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**Original Research Article**

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**A STUDY TO ASSESS THE EFFECTIVENESS OF AWARENESS PROGRAMME ON  
KNOWLEDGE REGARDING PLASTIC USE AND ITS HAZARDS AMONG COMMUNITY  
PEOPLE AT SELECTED AREA OF INDORE, M.P.**

**Ms. Priyanka Sharma**

(Ph.D. Scholar, Malwanchal University, Indore)

**INTRODUCTION:**

Plastic is a polymeric material—that is, a material whose molecules are very large, often resembling long chains made up of a seemingly endless series of interconnected links. Natural polymers such as rubber and silk exist in abundance, but nature’s “plastics” have not been implicated in environmental pollution, because they do not persist in the environment. Today, however, the average consumer comes into daily contact with all kinds of plastic materials that have been developed specifically to defeat natural decay processes—materials derived mainly from petroleum that can be molded, cast, spun, or applied as a coating. Since synthetic plastics are largely non-biodegradable, they tend to persist in natural environments. Moreover, many lightweight single-use plastic products and packaging materials, which account for approximately 50 percent of all plastics produced, are not deposited in containers for subsequent removal to landfills, recycling centres, or incinerators. They include resources and news from organizations in Geneva and beyond, including UN-system organizations and other IOs, governmental authorities, civil society organizations, academic institutions and journals, and renowned newspapers.

Plastic pollution, accumulation in the environment of synthetic plastic products to the point that they create problems for wildlife and their habitats as well as for human populations. Plastic pollution threatens not only the environment, but also our health and that of future generations. This page is part of our Plastics and the Environment

series, a set of online resources on the plastics crisis, its impact on people and the environment, and international cooperation to address this global problem.

When plastic waste is dumped into landfills or irresponsibly discarded, significant amounts are leaked into natural environments and at least eight million tonnes of plastic end up in ocean waters every single year. It is estimated that roughly 40% of the ocean's surface is covered in plastic debris and if our plastic consumption and behaviour continues, scientists warn that there will be more plastic than fish in the ocean as soon as 2030.

### **Objectives:**

1. To assess the pre test knowledge regarding plastic use and its hazards among community people at selected area of Indore, Madhya Pradesh.
2. To assess the effectiveness of awareness programme regarding plastic use and its hazards among community people at selected area of Indore, Madhya Pradesh.
3. To assess the post test knowledge level regarding plastic use and its hazards among community people at selected area of Indore, Madhya Pradesh.
4. To compare the pretest and post test knowledge regarding plastic use and its hazards among community people at selected area of Indore, Madhya Pradesh.
5. To associate the findings with the selected demographic variables.

### **Research Hypothesis:**

H<sub>1</sub>: There will be a significant difference between the mean pre-test and post-test score of community People regarding plastic use and its hazards at 0.05 level of significant.

H<sub>2</sub>: There will be a significant association between the post-test level of knowledge and selected demographic variables of community People regarding plastic use and its hazards at 0.05 level of significant.

### **Assumptions:**

- People will have some knowledge regarding management of plasticwaste.
- Knowledge encourages to fostering desirable habits.

- Video Assisted Teaching Program is an acceptable teaching strategy.
- People are the best mediators to transfer the knowledge to others.

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS:**

The research approach adopted for this study is a quantitative approach. The research design selected for the present study was pre-experimental one group pretest post test design. Variables in the study are Independent variable: Awareness programme on the plastic use and its hazards among community people. Dependent variable: Knowledge of community people at Indore, M.P. This study was conducted in selected community area of Indore, M.P. In this present study the sample size was 300 community people in Indore, M.P. Non probability convenience sampling technique was used for this study.

### **Description of the tool:**

The tool consisted of two sections

**Section A** – Demographic data which include age, education, religion, Monthly family income and ways of waste disposal

**Section B** – Structured Knowledge Questionnaire

The tool consists of 22 questions related to hazards effect of plastics. Demographic variables were coded to assess the background of people and there by subject it for statistical analysis.

It consists of 22 structured Knowledge questionnaires to assess the knowledge regarding plastic use and its hazards. Each correct answer was given a score of one (1) and wrong answer was scored as zero (0). The total scores were 22.

### **Validity of the tool**

The tool was developed by the investigator based on the review of literature. The tool was evaluated by experts from the field of Nursing and medicine and it was modified according to their suggestion.

## **RESULTS:**

The data collected were grouped and analysed using descriptive and inferential statistics.

The study group of 40% of People were in the age group of >32 yrs, 32% of People were in the age group of 28-32 yrs, 23% of People were in the age group of 23-27 yrs, and 5% were in 18 – 22 yrs of age. Educational status of the study group reveals that 45% of People had education upto 7 – 12th std , 22% had education upto diploma , 20% of People had education upto 1 – 6th std , 13% had education upto degree. The monthly income of study group reveal that 43% of People were in Rs 4272-7877 income, 35% were at Rs 7878-11,816 income, 12% were in > Rs 11,817, and 10% of People were at Rs 1590-4726. Regarding religion most of the study group (ie). 82% of them were Hindus , 10% were Christian, 5% of them were Muslims and 3% of them were other type of religion. The data regarding method of waste disposal of study group illustrate that 47% were in disposing in open land, 37% were disposed in the dustbin, 11% were using another method, 5% were burning the waste.

### **CONCLUSION:**

The study was conducted to assess the effectiveness of video assisted teaching on level of knowledge of People regarding hazards effect of plastic in selected area at M.P. The finding of the study showed that the video assisted teaching was very effective in improving the level of knowledge. This study will help the health care professionals to develop appropriate teaching materials. Video assisted teaching is a proven method to improve the knowledge of the People which will help to facilitate the healthy growth and development and healthy practices in day to day activities.

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