

## Research Article

## Open Access

## Attitude of Health Care Personnel Towards Persons with Disability in A Tertiary Level Health Care in Bangalore - A Cross Sectional Study

Namrata Nathwani<sup>1</sup> and Deepthi Shanbhag<sup>2\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>MBBS Final Year student at St Johns Medical College, Bangalore, Karnataka, India

<sup>2</sup>Associate Professor at St. Johns National Academy of Health and Sciences, MBBS, MD, Address Department of Community Medicine, first floor, St. Johns Medical College, Bangalore, Karnataka, India

### ABSTRACT

**Background and Objectives:** Disability is an umbrella term, covering defilement, activity constraint, and participation confinement. Common barriers faced by people with disability includes: Attitudinal, Communication, Physical, Policy, Social, Programmatic, Transportation. The study was conducted in a tertiary care hospital, the objective that is assessing the attitude of staff members towards persons with disability as patients, colleagues, students, and staff members.

**Methods:** It was a cross sectional study done in a tertiary level health care facility among health care personnel. The study tools used were SADP and ATDP which are validated tools for measuring the attitude.

**Results:** The study included 68 health care personnel with mean age of 40.9yrs (+9.9) yrs with mean years of experience of 12.5(+ 8.5) yrs. The mean ATDP scores was found to be calculated to be 42.33 (+ 13.9) and mean SADP scores was 71.5(+ 10.81) There was no significant association between age, gender, years of experience and the SADP scores and ATDP scores.

**Interpretation and Conclusions:** The results of this study shows that the attitude of the health care professionals working in the tertiary care hospital seemed to be more positive and there was no significant association with age and years of experience.

### \*Corresponding author

Deepthi Shanbhag, Associate Professor at St. Johns National Academy of Health and Sciences, MBBS, MD, Address - Department of Community Medicine, first floor, St. Johns Medical College, Bangalore, Karnataka, India. Tel: 9341226753;

**Received:** March 15, 2024; **Accepted:** March 20, 2024; **Published:** March 28, 2024

**Keywords:** Disability, Attitude, Tertiary Care Hospital, SADP, ATDP Scale

### Introduction

Disability is an umbrella term, covering defilement, activity constraint, and participation confinement [1]. The World Report on Disability released in 2011 identifies 15% of the globe's population as people with disability, with one out of five people sharing in common the living in a developing country and poverty suffering from disability [2]. The persons with disability constitute 2.21% of the total population of India [3]. The common barriers faced by people with disability includes: Attitudinal, Communication, Physical, Policy, Social, Programmatic, Transportation [4]. 70 million disabled people in India cannot go out of their homes due to poor accessibility of their environment, therefore reducing them to an "Invisible minority." They are completely dependent on their families and friends for day-to-day work and livelihood and are considered a burden on society [5]. Article 32 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) recognizes the responsibility of countries

that have ratified the convention to include people with a disability in their international development efforts [2]. Health-care professionals are generally among the first individuals with whom a person with disability comes in contact with. The attitudes of healthcare professionals towards people with physical disabilities have significant implications for determining the treatment, rehabilitation consequences and reinstatement into society [6]. The objective of the study was to assess the attitude of the health care personnel towards persons with disability including patients, staff and students.

### Materials and Methods

It was a cross sectional study and conducted at a tertiary level medical college hospital located in Bangalore city. The hospital is a 1380 bedded super-specialty hospital. The study was conducted between Jan- Dec 2019. The sample size was calculated to be 50 using the formula  $n = z(1-\alpha/2)^2 \sigma^2/d^2$  by using mean SADP scores from a previous study after considering a 20% non-response rate. The study group was selected using simple random sampling from the existing list of permanent employees including doctors and

nurses [7]. Only staff with an experience of more than 2yrs were included in the study. The Study group was interviewed using 2 study tools.

1. ATDP (Attitude Towards Disabled People) - self-administered questionnaire consisting of 20 statements and with the response as Likert scoring ranging from +3 to -3 [8]. The reliability of this scale was 0.71–0.83.

2. SADP (Scale of Attitude Towards Disabled) by Antonak [9, 10]. This scale has 24 items and the study group was asked to mark their view on the sentences provided in the form of one out of 6 options available to them. SADP is a multidimensional scale composed of 3 subscales (Optimism–Human Rights; Behavioural Misconceptions; Pessimism–Hopelessness) measuring attitudes toward people with disabilities as a group, reliability of this scale is Cronbach  $\alpha$  0.74-0.91 Institutional Ethical Committee approval was obtained for the study [11]. Data was collected by distributing the questionnaire to the subjects by contacting them and after explaining to them the basis and the objectives of performing the study. Informed written consent was taken and the guarantee to keep their identity anonymous was ensured. A stipulated number of days was given to the study group fill the questionnaires following which the proformas was collected by

the investigator. Any incomplete questionnaire with more than 4 incomplete questions was not taken into consideration while doing the analysis. The data was entered in MS Excel and analyzed using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences version 6.1 (SPSS, 1994). The initial reliabilities of the ATDP and SADP were computed as an initial step in the analysis. The alpha coefficient was determined for each instrument.

### Results

A total of 68 health care personnel were interviewed. Among the study group 41 (69.3%) were females and 27 (39.7%) were males. (Table 1) The mean age was found to be 40.9yrs (+9.9) yrs with mean years of experience of 12.5(+ 8.5) yrs. (Table 2) The mean ATDP scores was calculated to be 42.33 (+ 13.9) and mean SADP scores was 71.5(+ 10.81) There was no significant association between age, gender, years of experience and the SADP scores and ATDP scores. (Table 3)

The results of this study shows that the attitude of the health care professionals working in the tertiary care hospital seemed to be more positive and there was no significant association with age and no. of years of experience.

**Table 1: Socio-Demographic Profile and Work Experience of The Study Group**

S No	Variables	Group	N	Mean	SD	Median	IQR	T values	P
1.	Gender	Females	41	42.5	15.4	44.2	22.5	0.2	0.845 Not significant
		Males	27	41.8	12.2	40.0	15.83		
2.	Years of experience	0-5 yrs	12	41.2	16.2	38.7	22.5	0.03	0.992 Not significant
		5-10 yrs	17	42.1	15.0	39.2	21.67		
		10-15 yrs	12	42.0	15.7	40.4	18.96		
		15-35 yrs	17	42.9	14.3	46.7	20		

**Table 2: SADP and ATDP Scores Descriptive Statistics**

S No	Variables	N	Mean	SD	Median	IQR	Min	Max
	Age	64	40.97	9.97	41.00	17.00	26.00	60.00
	Years of experience	58	12.45	8.56	10.50	9.75	0.42	33
	ATDP Score	70	42.33	13.98	43.33	19.38	11.67	68.33
	SADP Score	70	71.53	10.81	71.88	15.62	43.06	90.28

**Table 3: Association of SADP Scores with Age and Years of Experience**

S No	Variables	Group	N	Mean	SD	Median	IQR	T values	P
1.	Gender	Females	41	69.9	11.52	70.83	18.06	-1.57	0.22 Not significant
		Males	27	73.97	9.71	73.61	11.11		
2.	Years of experience	0-5 yrs	12	74.48	11.77	78.82	9.72	0.35	0.789 Not significant
		5-10 yrs	17	71.49	11.24	70.83	13.19		
		10-15 yrs	12	73.03	13.58	73,61	18.92		
		15-35 yrs	17	70.42	8.72	71,53	9.03		

### Discussion

Roush et al. reported that negative attitudes towards disabled people are not rare in society, but are not directly expressed [10]. There is an agreement that those who have had previous exposure to people with disability, and with proper professional experience, tend to have more positive attitudes towards disabled people [11]. According to BK Panda et al. a better way to assess the attitude would be to look at adjective wise variation to characterize attitude formation but before that recognition of the capabilities of the different types of people with disability and their roles have to be created [11].

### Conclusion

The results of this study demonstrate that the attitude of the health care professionals working in the tertiary care hospital and college located in Bangalore seemed to be positive towards people with disability and this was not significantly associated with age and number of years of experience.

### Acknowledgement

The first author acknowledges the Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi, for providing Short Term Studentship (ICMR-STs No. ??).

### Conflict of Interest

There is no conflict of interests in this study.

### References

1. WHO (2017) Disabilities. <https://www.emro.who.int/health-topics/disabilities/index.html>.
2. (2011) WHO Report on Disability <https://www.who.int/teams/noncommunicable-diseases/sensory-functions-disability-and-rehabilitation/world-report-on-disability>.
3. (2011) Census of India 2011 Data on Disability. <chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/meetings/2016/bangkok--disability-measurement-and-statistics/Session-6/India.pdf>.
4. (2019) Disability and Health Disability Barriers. <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandhealth/disability-barriers.html>.
5. (2019) Accessibility for Disabled People in India. GlobalGiving <https://www.globalgiving.org/projects/accessibility-for-disabled-people-in-india/>.
6. Chubon RA (1982) An analysis of research dealing with the attitudes of professionals toward disability. J Rehabil 41: 25-30.
7. Yuker H, Block J, Younng J (1966) The Measurement of Attitudes Toward Disabled Persons. Albertson, iNew York: Human Resources Center <chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED044853.pdf>.
8. (2019) Population of India 2018 \_ State wise \_ Religion Wise Population of India 2018 - Govt Jobs Tyari. [https://govtjobstyari.com/population-of-india-2018/population-of-india-2018-\\_-state-wise-\\_-religion-wise-population-of-india-2018/](https://govtjobstyari.com/population-of-india-2018/population-of-india-2018-_-state-wise-_-religion-wise-population-of-india-2018/).
9. Iwarsson S, Ståhl A (2003) Accessibility, usability and universal design-positioning and definition of concepts describing person-environment relationships. Disability and Rehabilitation 25: 57-66.
10. (2019) Making Bangalore disabled-friendly <https://www.dnaindia.com/bangalore/report-making-bangalore-disabled-friendly-1772822>.
11. Antonak R F (1982) Development and psychometric analysis of the Scale of Attitudes toward Disabled Persons. The Journal of Applied Rehabilitation Counseling 13: 22-29.

**Copyright:** ©2024 Deepthi Shanbhag. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.