

Public knowledge about dementia among a sample of Egyptian population

Aya A. Ashour^{1,10}, Noha A. Sabry^{2,10}, Ayat D. Ashour^{3,10}, Hend N. Kassem^{4,10}, Mariam M. Alwerdani^{5,10}, Marwa Nofal^{6,10}, Nareman Aly Mohamed^{7,10}, Shima A. Abdalgeleel^{8,10} and Ola O. Khalaf^{9,10}

1. Faculty of Medicine, Ain Shams University, Egypt. 2. Professor of Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine, Cairo University, Egypt. 3. High Institute of Public Health, Alexandria University, Egypt. 4. Cairo University, Egypt. 5. MTW NHS Trust 6. Helwan Mental Health Hospital, Cairo, Egypt. 7. Faculty of Nursing, Cairo University, Egypt. 8. National Cancer Institute, Cairo University, Egypt. 9. Assistant Professor, Faculty of Medicine, Cairo University, Egypt. 10. Member of Mental Health Research Network of Egypt (MHRNE), 2nd batch, geriatrics research group.

Introduction

Dementia is a significant health issue worldwide and is becoming increasingly prevalent due to population aging. In the Middle East, there is a scarcity of information about the public's knowledge of dementia.

- This study aimed to assess the knowledge of dementia among the Egyptian population.

METHODOLOGY

- A cross-sectional survey was conducted online among a sample of adult Egyptians from April to mid-August 2021 using a validated questionnaire.

- The questionnaire consisted of 32 questions covering seven domains of dementia knowledge: general characteristics, risk factors, clinical presentation, diagnosis, preventive factors, treatment, and life impact.

- The survey was available in Arabic, the official language in Egypt, and was designed to be accessible to people of different educational backgrounds.

RESULTS

A total of 782 participants completed the survey.

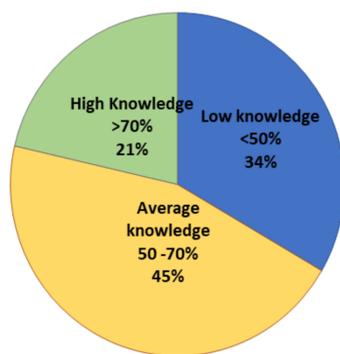


Figure 1). Distribution of the study sample according to their level of dementia knowledge (n= 782).

- Previous knowledge of dementia, contact with dementia patients, and working in the medical field were significantly associated with higher dementia knowledge score.

- Participants who had heard of dementia in Arabic, known as "Marad Alkharaf," had higher knowledge scores than those who had not.

- On the other hand, younger participants, those with lower education levels, and those living in rural areas had lower dementia knowledge scores.

RESULTS

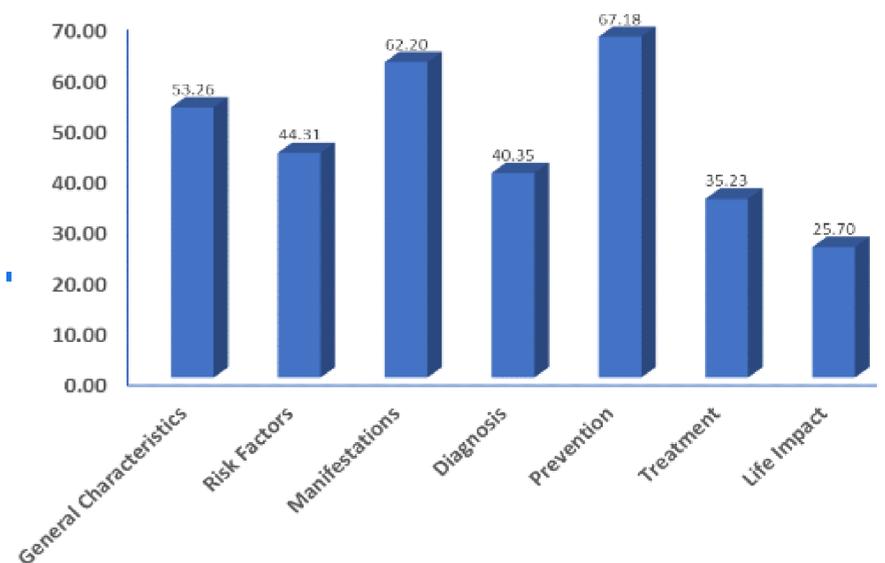


Figure 2). Mean percentage of dementia knowledge questionnaire dimensions.

CONCLUSION

- The results indicate that there is a need for public awareness campaigns to increase knowledge about dementia, especially among younger, less educated, and rural populations.

- Our Findings suggest that increasing contact with dementia patients and providing education to healthcare professionals could enhance dementia knowledge.

- Based on these findings, we started community initiative (Dementia Support Initiative in Egypt (DSIE) aiming to raise the awareness of general public on dementia and provide training for young professionals dealing with dementia patients. DSIE is supported by the International Brain Research Organization (IBRO).

DECLARATION

This project was supported by the Mental Health Research Network in Egypt (MHRNE).

No conflict of interest to declare.

Mariam Alwerdani Abouelmaati

- SHO in MTW NHS Trust.
- Founder and Executive officer of DSIE.

 M.Abouelmaati@nhs.net
 [Mariam-alwerdani](#)

Marw Nofal

- Psychiatry SpR (MRCPsych)
- CEO of MHRNE.

 Marwa.nofal55@gmail.com

Mental Health Research Network in Egypt (MHRNE)

