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Ayushman Bharat: Awareness Regarding Oral Health Coverage among Undergraduate Dental Students.

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Abstract: Ayushman Bharat Yojana is one of the world's largest publicly funded health insurance schemes, aimed at providing financial protection for secondary and tertiary healthcare services to economically vulnerable populations in India. However, awareness regarding its oral health coverage among dental students remains uncertain.

AIM: To assess the level of awareness and knowledge regarding oral health coverage under Ayushman Bharat among undergraduate dental students.

OBJECTIVES: To assess the level of awareness regarding oral health coverage under Ayushman Bharat among undergraduate dental students.To evaluate knowledge regarding specific dental procedures covered under the scheme. To assess the source of information about Ayushman Bharat among students. To determine the association between year of study and awareness level.

METHODS: A cross-sectional questionnaire-based survey was conducted among undergraduate dental students. A structured, pre-validated questionnaire consisting of multiple-choice questions was distributed. Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics.

Keywords: Ayushman Bharat, Oral health coverage, Dental students, Awareness, PM-JAY

1. Introduction

Oral health is an integral component of general health and well-being. Despite advancements in dental care, accessibility and affordability remain major challenges in developing countries like India.

Ayushman Bharat Yojana was launched in 2018 by the Government of India to provide health insurance coverage of up to ₹5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary hospitalization under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY). The scheme aims to reduce

catastrophic health expenditure and improve access to quality healthcare services.

Although medical services are widely discussed under the scheme, awareness regarding dental and oral health services included under the program is less explored, particularly among future dental professionals. Undergraduate dental students, being future healthcare providers, must possess adequate knowledge about public health schemes to guide patients effectively.

Hence, this study aims to assess awareness regarding oral health coverage under Ayushman Bharat among undergraduate dental students.

2. Methodology

2.1. Study Design

A descriptive cross-sectional questionnaire-based study was conducted to assess the awareness regarding oral health coverage under Ayushman Bharat Yojana among undergraduate dental students. The study was carried out in a dental teaching institution over a period of ___ months (mention duration). The study design was chosen to evaluate knowledge and awareness at a single point in time.

2.2. Data Collection Methods Study Population

Undergraduate dental students (1st year, 2nd year, 3rd year, final year, and interns). Sample Size: A total of ___ students participated in the study (mention your actual number).

2.3. Data Analysis

The collected data were entered into Microsoft Excel and analyzed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version (mention version if used).

Descriptive statistics such as frequency, percentage, mean, and standard deviation were calculated. Inferential statistics such as Chi-square test were applied to assess the association between awareness level and year of study. A p-value < 0.05 was considered statistically significant.

2.4. Ethical Considerations

Ethical clearance was obtained from the Institutional Ethics Committee prior to commencement of the study.

Participation was voluntary.

Informed consent was obtained from all participants.

Confidentiality and anonymity of participants were strictly maintained.

No personal identifying information was collected.

Participants were free to withdraw from the study at any time without any consequences.

3. Result

A total of 204 students took part in this with females (72.1%) and male of (27.9%). Age of the participants ranging from 18-38 years. In this study Females were more likely to demonstrate perception in dissection room experiences than male. Significantly INTERNS showed greater familiarity

With advanced applications than third year and final year students and interns.

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
AGE	204	18	38	22.33	2.212
Valid N (listwise)	204				

GENDER

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	MALE	57	27.9
	FEMALE	147	72.1
	Total	204	100.0

YEAR OF STUDY

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	I BDS	45	22.0
	II BDS	25	12.2
	III BDS	60	29.4
	IV BDS	68	33.3
	INTERN	6	2.9
	Total	204	100.0

Distribution and comparison of responses based on gender:

Item	Response	Males		Females		Chi-Square value	P value
		n	%	n	%		
Q1	1	8	34.8	15	65.2	5.859	0.119
	2	9	50	9	50		
	3	4	26.7	11	73.3		
	4	36	24.3	112	75.7		
Q2	1	9	32.1	19	67.9	1.647	0.800
	2	4	30.8	9	69.2		
Q3	1	29	27.9	75	72.1	0.81	0.994
	2	7	25.9	20	74.1		
Q4	1	13	37.1	22	62.9	2.048	0.562
	2	11	26.2	31	73.8		
	3	10	29.4	24	70.6		
	4	23	24.7	70	75.3		
Q5	1	15	19.7	61	80.3	10.500	**0.015***
	2	9	60	6	40		
	3	28	30.1	65	69.9		
	4	5	25	15	75		
Q6	1	8	38.1	13	61.9	7.219	0.065
	2	10	50	10	50		
Q7	1	7	38.9	11	61.1	11.799	0.08
	2	12	52.2	11	47.8		
	3	6	40	9	60		
	4	32	21.6	116	78.4		
Q8	1	8	42.1	11	57.9	7.598	**0.054***
	2	9	45	11	55		
	3	7	36.8	12	63.2		
Q9	1	9	40.9	13	59.1	7.974	**0.047***
	2	8	47.1	9	52.9		
Q10	1	10	43.5	13	56.5	11.349	**0.010***
	2	11	52.4	10	47.6		
	3	3	21.4	11	78.6		
Q11	1	10	38.5	16	61.5	1.832	0.608
	2	5	25	15	75		
Q12	1	11	40.7	16	59.3	3.930	0.269
	2	6	35.5	11	64.7		
	3	7	31.8	15	68.2		
	4	33	23.9	105	76.1		
Q13	1	7	30.4	16	69.6	1.289	0.732
	2	8	29.6	19	70.4		
	3	17	32.7	35	67.3		
	4	25	24.5	77	75.5		
Q14	1	10	24.4	31	75.6	3.044	0.385

	2	11	40.7	16	59.3		
	3	9	22.5	31	77.5		

P≤0.05 is statistically significant

Distribution and comparison of responses based on year of the study:

Item	Response	I BDS		II BDS		III BDS		IV BDS		INTERN		Chi-Value	P-Value
		n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Q1	1	5	11.1	3	12	10	16.6	11	16.1	1	16.6	13.642	0.04*
	2	20	44.4	12	48	25	41.6	26	38.2	2	33.3		
	3	5	11.1	2	8	5	8.3	7	10.2	1	16.6		
	4	15	33.3	8	32	20		28	41.1	2	33.3		
Q2	1	0	0	4	14.3	2	7.1	5	17.9	17	60.7	28.430	**0.028***
	2	0	0	2	15.4	0	0	6	46.2	5	38.5		
Q3	1	3	2.9	16	15.4	16	15.4	14	13.5	55	52.9	22.944	**0.028***
	2	0	0	8	29.6	4	14.8	9	33.3	6	22.2		
Q4	1	0	0	12	34.3	3	8.6	4	11.4	16	45.7	17.474	0.133
	2	0	0	12	28.6	3	7.1	9	21.4	18	42.9		
	3	1	2.9	5	14.7	2	5.9	6	17.6	20	58.8		
	4	2	2.2	12	12.9	17	18.3	19	20.4	43	46.2		
Q5	1	1	1.3	24	31.6	6	7.9	10	13.2	35	46.1	17.352	0137
	2	0	0	4	26.7	1	6.7	3	20	7	46.7		
	3	2	2.2	12	2.9	16	17.2	19	20.4	44	47.3		
	4	0	0	1	5	2	10	6	30	11	55		
Q6	1	0	0	4	19	0	0	3	14.3	14	66.7	14.589	0.265
	2	0	0	5	25	0	0	7	35	8	40		
Q7	1	0	0	5	27.8	1	5.6	2	11.1	10	55.6	9.234	0.683
	2	0	0	5	21.7	1	4.3	7	30.4	10	43.5		
	3	0	0	2	13.3	1	6.7	2	13.3	10	66.7		
	4	3	2	29	19.6	22	14.9	27	18.2	67	45.3		
Q8	1	0	0	7	36.8	0	0	3	15.8	9	47.4	11.801	0.462
	2	0	0	4	20	1	5	6	30	9	45		
	3	0	0	3	15.8	1	5.3	4	21.1	11	57.9		
Q9	1	0	0	4	18.2	0	0	5	22.7	13	59.1	9.958	0.620
	2	0	0	4	23.5	1	5.9	5	29.4	7	41.2		
Q10	1	0	0	2	8.7	0	0	5	21.7	16	69.6	14.840	0250
	2	0	0	6	28.6	1	4.8	3	14.3	11	52.4		
	3	0	0	3	21.4	1	7.1	5	35.7	5	35.7		
Q11	1	0	0	5	19.2	0	0	5	19.2	16	61.5	19.134	0.085
	2	0	0	9	45	2	10	4	20	5	25		
Q12	1	0	0	2	7.4	0	0	7	25.9	18	66.7	21.968	**0.038***
	2	0	0	8	47.1	0	0	3	17.6	6	35.3		
	3	0	0	3	13.6	3	13.6	3	13.6	13	59.1		
	4	3	2.2	28	20.3	22	15.9	25	18.1	60	43.5		
Q13	1	0	0	3	13	0	0	2	8.7	18	78.3	37.961	**0.001***
	2	1	3.7	9	33.3	1	3.7	9	33.3	7	25.9		
	3	0	0	8	15.4	2	3.8	8	15.4	34	65.4		
	4	2	2	21	20.6	22	21.6	19	18.6	38	37.3		
Q14	1	6	13.3	10	24.4	3	7.3	4	9.8	23	56.1	15.604	0.210
	2	35	77.7	5	18.5	0	0	6	22.2	16	59.3		
	3	4	8.8	6	15	4	10	9	22.5	21	52.5		

P≤0.05 is statistically significant

4. Discussion

The present study assessed awareness of Ayushman Bharat among undergraduate dental students. Although general awareness was moderate, detailed knowledge regarding oral health coverage was insufficient. Findings are comparable to similar awareness studies conducted among medical and dental students in India. Limited knowledge of dental coverage may reflect minimal emphasis on health policy education in the undergraduate curriculum. Interns demonstrated higher awareness, possibly due to greater clinical exposure and patient interaction. Since Ayushman Bharat primarily focuses on hospitalization, preventive and routine dental procedures receive limited coverage. This may contribute to confusion among students. Improved curricular integration of national health programs, continuing dental education (CDE), and public health postings may enhance awareness.

5. Conclusion

While undergraduate dental students demonstrated moderate general awareness of Ayushman Bharat, specific knowledge regarding oral health coverage was inadequate. Educational reinforcement is necessary to prepare future dentists for effective patient guidance under national health schemes.

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