observed. **Conclusion:** The study reveals minimal effectiveness of pictorial warnings and low awareness of quitline services among tobacco users. Although there is broad support for a tobacco ban, many users remain addicted, and current warning and support measures have had limited impact on quitting behavior. The findings suggest a need for enhanced promotion of quitline services and increased public education to improve quitting outcomes.

Keywords: Awareness, Pictorial Warning, Tobacco, Quitline Number

POSTER ABSTRACT 11**Knowledge, Attitude, and Practice of Menstrual Health Among School-Going Adolescent Girls in Rural and Urban Areas of Central Gujarat: A Cross-Sectional Study**Sanskruti Shah^{1*}, Shivani Barot², Anuj Barot¹¹Medical Student, B.J. Medical College, Ahmedabad, India²Resident Doctor, Department of Community Medicine, Medical College Baroda, Vadodara, India**Abstract**

Background: Menstrual hygiene is a critical aspect of fundamental sanitary practices, as approximately 52% of women are of reproductive age globally, and menstruation is a typical part of their lives. However, menstrual hygiene management is hindered by various factors, including lack of reliable information, limited access to affordable absorbent materials, water sanitation issues, and hygiene-related challenges. Millions of adolescent girls worldwide experience stress, discomfort, guilt, and worry during menstruation. Additionally, the societal stigma surrounding menstruation often makes it difficult for teenage girls to discuss the topic, preventing them from gaining adequate knowledge. **Objectives:** To assess the knowledge, attitudes, and practices related to menstrual hygiene among school-going adolescent girls. **Methods:** This cross-sectional observational study was conducted in April 2024 among girls from three government primary schools (two rural and one urban) in the Gandhinagar district of Gujarat, India. Girls from classes 6 to 8 who were willing to participate were included in the study. The study was approved by the institutional ethics committee. **Results:** Of the total 160 respondents, only 40.6% (n=65) had proper knowledge about menstruation. The primary sources of information were mothers (48.12%), followed by teachers (23.12%) and friends (16.25%). More than half (n=106, 66.25%) believed that menstrual blood comes from the urinary tract. While 91.25% (n=146) acknowledged the importance of hygiene during menstruation, 16.88% (n=27) considered the reuse of used sanitary pads, and 23.75% (n=38) were unaware of the proper use of sanitary pads or other absorbent materials. Only 59.69% (n=80) used both soap and water to clean their genitals during menstruation. Social taboos were prevalent, with restrictions on visiting temples (n=149), going outside (n=125), attending school (n=87), and isolation (n=73). **Conclusions:** The findings indicate that knowledge about menstruation among adolescent girls remains incomplete, with many holding misconceptions and facing societal taboos. Educational interventions are essential to improve both awareness and practices related to menstrual health and hygiene.

POSTER ABSTRACT 12

Acceptance of Booster Dose of COVID-19 Vaccine: A Community-Based Study

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Abstract

Background: Vaccine hesitancy refers to the delay in acceptance or refusal of vaccination despite the availability of vaccination services. Overcoming vaccine hesitancy is crucial to achieving sustained herd immunity. Knowledge, attitudes, and practices (KAP) factors, based on the Health Belief Model, are commonly used to quantify individual belief profiles in relation to public health measures. **Objectives:** To assess the knowledge, attitude, and practices regarding vaccination and their interrelationship, To identify the barriers to COVID-19 booster dose acceptance. **Methodology:** This cross-sectional study was conducted among the adult population of Ahmedabad in the urban field practice area of Asarwa. The data collection period was from February to April 2024. A total of 200 subjects were included in the study. A pre-designed questionnaire was used to survey participants in the community. **Exclusion Criteria:** Children were not included in the study. Individuals who were unsure about the accuracy of the information provided. Individuals who did not give consent. **Sampling Method:** Purposive random sampling **Results:** A total of 200 participants were surveyed, with 46% (92) male and 54% (108) female. The mean age of participants was 42.7 ± 15.7 years. The participants were divided into three age groups: Young adults (18-39): 97 participants, Middle-aged adults (40-59): 73 participants, Older adults (≥ 60): 30 participants

KAP Scores:

Table 1.2: Overall KAP Score Between Male and Female

Domain	Male Score	Female Score	T Value	P Value	Confidence Interval (CI)
Knowledge	1.33 ± 1.83	1.13 ± 1.70	-0.780	0.436	-0.196 to 0.252
Attitude	1.58 ± 1.54	1.36 ± 1.36	-1.04	0.301	-0.624 to 0.194
Practice	1.65 ± 0.92	1.70 ± 0.81	0.417	0.677	-0.192 to 0.295

Knowledge Domain: 73% of participants knew the recommended age group for the COVID-19 booster dose. 66.5% knew that the COVID-19 booster dose was free for all adults. 60% were aware that there were no serious side effects from the COVID-19 vaccine. 28% were aware that the risk of infection persists even after vaccination. **Attitude Domain:** The mean attitude score was 1.46 ± 1.45 . 39% believed in taking precautionary measures to avoid disease transmission. 72.5% were confident in the quality and effectiveness of the COVID-19 booster dose. 44.5% were aware that the vaccine was available in both private and government setups. 96.5% believed that the vaccine should be freely available for everyone. **Practice Domain:** The mean practice score was 1.68 ± 0.86 . 88.5% encouraged their family and friends to get vaccinated. 30% of females and 21% of males had completed the three-dose vaccination regimen. **Linear Regression:** A significant regression was found between knowledge and attitude score: **Attitude Score** = $1.307 + 0.126$ (**Knowledge score**), $p = 0.03$. A significant regression was found between practice and knowledge score: **Practice Score** = $1.5930 + 0.0713$ (**Knowledge score**), $p = 0.039$. A significant regression was found between practice

and attitude score: **Practice Score = 1.436 + 0.167 (Attitude Score)**, $p < 0.01$.

Conclusions: The study concluded that there was no significant difference in knowledge, attitude, and practice scores between males and females across all age groups. Practice was directly associated with attitude, which, in turn, was directly related to knowledge. Therefore, improving knowledge about the COVID-19 booster vaccine within the community will likely enhance vaccination rates.

POSTER ABSTRACT 13**A Cross-Sectional Study on Knowledge, Attitude, and Practice Related to Human Papillomavirus Vaccination for Cervical Cancer Prevention Among Reproductive Age Women**

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Abstract

Background: Cervical cancer is a major health problem and a leading cause of death among women in India. Among all the associated risk factors, high-risk human papillomavirus (HPV) infections are the principal etiologic agents. Two HPV vaccines are currently in use for the control of cervical cancer. **Objectives:** The present study was undertaken to explore the knowledge, attitude, and practice (KAP) regarding HPV vaccination among reproductive-age women. **Methods:** The sample size for this study was 187 reproductive-age women. Data was collected using a pre-designed and pre-tested questionnaire, which was administered through face-to-face personal interviews. The questionnaire gathered information on demographic details, knowledge, attitudes, and practices towards HPV vaccination. **Results:** The KAP study revealed significant gaps in HPV vaccine knowledge (37%) and attitudes (20%), with a major barrier being a lack of awareness (54%). To improve vaccine uptake, the study suggests a focus on enhancing education, shifting attitudes, increasing information accessibility, engaging healthcare providers, and utilizing community and digital outreach. **Conclusion:** The knowledge and uptake of the HPV vaccination among reproductive-age women are currently low. Targeted health education interventions could greatly enhance vaccination rates and acceptance, ultimately improving public health by reducing HPV-related diseases and associated complications.

POSTER ABSTRACT 14**Sickle Cell Disease-Related Stigma Among Tribal Population of Chhotaudepur District, Gujarat: A Qualitative Study**Shubhangi Patel¹, Dr. Shaily Surti²¹Scientist-B, Department of Preventive and Social Medicine, Parul Institute of Medical Sciences & Research, Parul University, Vadodara, Gujarat.²Assistant Professor, Department of Preventive and Social Medicine, Parul Institute of Medical Sciences & Research, Parul University, Vadodara, Gujarat.**Correspondence:** Shubhangi Patel, Email: subh17patel@gmail.com**Abstract**

Introduction: India has the highest frequency of the hemoglobin S allele in South Asia, making sickle cell disease (SCD) a significant health issue. SCD is characterized by chronic illness with acute vaso-occlusive crises, which can lead to the stigmatization of patients. The psychological stress, depression, and poor health outcomes caused by stigma impact every aspect of a patient's life. This study aims to explore the stigmatizing experiences and perceptions of SCD patients and their caregivers in the Chhotaudepur district of Gujarat.

Methodology: This qualitative study is part of a mixed-methods project being conducted in five SCD-endemic districts across India, including Chhotaudepur, and funded by ICMR. Data was collected through in-depth interviews with 5 confirmed SCD patients and 5 caregivers, selected purposively. Interviews were transcribed in Gujarati, translated into English, and analyzed using thematic content analysis. **Observations:** The findings were summarized across four themes: perceived stigma, self-stigma, experienced stigma, and impact on daily life. Most participants reported that their social activities were significantly affected due to frequent pain crises and the fear of having such episodes unexpectedly. Several patients and caregivers expressed feelings of self-pity or anger due to their inability to perform normal physical functions. Some reported being perceived as "sick" due to their frequent illnesses or healthcare visits. A majority of the patients and caregivers stated that their illness prevented them from working, playing, or studying like others. **Conclusion & Recommendations:** This study highlights the need to address SCD-related stigma at all levels, including households, communities, and the healthcare system. Based on the findings, the study has continued to develop an SCD-related stigma assessment tool for the Indian population and is working toward implementing interventions to address stigmatizing behaviors within the community.

Keywords: Sickle Cell Disease, Stigma, Tribal Population, India, Qualitative Research

POSTER ABSTRACT 15**A Cross-Sectional Study on Health Care-Related Problems and Loneliness Among the Elderly Population in the Field Practice Area of B.J. Medical College, Ahmedabad**

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Abstract

Background: The geriatric population poses unique challenges to healthcare systems and social structures globally, as they are major consumers of clinical care. Understanding the sociodemographic characteristics, health status, and loneliness—which can be both physical and psychological—among elderly individuals is crucial for developing targeted healthcare interventions and policies. **Objective:** This study aims to investigate the sociodemographic profile, health status, social connectivity, and loneliness of elderly individuals in the field practice area of B.J. Medical College, Ahmedabad. **Methodology:** A cross-sectional study was conducted among 186 elderly individuals aged 60 years and above, with a loneliness prevalence of 13.4%. Data were collected using a semi-structured questionnaire that included questions on demographics, health status, medication use, healthcare utilization, and social connectivity. The 6-item UCLA Loneliness Scale (ULS-6) was used to assess loneliness. **Observations:** The study population (N=186) consisted of 64.52% females and 35.48% males, with the majority (55.91%) aged between 61-70 years. Most participants were widowed (54.84%) or married (39.78%). Educational attainment was low, with 43.01% of participants being illiterate. A majority (78.49%) were living a retired life. Health-wise, 46.24% reported fair overall health, and 64.52% were on medication. Chronic health conditions were prevalent, with hypertension being the most common. **Conclusion:** This study highlights significant sociodemographic and health-related challenges faced by the elderly population, with loneliness emerging as a critical concern. The findings emphasize the relationship between health status, living situations, and loneliness. Targeted interventions addressing social isolation, especially for those living alone or in poor health, are urgently needed.

Keywords: Chronic Health, Elderly, Loneliness, ULS-6

POSTER ABSTRACT 16**"Understanding the Divide: A Comparative Study of Health and Nutritional Factors Among Normal and SAM Children in Surat"**

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Abstract

Introduction: Childhood malnutrition, particularly Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM), remains a critical public health issue in India and contributes significantly to childhood mortality. This study aimed to compare health and nutritional factors among normal and SAM children in Surat, Gujarat, focusing on variables such as socio-demographic, maternal and child health-related characteristics, and service utilization. **Methodology:** A cross-sectional study was conducted involving 66 children aged 6-59 months and their caregivers, selected via convenient sampling. Data were collected through a structured, pre-tested questionnaire using the ODK platform. Key variables, including maternal and child health characteristics, socio-economic factors, and health service utilization, were analyzed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 26. Odds ratios, chi-square tests, and cross-tabulations were performed to determine associations between these variables and malnutrition. **Observations:** The prevalence of SAM was 47% (n=31). Significant associations were found between illness in the last month and SAM (OR=4.24, 95% CI: 1.48-12.17, p=0.005). Inadequate dietary diversity also showed a strong correlation with SAM (OR=4.17, 95% CI: 0.80-21.85, p=0.002). Maternal anemia was prevalent (60.6%), though its association with SAM was not statistically significant (p=0.071). Additionally, maternal education exhibited a borderline association with child nutritional status (p=0.07), suggesting its potential role in child malnutrition. **Conclusion & Recommendations:** The study highlights that illness and poor dietary diversity are key contributors to SAM. Children with frequent infections and inadequate diets are at greater risk for acute malnutrition. Maternal education and health also play a crucial role in influencing children's nutritional outcomes. To address these issues, the study recommends strengthening child feeding programs, improving maternal health services, and enhancing the referral and treatment of SAM cases through community-based programs. Increased awareness and training for health workers are essential to support these efforts and reduce malnutrition.

Keywords: Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM), Child Feeding Practices, Maternal Health, Dietary Diversity, Health Service Utilization

POSTER ABSTRACT 17**A Cross-Sectional Study to Estimate the Prevalence of Anaemia Among the First and Second MBBS Students of Karamsad, Bhaikaka University**

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Abstract

Background/Introduction: Anaemia is a significant global public health issue, with high prevalence in both developing and developed countries. In India, anaemia remains a considerable challenge. Medical students are particularly vulnerable to anaemia due to irregular eating habits, stress, and a hectic study schedule. The effects of anaemia on this age group can include poor cognition, decreased attention span, fatigue, depression, frequent infections, and other health complications. It can also negatively impact their academic performance and overall well-being. **Objectives:** The objective of this study was to assess the prevalence of anaemia among first and second-year MBBS students at Pramukhswami Medical College (PSMC), Karamsad. **Materials and Methods:** A cross-sectional study was conducted among the first and second-year MBBS students. Institutional Ethics Committee approval was obtained prior to the study. Haemoglobin levels were measured to determine the prevalence of anaemia, and the WHO criteria were used to classify anaemia severity into mild, moderate, and severe categories. **Results:** A total of 300 students participated in the study, with 153 females (51%) and 147 males (49%). The overall prevalence of anaemia among MBBS students was found to be 23.67%. Specifically, the prevalence of mild, moderate, and severe anaemia was 13%, 9.67%, and 1.33%, respectively. **Conclusions:** The study found a notably high prevalence of anaemia among MBBS students, especially among female students. This indicates a pressing need for awareness regarding the prevention and treatment of anaemia, even among future healthcare professionals.

Keywords: Prevalence, Anaemia, First and Second Year MBBS Students

POSTER ABSTRACT 18**Oral Health Status & Its Association with Tobacco Use Patterns Among Relatives of Cancer Patients: A Cross-Sectional Study**

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Abstract

Introduction: Tobacco use is a well-established risk factor for the development of both precancerous and cancerous oral lesions. However, the oral health outcomes associated with different forms of tobacco use, such as smoking and chewing, are not fully understood, especially among high-risk populations like the relatives of cancer patients. This study aims to compare the oral health outcomes of tobacco chewers and smokers among cancer patients' relatives and determine which form of tobacco use is more strongly associated with the development of precancerous or cancerous oral lesions, based on conventional oral examination findings. **Objectives:** To compare the oral health outcomes of tobacco chewers and smokers among relatives of cancer patients. To determine which form of tobacco use is associated with a greater risk of developing precancerous or cancerous oral lesions. **Methodology:** This comparative cross-sectional study included 310 relatives of cancer patients with a history of tobacco use. Participants were categorized into tobacco chewers, smokers, and dual users. Sociodemographic data, patterns of tobacco use, and oral examination findings were recorded. Oral health outcomes, including the presence of precancerous lesions such as erythroplakia, leucoplakia, oral submucous fibrosis, and cancerous lesions, were compared between the groups. Statistical analysis was used to assess the associations between tobacco use patterns and oral health outcomes. **Observations:** Preliminary analysis indicates: Tobacco chewers had a higher prevalence of oral submucous fibrosis and leucoplakia. Smokers were more commonly associated with erythroplakia and lichen planus. Dual users exhibited a significantly higher risk of multiple lesions. These findings suggest that tobacco chewing is more strongly associated with precancerous lesions, while smoking is linked to inflammatory and potentially malignant oral conditions. **Conclusions:** This study underscores the distinct oral health risks associated with different forms of tobacco use among relatives of cancer patients. Tobacco chewers are at a greater risk for developing precancerous lesions, while smokers are more prone to inflammatory and malignant conditions. These findings highlight the importance of targeted oral health interventions and tobacco cessation programs that address the specific risks associated with smoking and chewing in high-risk populations.

POSTER ABSTRACT 19**AI-Enabled Solution to Improve Meal Standards in PM POSHAN Scheme**

Dr. Jimeet Soni, Dr. Avirat Bhatt, Dr. Tapasvi Puwar

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Abstract

Purpose: The PM POSHAN (Mid-Day Meal) Scheme plays a vital role in providing nutritious meals to school children across India. However, consistently assessing the quality and nutritional content of these meals has proven to be challenging. This study introduces an AI-based meal recognition system designed to enhance meal quality and nutritional accuracy, ensuring that each dish adheres to the dietary guidelines specified by the scheme and effectively contributes to the health and development of school-going children. **Methods:** The AI-based Dish Recognition System uses a mobile application that allows users to capture photos of meals. These photos are analyzed in real time by the AI system, which employs advanced image recognition algorithms to identify the food items in the dish. The system then calculates the essential nutritional values, including calories, protein, vitamins, and minerals. This provides government officials, school administrators, and nutritionists with immediate insights into the nutritional profile of each meal. The system ensures that meals are aligned with the dietary guidelines of the PM POSHAN scheme and can be adapted to recognize region-specific dishes, particularly in Gujarat, to accommodate diverse cultural and dietary preferences without compromising nutritional quality. **Results:** Preliminary trials of the Dish Recognition System indicate that it can accurately identify a wide range of food items and provide comprehensive nutritional analysis. This capability allows for faster and more accurate assessments of meal quality, improving the effectiveness of the PM POSHAN scheme in delivering balanced and nutritious meals. Real-time insights enable stakeholders to make timely adjustments based on specific regional needs, improving overall meal standards. **Conclusions:** The AI-driven Dish Recognition System represents a significant innovation in public health nutrition under the PM POSHAN scheme. By ensuring nutritional accuracy and meal quality, this solution supports the scheme's mission of providing high-quality, nourishing meals to school children. This can lead to improved health outcomes and cognitive development, benefiting children across India.

POSTER ABSTRACT 20**A Qualitative Study on Perceptions, Practices, Experiences About Antibiotic Consumption and Awareness About Antibiotic Resistance (ABR) Among Various Stakeholders from the Catchment Area of Urban Health Training Centre, Ognaj, Ahmedabad**

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Abstract

Introduction: Misuse and abuse of antibiotics are emerging public health issues that contribute to the growing problem of antibiotic resistance (ABR). This study was conducted to document the perceptions, practices, and experiences regarding antibiotic consumption and the awareness of ABR among healthcare providers, drug dispensers, and end-users in the catchment area of the Urban Health Training Centre (UHTC), Ognaj, Ahmedabad. **Methodology:** This qualitative study was conducted in the UHTC catchment area of Ognaj, Ahmedabad, following approval from the Institutional Ethics Committee. A total of 26 in-depth interviews (IDIs) were conducted between May and August 2024. The stakeholders included 10 healthcare providers (HCPs) out of a total of 35, 8 drug dispensers (2 from each direction), and 8 end-users (from the same dispensaries). Thematic guidelines were used for the interviews, and thematic analysis was performed. **Observations:** Key themes emerged from the IDIs, which were categorized into subthemes with verbatim quotes. Healthcare providers interviewed were from diverse qualifications, ranging from DAMS to MD/MS, and worked in both private and government sectors. They primarily prescribed antibiotics for respiratory and gastrointestinal infections, often from the Access and Watch categories as per the WHO AWaRe classification. Drug dispensers acknowledged the sale of antibiotics without prescriptions and expressed concerns about over-the-counter (OTC) distribution and self-medication. End-users commonly sought antibiotics for minor ailments, often without prescriptions, and were largely unaware of the consequences of antibiotic resistance. **Conclusions & Recommendations:** The study highlights the urgent need for awareness campaigns targeting all stakeholders about the prevention of antibiotic resistance. Regulatory measures should be implemented to restrict the sale of antibiotics without prescriptions and address the issue of self-medication. Enhanced education and awareness efforts are essential to mitigate the misuse and overuse of antibiotics, ultimately combating antibiotic resistance.

Keywords:

Qualitative study, In-Depth Interviews, Antibiotics consumption, Antibiotic Resistance

POSTER ABSTRACT 21**Rapid assessment of referral system (patient pathway) for health-related problems among mothers in Gujarat.**

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Abstract

Introduction: Gujarat has made notable progress in maternal health but challenges persist in delivering high-quality care. An efficient referral system is essential for reduction of maternal mortality rate. **Objectives:** To analyse the current referral mechanism and health-seeking behaviour of patients/their families. Identify challenges & provide recommendations to strengthen the referral pathway. **Methodology:** A cross sectional study part of state wide conducted in 6 districts with support from SHSRC. A purposive sample of 30 per district were taken. This presentation consists of sample collected from Ahmedabad district with 12 deaths and 18 admissions. Admission cases were taken from district hospitals (DH). Data was collected using predesigned pretested questionnaires using Kobo collect software. Data was analyzed using means and proportions in MS excel. **Results:** Commonest causes of deaths & admission were PIH & related complications (around 40%). About 2/3rd of the deaths reported in medical college hospital. Over 90% of mothers visited the first healthcare provider within 24 hours of symptom, rest waited for improvement. More than 40% mothers chose specialist and private facility first contact while in subsequent contacts > 80% of the mothers visited specialist and government facility. Most of the cases (60%) had to visit two facilities for management. The reasons for referral were lack of logistics, specialists, blood and Lack of ICU facility. Most referrals were to government medical college hospitals and district hospitals. Delay in decision making was the commonest delay. **Conclusion:** Filling up of vacant posts of specialists, logistic supply and development of IT enabled referral mechanism should be done for faster and appropriate referral. Community awareness regarding danger signs during pregnancy/ post-partum period should be generated to prevent delay in decision making.

POSTER ABSTRACT 22**Challenges and Barriers faced in carrying out Immunization activities in Dahod- an aspirational Tribal district, from the perspective of Health care providers.**

Dr. Yasheshkumar Ramanuj, Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Dr. Niyati Zaveri, Dr Vidhi Shah

Abstract

Background: Immunization is one of the most effective public health interventions for reducing vaccine-preventable diseases. However, in tribal communities, immunization coverage often remains low due to various challenges. Previous studies have highlighted various barriers to immunization in rural and tribal areas, including logistical challenges, lack of infrastructure, and cultural beliefs. Health-care providers (HCPs), working as key persons in the community, faces different challenges and their perspective is of prime importance.

Objectives: The aim of the study is to explore the challenges faced by HCPs, while carrying out Immunization activities and barriers during the immunization session in the tribal district.

Method: The study employed a cross-sectional qualitative design to explore the challenges and barriers faced by HCPs during immunization activities in the tribal district of Dahod. The study population comprised 20 HCPs, including ASHA workers, Female Health Workers (FHW/ANMs), Community Health Officers (CHOs), and Medical Officers (MOs), all of whom were actively involved in immunization efforts and who gave consent. Data was gathered using in-depth interviews (IDI) guide designed for this research. All interviews were audio-recorded with the participants' consent, and verbatim notes were taken to aid thematic analysis. The qualitative data was subsequently transcribed and key themes and sub-themes were identified based on recurring patterns. **Results:** On detailed IDI with Health care providers, main themes identified were Peoples' attitude/ behaviour; Community's lack of literacy, migratory population, far sighted Aanganwadis & AEFI consequences; Poor infrastructure & untimely supply of logistics. Some were unhappy with financial support given to them. **Conclusion:** The overall challenges faced by Health care providers in tribal district are plenty & diversified.

POSTER ABSTRACT 23**A case control study on maternal determinants of low birth weight at a tertiary care hospital in Surendranagar district.**

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Abstract

Background: Low birth weight (LBW) is included as a primary outcome indicator in the core set of indicators for the Global Nutrition Monitoring Framework. Maternal factors are mainly responsible for babies' birth outcome, Birth weight, future survival and to experience healthy growth & development. **Objective:** To find out maternal risk factors of LBW baby and to determine association between various risk factors and LBW. **Material & Methods:** A Hospital- based case-control study was carried out at tertiary care hospital in Surendranagar district between April to August 2024. This study included 350 women (175 cases & 175 controls) selected purposively who admitted in post-natal care (PNC) wards and gave birth to singleton babies at term. Data was collected by pre-designed, pre-tested, semi structured Questionnaire through personal interview, medical records & MCP card. Data was entered in Microsoft Excel version 2021 and analysed in SPSS version 26. **Result:** The results showed that Sociodemographic factors like living in Rural area (OR=1.92), Labourer (OR=2.47), socioeconomic class - 5 (OR=12.50) and Maternal factors like BMI < 18.5 Kg/m² (OR=1.94), Weight gain during pregnancy - 5 to 8 Kg (OR=5.82) , Interpregnancy interval < 3 years (OR=3.19), Any health problem in current Pregnancy (OR=3.36) were significantly associated with LBW babies. ANC Services related determinants like Late registration of pregnancy (OR=3.27), < 4 ANC visits attended (OR=3.26), < 100 IFA tablets & Calcium Consumption (OR= 6.47, 3.74), Utilization of take-home ration (OR= 2.28), Low Hb during pregnancy (OR=7.19) were found significantly associated. **Conclusion:** Women living in rural areas, Low socioeconomic class, undernutrition, High risk pregnancy and less utilizing ANC services were found to be significantly associated with LBW.

Keywords: Low birth weight (LBW) baby, case control study, maternal determinants, Antenatal care, tertiary care hospital

POSTER ABSTRACT 24**Assessment of knowledge, attitude and practice regarding blood borne infections among healthcare personnel of tertiary care hospital.**

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Abstract

Background: Bloodborne virus (BBV) infections such as hepatitis B (HBV), hepatitis C (HCV) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) are of particular concern because of the potential long-term health effects for people who become infected, the anxiety experienced by the exposed person, and the potential opportunity to avert acquisition of infection. Blood borne infections (BBIs) pose significant occupational risk to healthcare personnel (HCP), particularly in tertiary settings where the likelihood of exposure to infectious material is high. **Objective:** To assess the knowledge, attitude and practice (KAP) regarding blood-borne infections among healthcare personnel **Methodology:** A cross sectional study conducted among 110 healthcare personnel of tertiary care hospital Ahmedabad. Data collected using structured questionnaire regarding awareness of BBIs, attitude and practice of healthcare personnel for prevention of occupational exposure. **Result:** Present study included equal number of medical and para-medical staff. Out of 110 HCP, there are 50% (55/110) Doctors, 40.9% (45/110) Nurses and 9.09% (10/110) Lab Technicians. Majority of HCP [97.27%, 107/110] were aware regarding risks associated with blood borne infections. 94.5% and 92.7% of HCP were aware of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Hepatitis B PEP respectively. 81.8% of HCP have not completed full series of Hepatitis B vaccination. 33.63% of HCP have experienced needle stick injury or any other exposure to potentially infectious material in workplace.

Keywords

Awareness, BBIs, Occupational exposure, PEP, HCP

POSTER ABSTRACT 25**A Study on Knowledge, Attitude and practices of Undergraduate Medical Students toward Healthcare Research**

Dr. Pratik Patel, Dr. Rahul Netragaonkar, Dr Shobhana Dangi, Mr. Anis Shaiekh

Abstract

Background: Healthcare research influences disease prevention, diagnosis and novel treatment approaches. The advancement of medical education and the healthcare system depends on innovation and medical research. Undergraduate involvement in research is less because of their vast curriculum, less exposure to research methodology and lack of time.

Objective: The objective of the study was to evaluate knowledge, attitude, and practices toward the healthcare research among medical undergraduates including interns at Zydus Medical College & Hospital, Dahod; Gujarat.

Materials & Methods: The Cross-sectional survey self-made questionnaire as a Google form was circulated via online mode (WhatsApp) among UG medical students, including interns from ZMCH, Dahod, during study period (Aug-sept-2024). We enrolled 301 responses in our study and analysed using MS Excel and SPSS software. The data were analysed using descriptive statistics. **Results:** The mean age was 21.1 ± 1.7 years and 56.8% were males out of 301 participants. Study participants demonstrated an average correct response rate of knowledge toward research were 22.9%. The significant difference found in knowledge score ($P=0.033$) between different year of participants and increased knowledge with increased year of education. In our study no significant difference found in knowledge score ($P=0.219$) between gender. Total 82.55 % participant's positive attitude found toward research. Based on gender was ($P=0.0362$) found significant for Medical students participates more in research. Only 25.9 % students were participated in research as data collection. **Conclusion:** UG medical students have lacked knowledge and practices toward healthcare research. Majority of students agreed to research should be a part of medical curriculum.

POSTER ABSTRACT 26**“A health boon for the tribal: the health camp experience at a tribal village in eastern part of the Gujarat.”**

Dr.Yasheshkumar Ramanuj, Dr.Sanjay Kumar, Dr.Niyati Zaveri, Dr.Aman Damor

Abstract

Background: Organizing a health camp in a remote tribal community provided valuable insights into their specific health and cultural challenges. Direct engagement with the community helped us understand how customs and social factors affect their well-being. This experience built trust and connection, highlighting the importance of culturally sensitive healthcare to ensure our efforts are both effective and respectful. **Objective:** The health camp aimed to offer essential primary healthcare services, educate the community on preventive measures and healthy living, and identify prevalent health issues affecting the community members. **Method:** The health camp at Kharedi Primary School in Dahod, Gujarat, was designed to address the healthcare needs of the local population, particularly focusing on vulnerable adults and their families. A holistic approach ensured that necessary health services and health education were effectively delivered. Additionally, in-depth interviews with beneficiaries were conducted to gather insights on their experiences. **Result:** A total of 257 beneficiaries attended the camp, with 212 adults and 45 pediatric populations. Among adults, addictions were present in 75% of the population, with 45.7% addicted to tobacco. Gender comparisons showed significant differences in hypertension ($p = 0.0002$), with higher rates among females, and hemoglobin levels ($p = 0.0016$), where 42.3% of females had severe anemia ($Hb < 8g/dl$). A health education station provided guidance on healthy living and disease prevention. From 20 in-depth interviews, five key health themes emerged: nutrition, family planning, non-communicable diseases, cultural barriers, and resources. **Conclusion:** The health camp revealed crucial insights into the tribal community's health, stressing the need for targeted and socioeconomic as well as cultural interventions.

POSTER ABSTRACT 27**Association of Type-2 Diabetes with Obesity in Urban Slum Area, Surat: A Case-Control Study**Kirti Degama¹, Naresh Chauhan², Jayant Patel³, Mohua Moitra⁴¹Resident Doctor²Assistant Professor, Department of Community Medicine, GMC, Surat³Tutor, Department of Community Medicine, GMC, Surat⁴Professor and Head, Department of Community Medicine, Government Medical College, Surat**Correspondence:** Kirti Degama, Email: kirtidegama1995@gmail.com**Abstract**

Introduction: Diabetes mellitus (DM) is a chronic metabolic disorder with a rising global prevalence, particularly in developing countries such as India. This trend is exacerbated by rapid urbanization and lifestyle-related risk factors like obesity. The present study aims to assess the prevalence of obesity and type-2 diabetes in an urban slum population of Surat.

Objectives: The study seeks to document the prevalence of diabetes in individuals with obesity and explore its association with socio-demographic factors in the urban slum population of Surat.

Methodology: A case-control study was conducted involving 100 participants, comprising 50 known type-2 diabetic patients (cases) and 50 controls, matched by socio-demographic profile and living environment. All participants were selected from the Azadnagar-Rasullabad slum area in Surat. Data on socio-demographics were collected using a pre-designed, pre-tested questionnaire. Anthropometric measurements and blood sugar levels were assessed following standard procedures.

Results: The mean age of cases was 51.34 ± 9.39 years, while the mean age of controls was 50.33 ± 9.87 years. The Body Mass Index (BMI) for the cases was 26.15 ± 6.71 kg/m² and for controls was 26.23 ± 3.18 kg/m². Abnormal waist-to-hip ratio (WHR) was found in 56% of the diabetic cases. **Conclusion & Recommendations:** The findings suggest a potential shift in the trend of diabetes, possibly due to late-stage diagnosis or health disparities within the population. Central obesity, combined with generalized obesity, predisposes individuals to insulin resistance. To mitigate the effects of obesity, it is essential to promote self-care practices and increase awareness regarding its long-term health consequences.

Keywords: Diabetes, Obesity, Body Mass Index, Waist-to-Hip Ratio

POSTER ABSTRACT 28**Assessment of knowledge, attitude and practice about diabetes among diabetic patients in Dahod- tribal aspirational district**

Dr. Arpita Rajgor, Dr. Rahul Netragaonkar, Dr. Shobhana Dangi, Dr. Sanjay kumar

Abstract

Background: Diabetes is a rapidly increasing public health concern. Globally, the predicted number of individuals with diabetes in 2021 was over 463 million, and by 2030, it is expected to reach 643 million. In order to control the condition and lower the number of complications and fatalities associated with diabetes, it is crucial to have the right information, attitude, and behaviours. The present study was undertaken with an objective to explore knowledge, attitude and practice among Diabetes Mellitus patients in Dahod tribal region. **Method:** Hospital based cross-sectional study was conducted amongst 253 participants selected purposively from the NCD clinic of RHTC. A semi-structured Pretested questionnaire was used for data collection, which consist of four sections related to socio-demography, knowledge, attitude, and practices, each were allocated to the specific scoring based on the responses of participants. Knowledge was assessed on score board of 1-4 as poor, 5-8 as average, 9-13 as good. Attitude was assessed on score of 1-5 as poor, 6-10 as average and 11-15 as good. Practices were considered good for score 5-9. **Results:** 54.53% were female diabetic patients. Majority participants belong to rural area with prime occupation being farmer with lack of education. Assessing their knowledge only 20.95% (53) had good while 59.68% (151) had average and 19.37% (49) participants had poor. Attitude score was good only in 20.95% (53) participants while 65.22% (165) had average and 13.83% (35) had poor attitude. Good Practices was found in only 40.04% (101) participants. **Conclusion:** overall more than half of the participants had an average score in knowledge and attitude, while practices seemed poor in more than half of the participants.

POSTER ABSTRACT 29**Obstetric Danger Signs In Context: Exploring Knowledge and Sociocultural Factors Among Pregnant Women, A Cross-Sectional Study**

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Abstract

Background: Maternal morbidity and mortality continue to be significant challenges, often due to delays in seeking care for obstetric complications. A major barrier to timely intervention is a lack of awareness about obstetric danger signs. This study aims to assess the knowledge of obstetric danger signs among pregnant women in rural Gujarat and explore the socio-demographic and obstetric history factors that influence this knowledge. **Methodology:** A cross-sectional study was conducted among 390 antenatal women, selected using multistage sampling from six community health centers in Jamnagar district. A structured questionnaire was used to collect data, which was analyzed using regression modeling. **Results:** Among the 390 participants, the majority correctly identified key danger signs: pregnancy bleeding (73.3%, n=361), leakage of fluid (71%, n=347), and swelling (74.3%, n=364). Overall, 56.5% (n=277) of the participants demonstrated good knowledge of danger signs. Knowledge was significantly higher among women aged >25 years (AOR 3.11, 95% CI 2.02-4.7), literate women (AOR 2.14, 95% CI 1.12-4.08), and those who received counseling during antenatal care (ANC) (AOR 2.2, 95% CI 1.2-8.1) and postnatal care (PNC) (AOR 4.4, 95% CI 1.8-10.7). **Conclusion:** Despite interaction with health services, the awareness of obstetric danger signs remains incomplete among rural antenatal women. To enhance maternal health literacy, tailored education through improved counseling and family-centered care is recommended.

Keywords: Danger Signs, Health Literacy, Maternal Health, Pregnancy Complications

POSTER ABSTRACT 30**Smartphone Addiction among Students of Medical college of Western part of India- An Observational study**

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Correspondence: Dr. Kushant M Bhatt, e-mail: kushantbhatt@hotmail.com**Abstract**

Introduction: The proliferation of Smartphones has dramatically reshaped the landscape of adolescent communication, learning, and entertainment globally. With a rapid rise in Smartphone use, a new kind of health disorder called “Smartphone Addiction (SA)/Abuse/Misuse” has now emerged as a challenging Public Health problem. Research shows that excessive use of Smartphones can eventually lead to disorders such as somatic symptoms, mental health issues like problematic behaviours, attention deficits, depression, and aggression. Hence, the present study was conducted with the objective to estimate the prevalence of Smartphone Addiction among Second and Third year medical students along with their Socio-demographic profiles. **Methodology:** An Observational Cross-Sectional Study was done among second and third year medical students of P.D.U Government Medical College, Rajkot. A total of 300 students were interviewed through a Semi-structured, Pre-tested and Self-administered Questionnaire. Smartphone Addiction was measured using Smartphone Addiction Scale-short version (SAS-SV). The data was entered and analysed in MS Excel 2010. Statistical test like Chi-square test was used in the analysis. **Observation:** Among 300 students, 197(65.67%) were males while 103(34.33%) were females. Maximum number of students 187(62.3%) were in the age group of 20-21 years. Smartphone Addiction rate was found to be 41% (123 out of 300 students). 217 (72.33%) students were using Smartphone since more than 2 years. Whereas 43% students had a Screenshot of more than 4 hours and it was found to be significantly associated with Smartphone Addiction ($p < 0.05$). Students used their smartphone mostly for Studying (70.33%) followed by Social networking/watching reels (65.33%) and calling parents/friends (43.33%). **Conclusion and Recommendations:** The present study revealed a high prevalence of Smartphone Addiction among medical students. This high rate warrants implementation of effective strategies at local, state and national levels to address this growing Public Health problem.

Keywords: Smartphone Addiction, Students, Mental health

POSTER ABSTRACT 31**‘Assessment of Workload Upon Hospital Staff in a Tertiary Care Hospital Situated in Central Gujarat: Parul Sevashram Hospital, Waghodia, Vadodara**

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Abstract

Introduction: This study investigates the impact of hospital staff workload on clinical outcomes at Parul Sevashram Hospital, a 750-bed tertiary care center in rural Gujarat, India. The increasing complexity of healthcare delivery in rural settings necessitates understanding how workload affects both staff well-being and patient outcomes. Excessive workload has been associated with negative consequences, such as delays in patient care, medication errors, poor communication, and longer lengths of stay (LOS). This study aims to explore the effect of workload on clinical outcomes, focusing on LOS, adverse events, and staff-patient communication in a rural tertiary care hospital. **Objectives:** To assess the association between hospital staff workload and clinical outcomes, including LOS, adverse events, and communication effectiveness. The study specifically focuses on factors such as staff experience, urban vs. rural disparities, and gender differences. **Method:** A descriptive cross-sectional design was employed, using stratified random sampling to select 54 doctors and 27 nurses. Data collection involved a pre-tested questionnaire adapted from Michtalik et al. [3] and hospital records of all inpatients from May to July 2024. Descriptive statistics, Chi-square, Mann-Whitney U, and correlation tests were used to analyze associations. **Results:** Significant associations were found between workload and outcomes: Younger staff reported higher workloads and more frequent errors ($p=0.001$); Rural patients had longer LOS compared to urban counterparts ($p=0.02$); Adverse events, including ICU transfers, were higher among nurses ($p=0.04$); More experienced staff reported fewer errors ($p=0.03$), indicating the importance of professional development. **Conclusions:** High workload negatively impacts both staff performance and patient outcomes, particularly in resource-limited rural settings. Interventions to improve staff training, resource allocation, and communication are recommended to optimize healthcare delivery in such settings.

Keywords: Hospital staff workload, Clinical outcomes, Length of stay (LOS), Rural healthcare, Tertiary care hospital

POSTER ABSTRACT 32**Antimicrobial Audit of Field Outpatient Department (OPD) in Urban Field Practice Area of a Tertiary Care Hospital in South Gujarat**

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Abstract

Introduction: Antimicrobials are essential life-saving drugs that have contributed significantly to advances in modern medicine. However, antimicrobial resistance (AMR) presents a critical global public health challenge. Preventing AMR requires regular audits to ensure appropriate antimicrobial usage and reduce unnecessary overprescription. **Objectives:** This study aims to assess antimicrobial prescribing patterns in an urban slum field OPD and document the proportion of patients receiving versus not receiving antimicrobial therapy. **Methods:** A secondary data analysis was performed on 1,263 patients treated at an urban slum field OPD from January to October 2023. The OPD, operated by the community medicine department of a tertiary care center in South Gujarat, runs every Tuesday and Friday. All prescriptions were recorded using Appsheet during patient consultations. The analysis focused on antimicrobial use, particularly systemic agents, and categorized the antibiotics based on the WHO's AWaRe (Access, Watch & Reserve) classification. **Results:** Out of the 1,263 patients treated, 29.8% received antimicrobial therapy, while 59.2% were treated symptomatically without antimicrobials. Additionally, 11% either required no prescription or were referred to a higher center. Of the antimicrobial prescriptions, 57.2% were systemic and 42.8% were local. Among the systemic antimicrobials, 59.9% were antibiotics, 26.4% were antifungals, and 13.5% were anthelmintics. The antibiotics were classified according to the WHO's 2021 AWaRe guidelines, with 72.3% categorized as Watch and 27.7% as Access. **Conclusion:** The electronic data of patient prescriptions is crucial for ensuring the quality of primary healthcare services through regular audits and feedback. Such audits can help limit the unnecessary use of antimicrobial agents, thereby preventing the rise of resistance.

Keywords: Antimicrobial, Audit, Electronic-data, Stewardship

POSTER ABSTRACT 33**The Study of Premenstrual Syndrome in Adolescent Girls of Shri Nandkunvarba Kshatriya Kanya Vidyalaya, Bhavnagar**

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Abstract

Introduction: Premenstrual syndrome (PMS) is described as a condition characterized by a range of physical, emotional, cognitive, affective, and behavioral symptoms that occur cyclically during the luteal phase of the menstrual cycle, resolving within a few days after menstruation begins. The major abnormalities related to PMS include dysmenorrhea, menstrual irregularities, and mood changes. These conditions can affect daily activities such as academic and sports performance and may lead to a loss of self-confidence. **Objectives:** 1. To estimate the prevalence of premenstrual syndrome in adolescent girls at Shri Nandkunvarba Kshatriya Kanya Vidyalaya, Bhavnagar. 2. To identify the common symptoms of premenstrual syndrome among these adolescent girls. **Methods:** A cross-sectional study was conducted with prior permission from the principal of N.K.K. school. Adolescent girls from the 10th, 11th, and 12th standards of the English medium were selected as study participants through a convenient sampling method. A premenstrual syndrome scale was used to assess the symptoms. Data was collected using a structured questionnaire, which was completed by the participants in physical form. Data entry and analysis were performed in Microsoft Excel. **Results:** The prevalence of premenstrual syndrome among the adolescent girls of Nandkunvarba Kshatriya Kanya Vidyalaya was 86.1%. According to the cutoff scores, 1 (0.6%) girl reported no symptoms (score 1-40), 27 (15%) girls had mild symptoms (score 41-80), 98 (54.4%) had moderate symptoms (score 81-120), 54 (30%) had severe symptoms (score 121-160), and none reported very severe symptoms (score 161-200). The most common symptoms observed were mood swings, irrational thoughts, and heightened sensitivity, followed by irritability and lack of self-control. **Conclusion:** The prevalence of premenstrual syndrome is notably high among the adolescent girls in the study population, indicating a significant health issue that requires attention.

Keywords: Premenstrual syndrome, Adolescent girls

POSTER ABSTRACT 34:**Awareness and Utilisation of the Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) in the Rural Community of South Gujarat: A Cross-Sectional Study**

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Abstract

Introduction: As of January 2024, under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY), 30 crore Ayushman cards have been issued, and 6.2 crore free hospital admissions have been made. This initiative has saved more than ₹1.25 lakh crore in out-of-pocket expenditures for vulnerable populations. This study aims to quantify the number of households with an Ayushman card and identify the factors affecting the utilisation of AB-PMJAY in rural South Gujarat. **Methods:** A list of villages in Surat district was obtained, and Gangadhara village was selected using simple random sampling with a random number generator. Out of 2,500 households, 131 eligible households (total population of 559) were randomly selected and surveyed. A family member from each household was interviewed using a pre-tested, semi-structured questionnaire after obtaining consent. **Results:** It was found that 79.3% of the households did not have an Ayushman card. The main reasons for this included: non-linking of mobile numbers with Aadhar cards, lack of ration cards, and failure to update ration cards. Further analysis revealed that 36% of the population from other states had ration cards from their respective states, 32.4% could not afford the high charges of private agents for making a ration card because they were unaware that ration cards are issued free of cost, 14.7% did not have updated ration cards, 7.4% had unlinked mobile numbers to Aadhar cards, and 9.5% chose not to have an Ayushman card. **Conclusions:** The awareness and utilisation of the AB-PMJAY scheme in the study population are found to be very low. Several difficulties hindered the community's ability to meet the primary requirements for obtaining an Ayushman card. To improve awareness and utilisation, door-to-door awareness campaigns should be conducted by ASHAs and AWWs, and periodic camps should be organized in every village to address these challenges.

Keywords: AB-PMJAY, Awareness, Utilisation

POSTER ABSTRACT 35:**Evaluation of Treatment Outcomes in Patients of Tuberculosis (TB) and Tuberculosis (TB) with Diabetes Mellitus (DM): Secondary Data Analysis from District TB Center, South Gujarat**

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Abstract

Introduction: The rising prevalence of diabetes mellitus (DM) in high tuberculosis (TB) burden countries may negatively impact TB control efforts. In India, nearly 20% of TB patients have diabetes, which is associated with higher odds of treatment failure (9 times), relapse (1.6 times), and death (1.9 times). This study aims to analyze the situation of TB patients with comorbid DM in Surat district and explore the association between diabetes status and TB treatment outcomes.

Methods: This study involves secondary data analysis of treatment outcomes in TB patients with diabetes. The data, collected from TB patients in 2023, was provided by the District TB Center (DTC) of Surat district. Univariate analysis was performed, and the Chi-square test was applied. Permission was obtained from the DTC unit located at New Civil Hospital, Surat. **Results:**

Out of 3,102 total TB patients, 162 (5.2%) had DM. The mean age of TB+DM patients was 49.57 years. Among these patients, 137 (84.6%) were new TB cases, 23 (14.2%) had recurrent TB, and 2 (1.2%) were diagnosed with drug-resistant TB. Regarding treatment outcomes, 92 (56.8%) were cured, 51 (31.5%) completed treatment, 11 (6.8%) died, and 8 (4.9%) had unfavorable outcomes. There was a statistically significant association between diabetes status and treatment outcome ($p=0.005$). TB+DM patients had a higher proportion of pulmonary TB compared to non-diabetic TB patients, and this was also statistically significant ($p=0.001$). **Conclusions:** TB patients with diabetes exhibited a higher cure rate but a lower treatment completion rate, as well as a slightly higher mortality rate compared to non-diabetic TB patients. Despite the slightly higher mortality rate, the overall treatment outcomes for TB+DM patients were favorable, with the majority either cured or completing treatment.

Keywords: Diabetes (DM), Treatment outcome, Tuberculosis (TB)

POSTER ABSTRACT 36:**A Cross-sectional study to determine prevalence of Depression, Anxiety, and Stress and its associated factors among Post Graduate student of tertiary care Hospital**

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Abstract

Background: Global research shows students in professional courses are more likely to Experience stress, anxiety & depression. A significant proportion of postgraduate medical students experience mental health issues, with 16.48% suffering from depression and 73% facing moderate stress (5%). To find out the prevalence and associated determinants of depression, anxiety, and stress among postgraduate students of a tertiary care hospital. **Methods:** A cross-sectional study was conducted at a tertiary care teaching hospital in Surendranagar, Gujarat. The study included 176 postgraduate students from various departments, selected through convenient sampling. Data were collected in google forms using semi-structured including DASS-42 questionnaire. Microsoft Excel 2023 was used for data analysis. A chi-square test determined the association between depression, anxiety, stress, and various risk factors. **Result:** The prevalence of depression anxiety & stress among Pg student was 10%, 14% and 18% respectively. Depression was significantly associated with sociodemographic factors like gender (P=0.009), family head's occupation (P=0.006), mother's education (P=0.04), and residency (P=0.005). Predisposing factors like Psychiatric history (P=0.002), parents' living status (P=0.0361), daily duty hours (P=0.008), and sleep hours (P=0.01). Anxiety was linked to mother's education (P=0.005), parents' living status (P=0.01), and satisfaction with their medical branch (P=0.03). Stress showed significant associations with age (P=0.004) & father's education (P=0.04). **Conclusion:** There was a significant association between depression and various demographic factors like Gender, occupation of head of family, Mothers education & residency as well various predisposing factors like H/o Psychiatric illness, parents' living status, duty hours per days and Daily hours of sleep. A significant association was noted between Stress and Anxiety with sociodemographic factors like age & parent's education status, and predisposing factors like Parents living status and satisfaction with their branch. Addressing these is crucial for better mental health outcomes.

Key Words: Depression, Anxiety, stress, Dass scale-42, PG students

POSTER ABSTRACT 37**Assessment of Quality of Life and Psychological Well-Being Among Elderly Residing at Old Age Homes in Anand, Gujarat, India**Mrs. Mamta R Patel¹, Dr. Uday Shankar Singh²¹Research Scholar, Pramukhswami Medical College, Bhaikaka University, Karamsad, Anand, Gujarat²Pramukhswami Medical College, Bhaikaka University, Karamsad, Anand, Gujarat**Correspondence:** Mrs. Mamta R Patel, Email: mamtarp@charutarhealth.org**Abstract**

Background: India's aging population is rapidly increasing, with elderly individuals facing numerous challenges such as health issues, nuclear family structures, and economic dependence. Many elderly people, unable to live with family, resort to staying in old age homes. The choice to live in these institutions may significantly impact their quality of life. This study aims to assess the sociodemographic profile, quality of life, and psychological well-being of elderly residents in old age homes in Anand, Gujarat. **Methods:** A cross-sectional study was conducted where data was collected from elderly residents of old age homes using convenient sampling. The Old People Quality of Life-Brief questionnaire and Ryff's 18-item psychological well-being scale were used to gather data. The analysis was performed using STATA 14.2, where individual domains and overall scores were compared with sociodemographic variables using independent sample t-tests/Analysis of Variance. Multiple linear regression analysis was employed to predict the quality of life and psychological well-being scores. **Results:** The mean quality of life score for 102 elderly participants was 44.8 ± 7 , with the highest score in the environmental domain (4.1 ± 0.6) and the lowest in the social domain (2.5 ± 1.1). A significantly higher overall quality of life score was observed in older individuals, those with higher education, those who had stayed in the home for less than 2 years, and those receiving pensions. Psychological well-being scores were significantly higher ($P=0.030$) in males (70 ± 11.2) compared to females (65.5 ± 9.1). Multiple regression analysis revealed that quality of life was significantly influenced by the duration of stay ($P=0.006$) and source of income ($P<0.001$), while age ($P=0.043$) and gender ($P=0.038$) were significantly associated with higher psychological well-being scores. **Conclusions:** The study highlights the importance of providing social activities and livelihood opportunities to elderly residents of old age homes. To enhance self-fulfilment and promote active living, old age homes should provide platforms that improve the overall quality of life for their residents.

Keywords: Domains, Elderly, Old age homes, Psychological well-being, Quality of life

POSTER ABSTRACT 38**Knowledge, Attitude, and Practice About Acne Among Students of 11th and 12th Standard of Gyanmanjari Vidhyapith, Bhavnagar**

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Abstract

Background: Acne is a common chronic inflammatory skin condition, predominantly affecting adolescents, with 85% of teenagers experiencing it to some extent. Beyond its cosmetic impact, acne can lead to physical scarring, psychosocial distress, and even mental health issues such as depression or anxiety. This study was conducted to assess the knowledge, attitude, and practice regarding acne among students of 11th and 12th standard at Gyanmanjari Vidhyapith, Bhavnagar. **Methods:** A cross-sectional study was conducted in August-September 2024. A total of 345 students from Gyanmanjari Vidhyapith, Bhavnagar, were selected conveniently. Data was collected using a structured questionnaire. Data analysis was done using Jamovi software. **Results:** The majority of students (81.4%) were aware that acne is caused by hormonal changes, and 70.4% believed infections, particularly bacterial infections (76.8%), contribute to it. Participants identified factors like stress (83.5%), oily skin (82.6%), and fast food consumption (75.4%) as contributors to acne. Many believed that acne could be prevented by increasing fruit-vegetable intake (59.7%) and yogurt consumption (55.7%). Factors such as chocolate consumption (33.6%), using air conditioning (31.6%), or having dandruff (27.8%) were not considered to affect acne. Female students were more likely to feel stressed (59.2%), avoid social gatherings (58.4%), and be dissatisfied with their appearance (59.9%) due to acne. Additionally, preventive measures were more commonly practiced by female students compared to males, such as increasing fruit-vegetable intake (63% vs. 43%), decreasing fast food consumption (83% vs. 42%), and increasing exercise duration (54% vs. 37%). **Conclusion:** The majority of students were aware of the causes of acne. Participants believed that acne was worsened by stress, improved by consuming fruits, vegetables, and yogurt, and unaffected by factors like air conditioning, chocolates, or dandruff. Female students were more likely to feel stressed, dissatisfied with their appearance, and face challenges in social interactions due to acne. Preventive measures were more commonly practiced by female students, emphasizing the need for targeted education and interventions.

Keywords: Acne, Knowledge, Attitude, Practice

POSTER ABSTRACT 39:**A Cross-Sectional Study About Determinants of Sleep Quality Among Students of Government Medical College Bhavnagar**

Parth Muniya, Dipali Bhatt, Bharatkumar Patel, Purvish Patel, Prem Parikh, Rahul Devmurari, Rahul Prajapati, Raj Phogat

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Abstract

Background: Sleep quality is a crucial aspect of health and well-being, especially for medical students who are under constant academic pressure. Research shows that poor sleep can impair cognitive performance, emotional regulation, and physical health, potentially increasing the risk of burnout and mental health issues. This study aims to explore the determinants of sleep quality among students at Government Medical College Bhavnagar. **Methods:** A cross-sectional study was conducted with 300 undergraduate medical students at Government Medical College Bhavnagar. Data were collected using Google Forms and the Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index (PSQI) questionnaire. Data analysis was performed using MS Excel and MedCalc. **Results:** Out of 300 participants, 151 (50.3%) reported good sleep quality. 14 participants (4.6%) experienced sleep latency greater than 45 minutes, 25 participants (8.3%) had a sleep duration of fewer than 5 hours, and 60 participants (20%) had a sleep duration of 5 to 6 hours. A majority of 156 participants (52%) had a bedtime between 11 PM and 1 AM, while 15 participants (5%) went to bed after 3 AM. A significant association was found between academic year and sleep quality ($p < 0.0001$), with first-year students reporting poorer sleep quality compared to those in higher years. Additionally, a significant relationship was observed between age and sleep quality ($p < 0.001$). **Conclusion:** The study concluded that nearly half of the students experience poor sleep quality, with significant differences in sleep quality based on academic year and age. These findings underscore the importance of addressing sleep quality issues, particularly among medical students, to improve their overall well-being and academic performance.

Keywords: Determinants, sleep quality, medical students

POSTER ABSTRACT 40:**Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) Analysis of Family Adoption Programme (FAP)**Dr. Meetkumar Patel¹, Dr. Prakash Patel²¹Resident, SMIMER Medical College, Surat, Gujarat²Associate Professor, SMIMER Medical College, Surat, Gujarat**Correspondence:** Dr. Meetkumar Patel, Email: meetkpatel97@gmail.com**Abstract**

Background: Community engagement in medical education gives the students an insight into the living conditions of the public and how they influence their health. Community Medicine departments accomplish this through field practice and family health studies. The Family Adoption Programme, newly mandated for all medical undergraduate students, brings its own set of challenges and opportunities. **Objectives:** The study aims to understand the strengths, weakness, opportunities and threats regarding this program. **Methods:** SWOT analysis of FAP done by 15 residents of community medicine department individually by the given period of one-week time tasked by departmental faculties. All these analyses were further improvised by review and suggestions of faculties and compiled in one SWOT analysis. **Results:** Strengths were Early community exposure of students, Developing leadership skills, Hands-on experience of learning attitude and communication, access of healthcare to rural population, Intersectoral coordination, Bonding towards community, community participation. Weakness were Adopting families far away, Limited resources, Safety of undergraduate students, miscommunication with community. Opportunities were Achieve the larger goal of Health for All, Identifying the community problem and taking timely intervention, motivation in young undergraduate student to pursue medical profession, Counselling for addiction. Threats were Resistance and unavailability of family during visit, Language barrier, Time variability and constraint, Allotment of problem families, Existing social pathology and cultural taboos in family, Data security concerns, lack of proper fund. **Conclusion:** Although FAP is the running at its perfection still we can make it more useful by identifying bottle necks, threats and opportunities. This will be useful for further strengthening and improvement in FAP Which will useful for the community and undergraduate student.

Key word: Community medicine, Family adoption programme, Medical undergraduate, Community

POSTER ABSTRACT 41:**Prognostic Significance of Eosinophil to Platelet Ratio and C-Reactive Protein in Predicting Adverse Events During Acute Exacerbations of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease: A Prospective Observational Study**

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Abstract

Background: Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) exacerbations are associated with poor outcomes and increased mortality. Biomarkers may help predict adverse events and guide management. **Objectives:** This study aimed to determine the prognostic utility of eosinophil-to-platelet ratio (EPR), C-reactive protein (CRP), and sarcopenia in predicting intubation, ICU admission, in-hospital mortality, and 30-day readmission in patients hospitalized for acute COPD exacerbations. **Methods:** This prospective observational study was conducted at a tertiary care hospital in Gujarat, India, over one year. A total of 205 COPD patients hospitalized for acute exacerbations were enrolled. Data on demographics, lung function, symptoms, nutrition, frailty, sarcopenia, EPR, and CRP levels were collected. Adverse events were recorded during hospitalization and follow-up. Logistic regression and ROC curve analyses were performed to assess the predictive value of biomarkers. **Results:** Of the 205 patients, 55 experienced adverse events. $EPR < 0.755$ and $CRP \geq 15.8$ mg/dL were significant predictors of adverse events after adjustment. $EPR < 0.755$ showed the highest AUC of 0.79 (sensitivity 69%, specificity 81%) for predicting composite adverse events. $CRP \geq 15.8$ mg/dL had an AUC of 0.68. Sarcopenia was also associated with increased odds of adverse events but had lower predictive accuracy (AUC 0.64). Patients with adverse events had significantly lower BMI, higher CAT scores, lower MNA-SF scores, and higher CRP levels. **Conclusions:** EPR and CRP are useful prognostic markers for clinically significant in-hospital outcomes during COPD exacerbations. Incorporating these readily available biomarkers into clinical assessment may enhance risk stratification and guide management decisions. Further research is needed to validate these findings in diverse populations and to evaluate targeted interventions based on biomarker profiles to improve outcomes in COPD exacerbations.

Keywords: Biomarker, COPD, C-reactive protein, eosinopenia, exacerbation, prognosis

POSTER ABSTRACT 42:**Assessment of Quality of Life among Terminally ill Cancer Patients receiving Palliative Care at SKH hospital, Karamsad**Dr. Preeti Tiwari¹, Dr. Riya Panchal²¹Resident Doctor- PSMC, CM department, Karamsad, Gujarat.²Associate Professor- PSMC, CM department, Karamsad, Gujarat.**Correspondence:** Dr. Riya Panchal², Email: riyapanchal11011999@gmail.com**Abstract**

Background: Cancer is leading cause of death worldwide and palliative care improves the quality of life (QoL) of patients and their families with problems associated with terminal illness. Palliative care is most effective when considered early in the course of illness. Early palliative care improves quality of life for patients and unnecessary hospitalizations and use of health-care services. **Objectives:** To assess quality of life of terminally ill cancer patients receiving palliative care at SKH, Karamsad. **Methods:** A Cross-sectional study design conducted by using pretested, semistructured questionnaire among terminally ill cancer patients attending PC OPD with questions regarding 5 domains- physical, psychosocial, functional, mental and spiritual answered from scale 0 to 4. Normality testing done using Kolmogorov-smirnov test. In Descriptive analysis median and mode was calculated. Coorelation calculated using spearman rho test. For testing significance, Mann Whitney U test was performed. **Results:** Maximum number of patients are male are 66(55%). Mean age of participants is 53.15. 31(25.8%) patients have buccal cancer following tongue cancer 12(9.2%), cervical cancer(8.3%) and breast cancer(9%).As per conversation with patients all domains physical, psychosocial, mental and spiritual have positive effect except functional domain which was found statistically significant (P value <0.05). Significant coorelation is found between all domains. **Conclusions:** Impairment in all domains to terminal stage cancer affects patients social relationship as well as ability to perform routine activities. Improvement initiatives should focus on implementing a person centered approach along with clinical aspects to enable the better humanised care.

POSTER ABSTRACT 43:**Desk Review of Malaria Trend in Tertiary Care Hospital, South Gujarat**

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Abstract

Background: The analysis of malaria data within healthcare systems is crucial for assessing the success or failure of malaria control programs. As malaria remains a significant threat in endemic regions, evaluating trends in health facilities plays a key role in understanding transmission dynamics and implementing evidence-based strategies for malaria control. The objective of this study is to evaluate malaria trends in a tertiary care hospital over a four-year period. **Methods:** A retrospective study was conducted to assess malaria trends through peripheral blood smear examinations of both inpatient and outpatient cases from January 2021 to August 2024 in a tertiary care hospital. This analysis is based on secondary data from the tertiary care hospital. **Results:** Over the four-year period, a total of 1.5 lakh suspected cases were screened using microscopy, with 7,484 confirmed malaria cases. A clear seasonal variation was observed, with peak malaria cases typically occurring between August and October. Of the confirmed cases, 62.4% were due to *Plasmodium vivax*, 24% were caused by *Plasmodium falciparum*, and 0.6% were mixed infections. Malaria cases increased significantly from January to August 2024, with 1,463 confirmed cases, compared to 126 cases during the same period in 2021. **Conclusions:** The study reveals an increasing trend in malaria testing and detection between 2021 and 2024, underscoring that malaria remains a significant public health challenge. Malaria cases are not limited to the rainy season but are observed consistently throughout the year. Continuous monitoring and evaluation of malaria trends are essential for informing public health interventions. It is crucial to strengthen the link between data from tertiary care hospitals and peripheral health centres and implement microplanning to achieve the goal of malaria elimination by 2030.

Keywords: Entomology, Epidemiology, Elimination, Malaria trend

POSTER ABSTRACT 44:**Knowledge and perception about female foeticide among under graduate medical students of C. U. Shah Medical College, Surendranagar.**

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Abstract

Background: Female foeticide (Hindi: स्त्री भ्रूण हत्या) refers to the illegal termination of female fetus, leading to a significant decline in the sex ratio. This issue is particularly acute in regions where a preference for male children persists, exacerbated by societal norms such as the two-child policy. In India, states like Gujarat and Maharashtra reported the highest instances of sex-selective abortions in 2022, with 18 and 17 cases, respectively. **Objectives:** The primary aim of this study is to assess the knowledge and perceptions about female foeticide among undergraduate medical students. **Methods:** An observational cross-sectional study was conducted with 300 undergraduate medical students from all phases of C. U. Shah Medical College, Surendranagar. A prior institutional ethical approval was taken. A purposive sampling technique was utilized. Data were collected using a pre-designed, semi-structured questionnaire, and informed consent was obtained from all the participants. **Results:** The mean age of the students was 20.41±1.37 years. Majority of participants (80%) have a good knowledge about female foeticide. The major source of information was internet/social media (63.3%). Lack of education (72.6%) and gender discrimination (68.3%) are the key indicator for female foeticide considered by study participants. About 77.6% participants have a knowledge about PCPNDT act and 97.9% participants believe that education about female foeticide should be given at school. Although 61.2% of participants believed that advanced technology contributes to female foeticide. Year of studying MBBS and residential area had a significant association with the knowledge regarding female foeticide ($p<0.05$). **Conclusion:** The study indicates that medical students possess a solid understanding of female foeticide, including awareness of diagnostic methods for sex determination. Participants believe that stringent enforcement of existing laws is crucial for curbing the practice of female foeticide.

POSTER ABSTRACT 45:**Knowledge, Attitude and Practice Regarding Solid Waste Disposal at Household Level Residing in Rural Field Practice Area of C U Shah Medical College (CUSMC), Surendranagar**

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Abstract

Background: Proper household waste disposal is crucial for environmental sustainability and public health. India with rising population and living standards is struggling to handle the simultaneous acceleration in waste generation. Household people can play a pivotal role in disposing household solid waste. **Objectives:** To assess the Knowledge, Attitude and Practices regarding solid waste disposal at household level in rural field practice area of CUSMC. **Methods:** A community-based cross-sectional study was conducted in the rural field practice area of CUSMC. Out of the total households, 10% were selected using a systematic random sampling technique, resulting in 300 selected households. The responsible person for waste disposal in each household was interviewed to collect data. Data were gathered using pretested semi-structured questionnaires and analysed using Microsoft Excel 21. **Results:** Out of total study participants, majority (81%) were aware about the word household solid waste disposal. Nearly half of the participants were aware about the types of household solid waste (56%) and methods of solid waste disposal (54%). Most of them (73%) were aware about the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. Majority were agreed that proper solid waste disposal is responsibility of everyone (85%), minimize the waste at household level (76%) and it should be segregated before disposal (68%). Solid waste was separated by nearly half (58%) of the participants before disposal. They were getting rid of solid waste from the home by dumping in disposal site (32%) followed by dumped along roadsides or gully (28%), dumped in backyards with sacs (20%) etc. The majority of the household had access to door-to-door (80%) waste collection service. **Conclusion:** Many of the participants were still not aware about types and methods of solid waste disposal. Practice of segregation and 3R (reduce, reuse, recycle) strategy for solid waste disposal were remained low at household level.

POSTER ABSTRACT 46:**Sleep quality and its associated factors among undergraduate medical students – An observational study**

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Abstract

Background: Sleep is a biological process that is essential for life. Its quality has a strong connection to several well-being indicators as well as physical and mental health. Medical students, who may have longer hours of study, or frequent exams, may be concerned related to results or other habitual factors, especially prone to poor sleep quality. **Objective:** This study aims to assess the quality of sleep and find out its associated factors among all undergraduate medical students those significantly influence the quality of sleep. **Material & Methods:** An observational study was conducted in C.U.Shah Medical College, Surendranagar between 1st June to 31st August 2024 among undergraduate medical students. Study participants were selected purposefully with consent and final sample size was 300. Data was collected by pre-tested, semi-structured questionnaire comprised of PSQI scale, sociodemographic profile and habitual practice of students through Google Form. Data was analysed using SPSS version 26. **Result:** The mean age of the study participant was 20.37 ± 1.47 years. A statistically significant association was found between quality of sleep and sociodemographic variables like years of MBBS ($p = 0.004$) and BMI ($p = 0.04$). There was a strong association found between perceived stress during the last month and quality of sleep ($p < 0.000$). While conducting the binary logistic regression model, predictors of poor sleep quality founded were perceived stress during the last month, BMI and phase of studying MBBS. **Conclusion:** In our study, we found that about 34% of study participants had poor quality of sleep. BMI, phase of studying MBBS, and stress during the last month were major determinants which significantly affect the quality of sleep.

Keywords: Sleep quality, PSQI, BMI, Stress, Undergraduate medical students

POSTER ABSTRACT 47:**Assessing the Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices of ASHA Workers towards the Ayushman Bhava Initiative in Western Gujarat: A Mixed-Methods Study**

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Abstract

Background: The Ayushman Bhava initiative, launched by the Government of India, aims to promote holistic and evidence-based healthcare. Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) play a pivotal role in its implementation. **Objective:** This study aimed to assess the knowledge, attitudes, and practices (KAP) of ASHA workers regarding the Ayushman Bhava initiative in Western Gujarat. **Methods:** A mixed-methods study was conducted among 170 ASHA workers using a structured questionnaire and focus group discussions. The questionnaire assessed socio-demographic characteristics, knowledge, attitudes, and self-reported practices. Logistic regression analysis examined associations between socio-demographic factors and good knowledge. Qualitative data were analyzed using thematic analysis. **Results:** While 57% correctly understood Ayushman Bhava's aim, knowledge gaps were observed regarding specific aspects. Positive attitudes were prevalent, with 95.3% believing the initiative could improve patient care and 97% agreeing on the importance of communication. Most respondents reported excellent practices in explaining health information (95%), active listening (84.7%), and discussing patient preferences (93%). Higher education, longer work experience, and higher income were associated with increased odds of good knowledge. Qualitative findings highlighted perceived benefits, challenges in implementation, and the role of ASHAs in patient communication and advocacy. **Conclusion:** The study revealed moderate knowledge, positive attitudes, and generally good practices among ASHA workers regarding the Ayushman Bhava initiative. Targeted capacity-building, community engagement, and policy interventions can enhance the initiative's implementation by addressing knowledge gaps, fostering positive attitudes, and supporting effective practices of ASHA workers.

Keywords: Ayushman Bhava, Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs), Knowledge, Attitudes, Practices, Mixed-methods study.

POSTER ABSTRACT 48:**Assessment of various quality certifications programs for government health facilities in tribal villages of Gujarat**

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Abstract

Background: Tribal India shows various issues when it comes to addressing healthcare quality. Patients and their relatives' perspective nowadays also play a crucial role. It is very crucial to see impact made from various quality certifications programs (QCP) like Kayakalp, LaQshya, and NQAS etc. Thus, this study was initiated to find out probable impact from these initiatives as per patients point of view. **Objectives:** Insights from beneficiaries regarding status of health facilities. To identify the impact of QCPs. **Methods and Material:** This Qualitative study included all 18 PHCs of Dahod taluka, Gujarat. Purposive sampling was employed. One-to-one in-depth interviews (IDI) with 23 such patients (Male-8, Female-15) done. Adult patients who have taken treatment at-least for 3 times in the last six months were included. The interviews were conducted with OPD, IPD, and perinatal patients. The interview guide consisted of questions aimed to understand their feelings regarding their treatment component. At last, after 23 IDIs, no new thoughts or concepts came out, and thus saturation occurred. The interviews were audio-recorded, transcribed verbatim, and manual thematic analyses were performed. **Results:** Manual thematic analysis of the transcripts part yielded 12 categories, 6 sub themes and 3 themes. Patients were quite happy after noticeable improvement, with the availability of free medication, proximity of the health facilities, and availability of staff. However, a few of them expressing concerns about the unavailability of specific drugs and the lack of required care provision in their nearby centres. Beneficiaries were overall satisfied with service delivery, infrastructure, and various aspects of care, drugs, and the ultimate health outcomes. **Conclusions:** QCPs have demonstrated significant positive impact on healthcare services; it's very promising specifically in the context of tribal health facilities.

POSTER ABSTRACT 49:**Usage Of Protein Supplements Among Undergraduate Medical Students in Government Medical College of Rajkot District, Gujarat**Dr Sudhi C P ¹, Dr Bharat Gohel ², Dr Bhavesh Kanabar ³¹1st year resident, ²Assistant Professor, ³Tutor

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Abstract

Background: Nutritional supplements defined as any dietary supplement manufactured product intended to supplement diet, taken by mouth as pill, capsule, tablet, or liquid. People who work out at the gym constitute a central target for the supplements market. Prolonged intake of a large amount of protein is associated with potential dangers, such as bone mineral loss, kidney damage. **Objectives:** To assess the usage of protein supplements and identify the factors influencing their usage among the undergraduate medical students To estimate the association between protein supplements usage with level of physical activity and BMI among the users To identify the level of awareness about protein supplements among the students **Methods:** A cross-sectional study was done among undergraduate medical students from PDU Medical College, Rajkot. A semi structured questionnaire was used for data collection. Microsoft Excel 2021 was used for data entry and analysis. **Results** Out of 687 participants, 98(14.26%) used supplements. 226(32.9%) aware about protein RDA. Percentage of students who use protein supplements was significantly more among males($p<0.05$) and gym goers($p<0.00001$). Those taking supplements for ≥ 6 months significantly associated with using other performance enhancers($p<0.05$). Main factors for choosing supplements are product pros/cons(35.7%) and specialist recommendation(19.4%). Major reasons for stopping supplements are huge expenses(36.4%), no evident advantage/fear of side effects(25%). Z score for BMI comparison of males & females was 3.0142. **Conclusions:** Supplement usage, regular physical activity and gym workout are more among males students. Protein supplements used more commonly by gym goers and students with regular physical activity. Significant difference of BMI present between genders.

POSTER ABSTRACT 50:**To determine the Safety and Efficacy of Chyawanprash in Communicable disease: A Systematic review and Meta analysis of RCTs**Shubham Sharma¹, Gayathree Sethuraman², Khushboo Kumari³¹Tripod HEOR Solutions, Durg, 491001, India²Senior Consultant; Triyog Ayurved Hospitals, Mount Road, Chennai, 600009, India³ Senior research fellow; Indian Council of Medical Research, Rajendra Memorial Research Institute of Medical Sciences, Patna, 801503, India**Abstract**

Introduction: Global healthcare systems are severely impacted by communicable diseases (CD) [COVID-19, monkey pox, etc], underscoring the importance of effective prevention. The Ayurvedic formulation chyawanprash (CP) has traditionally been used for improving immunity and reducing healthcare resource utilization (HCRU). **Objective:** To determine the safety and efficacy of CP in CD. **Methodology:** The systematic review and meta-analysis (SRMA) was registered in PROSPERO (CRD42023418994), and followed the PRISMA guidelines. We used the following Keywords ‘chyawanprash’, ‘chyavanprash’, and ‘ratnaprash’ as a search strategy in the respective databases Google Scholar, Pubmed, Scopus, Web of science, and The Cochrane. Studies published in the last 13 years (January 2010-February 2023) were included and appraised by two reviewers (GS, KK). After initial screening of 1978 hits, 8 articles were selected, 3 for qualitative assessment and 5 for quantitative assessment. The MA was conducted in R-Studio (Vienna, Austria, year: 2024) using “meta” package. **Result:** The included trials analysed 154,110 individuals (both healthy and patients). All trials were conducted in India with 5 registered in Clinical Trial registry-India. The median (range) duration of the trials was 50.5 (28 – 180) days. The trials compared CP with standard of care (SOC), milk, SOC-milk, or vitamin C. The odds ratios (95% CI, p) for COVID-19 positive patients (n=3), COVID-19 positive in symptomatic patients (n=2), HCRU (n=3), adverse events (n=3), and serious adverse events (n=2) were 0.45 (0.07–2.92, p= 0.40), 0.37 (0.01–12.56, p= 0.58), 0.94 (0.17–5.03, p= 0.94), and 1.12 (0.84–1.48, p= 0.42), and 0.53 (0.17-1.67, p= 0.28) respectively. A non-significant moderate to high heterogeneity (I^2), and publication bias (through egger’s test and funnel plot) was observed. **Conclusion:** This novel SRMA may be useful to promote AYUSH treatment as part of the GOI initiative. Since the safety and effectiveness were non-significant, with high heterogeneity, a cautious approach is suggested.

POSTER ABSTRACT 51:**Study on occupational health hazard among Painters working at construction site in urban area, Ahmedabad.**

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Abstract

Background: Painting in the commercial sector involves working with coating materials either by a brush or manually. During their work, painters may inhale various chemicals, such as pigments, solvents, fillers, binders, and other additives. So, the incidence of hazard due to painting can be reduced if they have knowledge regarding the illness and safety measures. The purpose of this study was to know the same in Ahmedabad City. **Objectives:** To study the socio-demographic profile of the workers involved in painting. To assess the health profile of workers involved in painting. To study the knowledge and practice of personal protective measures usage by the painters. **Methods:** Cross- sectional study was conducted among the 101 painters from the two construction sites in urban areas of Ahmedabad. A semi-structured questionnaire was used to assess the knowledge of the hazards & practice towards the safety measures. **Results:** In this study, out of 101 painters majority (81.1%) were educated. Half (52.4%) of the painters had joint family and majority (89.1%) were migrants. Out of 101, 72.2% were doing 84 hours duty per week. According to Modern modified Prasad classification, all belonged to socioeconomic class 1. Painters with work duration 6-10 years had more health problem. Painters with work duration < 10 years had more problems regarding breathing, skin and eyes. Painters with high school graduate had more knowledge about the safety measure and were using the most safety measures. **Conclusion:** Painters predominantly come from class 1 according to Modified Prasad classification with a majority lacking education. The painters in their initial years at work had more respiratory, skin & eyes problems. There was a significant gap in knowledge and practice of personal protective measures among painters. **Recommendations:** Awareness should be created among painters regarding occupational health. Regular health screenings should be done.

POSTER ABSTRACT 52:**AMENDED MTP ACT OF 1971: A PERCEPTION SURVEY**

Dr. Khushal Dudhagara¹, Dr. Anshita Mishra², Dr. Madan Mohan Majhi³, Dr. Gurmeet Singh⁴, Dr. Amod L. Borle⁵, Dr. Panna Lal⁶, Dr. Ajanya V. Gokul⁷

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Abstract

Background: The Amended MTP Act of 1971 is a critical legislation that governs the provision of safe and legal abortions in India. Understanding the awareness and perception of the general population towards this amendment is crucial for ensuring access to reproductive healthcare services. **Objective:** This study aims to assess the awareness and perception of the public in Delhi regarding the recently implemented MTP Act Amendment 2021. **Methods:** A cross-sectional study was conducted over two months among individuals aged 15 and above in the urban field practice area of Gokulpuri, New Delhi. A sample size of 403 participants was selected using simple random sampling. A structured questionnaire covering socio-demographic details, knowledge about the MTP Act, and perceptions of the recent amendment was used for data collection. Statistical analysis was performed using SPSS 25.0, with the chi-square test used to determine associations between categorical variables. **Results:** The study revealed that 61.0% of participants were aware of the legal provision of abortions in India, with only 33.3% knowing the upper limit of gestational age for termination of pregnancy in the MTP Act. Additionally, 26% of participants were unaware of the recent amendments in the MTP Act 2021. Significant associations were found between awareness of the MTP Act and socio-demographic factors such as gender, educational status, occupation, marital status, and religion. **Conclusion:** The findings highlight the need for increased awareness and education regarding the MTP Act and its recent amendments among the general population in Delhi. Addressing knowledge gaps and misconceptions can help improve access to safe and legal abortion services, ultimately promoting reproductive health rights and reducing maternal mortality rates. **KEYWORDS:** Abortion, Medical Termination Of Pregnancy, India, Amendment

POSTER ABSTRACT 53:**Prevalence and Determinants of Violence Against Healthcare Workers in a Tertiary Care Hospital in Central Gujarat: A Cross-Sectional Study**

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ABSTRACT

Background: In recent times, the violence against healthcare workers (HCWs) has grown like an epidemic, creating an environment where physicians and nurses increasingly fear for their safety. Numerous factors contribute to the occurrence of these kinds of incidents. Understanding the contributing factors can help prevent such incidents at both individual and institutional levels. **Objectives:** To assess the prevalence and contributing factors of violence against HCWs and to gather HCWs' perspectives on potential preventive strategies. **Methods** This cross-sectional study was conducted in January-February 2024 at Sir Sayajirao General (SSG) Hospital, Vadodara, Gujarat, India. Convenience sampling was used to recruit intern doctors, resident doctors, and staff nurses. A 21-question survey, including multiple-choice and open-ended items, was administered. **Results:** Out of 301 HCWs surveyed, almost half of them (n=144, 47.84%) reported experiencing some kind of violence, with intern doctors (n=38, 26.39%) and first-year resident doctors (n=32, 22.22%) being the most affected. Verbal abuse (n=81, 56.25%) and physical assault (n=28, 19.44%) were the most common forms. Most incidents occurred in the emergency department (n=81, 56.25%), followed by general wards (n=55, 38.19%) and outpatient department-OPD (n=53, 36.80%). Key risk factors were patient overload (n=224, 74.42%), lack of security (n=220, 73.09%), and poor communication (n=157, 52.16%). **Conclusions:** Nearly half of the HCWs who participated in this study had experienced violence, with verbal abuse being the most common. Intern doctors and first-year resident doctors are particularly vulnerable due to limited clinical experience. Installation of CCTV and high-security systems, improvement in communication, and improved doctor-patient ratio can prevent the majority of such incidents.

POSTER ABSTRACT 54:**KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE AND PRACTICE OF EXCLUSIVE BREASTFEEDING AMONG MOTHERS OF SMIMER MEDICAL COLLEGE, Surat – cross section study**

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Abstract

BACKGROUND: The prevalence of Exclusive Breast feeding for first six months of life has remained low worldwide. This study was aimed at assessing the knowledge, attitude, and practice of Exclusive Breast Feeding among mothers of SMIMER Medical College to know what can be done to improve Exclusive Breast Feeding. **OBJECTIVE:** to improve breastfeeding rate and duration **METHODS:** In a descriptive cross-sectional study 300 mother-infant pairs from SMIMER Medical college were surveyed. A structured item Questionnaire was used to collect data on the socio-demographic characteristics of the participants their knowledge, attitude, and practice regarding Exclusive Breast Feeding. **RESULTS:** The study indicates that almost 94.4% had ever heard about EBF, 84.4% were aware of EBF and 42.4 knew the duration of EBF was first six months only. In addition, 46.1% of mothers disagreed and 34% strongly disagreed that giving breast milk for a newborn immediately and within an hour is important. However 42% of mothers preferred to feed their babies for first six months breast milk alone. **CONCLUSIONS:** it is important to provide antenatal and early postpartum education and periodical breastfeeding counselling to improve maternal knowledge, attitude and practices towards breastfeeding practices.

KEYWORDS: EBF, Knowledge, Attitude, Practice,

POSTER ABSTRACT 55:**Assessment of Knowledge and Attitude for TB Awareness Among Rural Area of Dhanori Village, Navsari District: Cross-Sectional Study**Dr. Khevna Rana¹, Dr. Rachana Prasad²¹Resident Doctor¹, Department of Community Medicine, SMIMER Medical College, Surat, Gujarat²Professor, Department of Community Medicine, SMIMER Medical College, Surat, Gujarat**Correspondence: Email:** dranakhevna15@gmail.com**Abstract**

Background: Tuberculosis (TB) continues to be a major public health issue in India, despite the availability of effective treatments like DOTS (Directly Observed Treatment Short-course) and vaccines such as BCG. The End TB strategy, part of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, aims for a "world free of TB" with zero deaths, disease, and suffering from TB by 2025. The target includes: Reducing TB deaths by 95% compared to 2015. Reducing TB incidence by 90% compared to 2015. Eliminating catastrophic costs due to TB for affected families by 2025. A key challenge in achieving these goals is the lack of awareness about TB's causes, risk factors, treatment, and prevention, especially in rural populations.

Introduction: In rural areas, awareness of TB remains insufficient, which hampers the fight against the disease. This study assesses the level of knowledge about TB among the rural population of Dhanori Village, Navsari District, in order to improve strategies for public awareness. **Objectives:** To assess the knowledge of TB among the rural population of Dhanori village. **Methodology:** Study Design: Cross-sectional study, Study Period: January to April 2024 Study Population: Younger members of each household in Dhanori village Sample Size: 300 participants Sampling Technique: Convenience sampling Inclusion Criteria: Young persons from each household Data Collection: Data was gathered through a pretested, semi-structured questionnaire administered to the identified subjects. **Results:** Awareness of TB symptoms, causative agents, and modes of transmission was reasonably good among participants. However, knowledge regarding the availability of DOTS centers and the Nikshya Poshan Yojana, part of the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP), was poor among the rural population. **Conclusion:** While awareness of TB symptoms and transmission is relatively high, there is a significant gap in knowledge regarding treatment options, especially DOTS centers and financial support schemes under NTEP. Addressing these knowledge gaps is crucial for the successful elimination of TB in rural areas.

Keywords: Cough, lungs, rural people, tuberculosis