Knowledge, Attitude, and Perception among Medical Students and Healthcare Professionals Regarding Male Infertility: A Cross-sectional Survey from Bangladesh

Background: Infertility is a condition of the reproductive system that affects both men and women at almost the same rate, and it is a common phenomenon. According to WHO, infertility is a disorder of the male or female reproductive system characterized by the inability to conceive after 12 months or more of unprotected sexual activity. Around the world, more than 70 million couples of the global population suffer from infertility, and the majority of them are residents of developing countries. This study aimed to explore the knowledge, attitude, and behavior regarding male infertility among medical students and health care workers in Bangladesh.

Who are the participants: Medical students and healthcare professionals of Bangladesh.

Interviewer(s): Trained Research Assistant/Associate related to this study.

Method of Study: Based on the subject's consent, they will fill up this questionnaire, and then statistical analysis of collected data will be performed.

Duration: 2 months.

The benefit of the research: By finding out the knowledge, attitude, and behavior regarding male infertility among medical students and health care workers necessary training and curriculum changes can be brought about.

Risk: There is no additional risk due to this study.

Confidentiality: All the information will be kept confidential. It will only be used for research work, and your name will never be disclosed.

Alternate: Participation in this study is dependent on your personal choice. You can withdraw from the study anytime you want. Your treatment will not be affected by your decision.

By proceeding next, you are giving consent that the information letter of this research has been provided to you, and you have read it. You have been informed about the methods. You can keep a copy of this information form. You may not be benefited directly from this study. Your name will not be exposed anywhere in the research. You give permission to use the result of the study with researchers. You can use the result with your family and friends if you want. No incentive will be provided to you for participating in this study.

* Required
Sociodemographic information

1. Age *

2. Gender *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Female
☐ Male
☐ Other: ____________________________

3. Religion *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Islam
☐ Hindu
☐ Buddhist
☐ Christian
☐ Other
4. Professional Status *

Mark only one oval.

☐ MBBS student
☐ BDS student
☐ MBBS Doctor
☐ BDS Doctor
☐ Nurse
☐ Other: ____________________________

5. Academic year if medical student *

Mark only one oval.

☐ 1st
☐ 2nd
☐ 3rd
☐ 4th
☐ 5th

6. Type of institution you are in/you studied *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Government
☐ Private
☐ Other (Army/etc)
7. Marital Status *

*Mark only one oval.*
- Married
- Single
- Divorced/Widowed/Separated

8. So do you have children? *

*Mark only one oval.*
- Not applicable
- Yes, biological
- Yes, adopted
- Trying for baby
- Suffering from infertility (Diagnosed by a physician)
- Not planning for baby now

9. Family monthly income *

____________

10. History of sexual exposure *

*Mark only one oval.*
- Yes
- No
11. **Family history of infertility** *

*Mark only one oval.*

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No

12. **Personal history** *

*Check all that apply.*

- [ ] No history of disease/comorbidity
- [ ] Diabetes
- [ ] Hypertension
- [ ] Mumps
- [ ] Sexually transmitted disease
- [ ] Obesity
- [ ] Genitourinary infection
- [ ] Psychosexual disorder
- [ ] Cystic fibrosis
- [ ] Tuberculosis
- [ ] Autoimmune disease
- [ ] Other: ____________________________________________

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**Male Infertility related knowledge, attitude and perception**

13. **K1. A couple can be defined as infertile after one year of unprotected sex.**

*Mark only one oval.*

- [ ] True
- [ ] False
- [ ] Don't know

   Mark only one oval.
   
   [ ] True
   [ ] False
   [ ] Don't know

15. K3. Male infertility is 100% curable.

   Mark only one oval.
   
   [ ] True
   [ ] False
   [ ] Don't know
16. **K4. Which of the following diseases are associated with male infertility?** *

*Mark only one oval per row.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>True</th>
<th>False</th>
<th>Don't know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sexually transmitted disease</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychosexual disorder</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mumps</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genitourinary infection</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obesity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Autoimmune condition</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cystic fibrosis</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Diabetes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuberculosis</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
17. **K5.** Which of the following drugs/treatments are associated with male infertility?

*Mark only one oval per row.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>True</th>
<th>False</th>
<th>Don't know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Steroid</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macrolides</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Calcium channel blocker</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spironolactone</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sulfasalazine</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Antidepressant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anticonvulsant</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Genitourinary surgery</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Chemotherapy</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Illicit drugs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Spinal injury</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

18. **K6.** Semen analysis and serum testosterone level are the primary investigation for Male Infertility.

*Mark only one oval.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>True</th>
<th>False</th>
<th>Don't know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>True</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>False</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
19. K7. Which of the following are associated with male infertility? *

Mark only one oval per row.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>True</th>
<th>False</th>
<th>Don't know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tobacco</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tight underwear</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keeping mobile/laptop near genitalia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masturbation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Penis length</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

20. K8. Which of the following are the healthy for infertile patient? *

Mark only one oval per row.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>True</th>
<th>False</th>
<th>Don't know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lifestyle modification</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zinc, Selenium, Folate and antioxidant rich food</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excessive exercise</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caffeine</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

21. A1. Infertility is only a problem of females. *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Agree
☐ Disagree
22. **A2. Mass media should promote educational programs on male infertility.** *

*Mark only one oval.*

☐ Agree

☐ Disagree

23. **A3. Campaigns on Reproductive Health should be organized in the educational institutions.** *

*Mark only one oval.*

☐ Agree

☐ Disagree

24. **A4. Men feel ashamed to be considered themselves as infertile.** *

*Mark only one oval.*

☐ Agree

☐ Disagree

25. **A5. Treatment for male infertility is always costly.** *

*Mark only one oval.*

☐ Agree

☐ Disagree
26. P1. General people have poor knowledge about male infertility. *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

27. P2. Uses of alternative medicine (herbal, spiritual healing, homeopathy etc.) are popular in male infertility treatment.

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

28. P3. Men feel depressed to be considered themselves as infertile. *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

29. P4. Many men diagnosed with male infertility, face a difficult emotional journey—do you agree or not?

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No
30. **P5. Did you participate in any training on male infertility?** *

*Mark only one oval.*

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No

31. **P6. Do you support prescribing alternative medicines (herbal, spiritual healing etc.) are helpful in the treatment of male infertility?**

*Mark only one oval.*

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No

32. **P7. Suppose you're treating a couple for infertility, who should be investigated first?**

*Mark only one oval.*

- [ ] Male partner
- [ ] Female partner
- [ ] Both

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