

history of self medication had a significant impact on knowledge of the latter regarding drugs used for common ailments.

DISCUSSION

Our study revealed that adolescent's knowledge regarding general knowledge of commonly used drugs was excellent (80.2%) whereas their knowledge about vaccines was 31.4% similar result were revealed in another study done in Ahmedabad, Gujarat which revealed that 75% children were familiar with the term "medicine" and only 7% responded correctly to queries on vaccines. A lack of awareness about the harmful effects of medicines, about the correct way to take medicines and about other aspects of use of medicine was also observed¹⁴. A study conducted in Govt. school of Chandigarh revealed that showed that mean knowledge score of adolescents regarding anti-diarrhoeal drugs was 27% contrary to this, a study conducted in Bangladesh reported that three-fourths of students 75% had correct knowledge of management of diarrhea¹⁸. Moreover, according to our study, mean knowledge score in Government school students was similar to (12.07) those studying in private school (12.3). A study conducted in Govt. senior secondary school of Australia found that student's knowledge about HCV was extremely poor¹⁹. History of self medication was significantly prevalent ($p < 0.01$) adolescents including indulging in self medication had better knowledge score regarding drugs used for common ailments. A study done in Karachi, Pakistan revealed that prevalence of self-medication was high in the educated youth, despite majority being aware of its harmful effects²⁰. Similar results were observed in a study done on drug practice adopted by adolescent in Sweden; this study revealed that OTC used only occasionally by 37.7% of the girls and 62.6% of the boys; 10.9% girls and 6.5 boys were daily users; analgesics were the most frequently used OTCs²¹.

Our results indicated that girls and boys had the same mean knowledge scores of 12.5 & 12.7, respectively. Contrary to this, a study conducted in Dresden, Germany revealed, female gender and chronic drug consumption as influencing factors of better drug knowledge among adolescents¹⁷. Our study concluded that there is no effect of mother's education and father's occupation on knowledge of adolescents regarding drugs used for common ailments. Contrary to this, another study done on 85 healthy school children reported that majority of children had learnt about their medications from their mothers. In another study children also reported that physicians or pharmacists played a limited role in educating them¹⁰.

Association between preventive effect of parental supervision and use of drugs by adolescents in India, needs to be explored further²². Poor parental monitoring has been found to be associated with higher rates of adolescent substance use, particularly in terms of initiation at earlier ages.

REFERENCE

1. WHO. Technical Report Series. No. 405. 1968
2. Child and Adolescent health and development. Available at http://www.who.int/child_adolescent_health/topics/prevention_care/adolescent/en/index.html as assessed on 26/02/09.
3. Fresle D, Wolfheim C. Public Education in Rational Drug Use - a global survey. Geneva. Action Program on Essential Drug. Geneva, World Health Organisation, 1997(WHO/DAP/97.5)
4. Jones JT, Furner M. WHO's Global School Health Initiative. WHO/HPR/HEP/98.4.1-6.
5. Loyola Filho AI, Lima-Costa MF, Uchoa E. Bambui Project : a qualitative approach to self-medication. Cad Saude Publica, 2004 20(6), 1661-1669.
6. Bretagne JF, Richard Molyvoivd BMS, Honnorat C, et al. Gastroesophageal reflux in the French general population : National survey of 8000 adults. Presse Med, 2006, 35:23-31
7. Shankar PR, Partha P, Shenoy N. Self-medication and non-doctor prescription practices in Pokhara valley, Western Nepal: a questionnaire-based study. BMC Family Practice, 2002; 3:17.
8. Abahussain E, Matowe LK, Nicholls PJ. Self-reported medication use among adolescents in Kuwait. 2005 Med Princ Pract, 2005; 14: 161-4.
9. Deshpande SG, Tiwari R. Self medication — a growing concern. Indian Journal of Medical Sciences, 1997;51:93-96.
10. Menacker F, Aramburuzabala P, Minian N, Bush PJ, Bibace R. Children and medicines: What they want to know and how they want to learn. Journal of Social and Administrative Pharmacy, 1999; 16(1):38-52.
11. Chambers CT, Reid GJ, Mc Grath PJ, Finley GA. Self administration of OTC medicines for pain among adolescents. Arch Pediatrics Adolescent Medicine, 1997;151(5):449-55.
12. Uganda Grace Akello, Ria Reis, Emilio Pwuga, et al. Primary school children's perspectives on common diseases and medicines used: implications for school healthcare programmes and priority setting in Uganda, African Health Sciences, June 2007;7:No. 2.
13. Ingaki, K. and Hatano, G., Young. Children's native thinking about the Biological World. 2002, Psychology Press, New York
14. Chetna Desai, Girdhar A.O, Shah U.H. Knowledge and Awareness about Medicines among Primary Schoolchildren in Ahmedabad, Regional Health Forum, 2005; 2, Volume 9.
15. Johnston, L.D., O'Malley, P.M., and Nachman, J.G. (1996). National Survey Result on Drug Use from the monitoring the Future Study, 1975-1995. Volume 1, Secondary School Students. NIH Publication No. 96-4139.
16. Maculay Araxi P, Griffin Kenneth W, Gronewold Elizabeth, et al. Exploring the relationships between parenting practices and adolescent drug use, 2005, Education, Volume 49(2):67.
17. Soelben S, Krappweis J, Rosler G, Kirch W. Adolescents' drug knowledge. European journal of pediatrics, 2000; 159, (8); 608-614
18. Nath SR, Mohsin M, Chowdhury AM. Health knowledge of children in Bangladesh: An exploratory study. Public Health, 1997; 111:311-315
19. Lindsay J, Smith AM, Rosenthal DA. An evaluation of school-level factors used in a successful school-based hepatitis BMS immunization initiative, Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health, 1999, Apr; 23(2):135-139.
20. Syed Nabeel Zafar Reema Syad, Sana Waqar, Akbar Jaleel Zubairi, et al. Self-medication amongst University Students of Karachi: Prevalence, knowledge and Attitudes, Journal of Pakistan Medical Association, 2008, 58(4):214-217
21. Michael Westerlund, Jan-Olof Branstrandand, Tommy Westerlund. Medicine Taking behaviour and drug related problems in Adolescents of a Swedish High School, Journal Pharmacy World and science, 2008;30(3): 243-250
22. Ramakrishna GS, Sankara Sarma P, Thankappan KR. Tobacco use among medical students in Orissa, National Medical Journal of India, 2005; 18:285-289.

BOOK REVIEW

Manual of Clinical & Practical Medicine Authors: G.S. Sainani, V.R. Joshi and Rajesh G Sainani; Elsevier-2010

With the easy availability of various sophisticated investigations, the art of clinical medicine, i.e. Careful history taking, meticulous clinical examination, making of provisional diagnosis, etc. has taken a back seat diagnosis. As a result there is a high failure rate in the final examination of postgraduate students especially DNB (Medicine).

The "Manual of Clinical Practical Medicine" by Dr. G.S. Sainani an colleagues is very useful for learning the art of eliciting physical signs, their interpretation and considering the likely diagnostic possibilities. For quick understanding, diagrams, clinical photographs, boxes and bullets has been provided liberally. There is a chapter to help to the examinees in answering across the table viva-voice and emergency management etc.

In view of the above, I strongly recommend this invaluable and practical manual for all the MBBS students, postgraduate preparing for MD and DNB (Medicine) examination as well as for the practicing physicians.

Prof. P.S. Gupta

Senior Consultant, Dept. of Medicine, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, New Delhi
Former Professor & Head, Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi, India