

# Knowledge Regarding Human Rights of Mentally Ill Persons among Adults: A Survey in Urban and Rural Wardha

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**Abstract:** *Human rights are those rights inherited in every human being by virtue of being a person and are fundamental to our existence, without which we cannot live as a human being. Mental and behavioral disorders are accounted for 12 percentage of the global burden of diseases. People with mental disabilities all over the world experience human right violation, stigma and discrimination. Objectives were to assess the knowledge regarding human rights of mentally ill persons among rural and urban population of Wardha district and to find out the association of the human rights knowledge with selected demographic variables. Tool used for the study was knowledge questionnaire regarding human rights of mentally ill persons. By using non experimental descriptive research design it was conducted among 100 subjects that include rural and urban population who are residing in selected area at Wardha by Non probability convenience sampling. From the study it was concluded that knowledge regarding human rights of mentally ill person is more among urban area in comparison to rural area. After the completion of the study it was revealed that the knowledge regarding human rights of mentally ill person is more among urban population in comparison to rural population and hence the rural people need to be educated in this regard.*

**Keywords:** human rights, mentally ill, fundamental rights, human right violation

## 1. Introduction

Human rights are those rights inherited in every human being by virtue of being a person and are fundamental to our existence, without which we cannot live as human beings. Mental health today is recognized as an important aspect of one's total health status and is a basic factor that contributes to the maintenance of physical health as well as social effectiveness. The WHO in its world health report 2001 has drawn attention to the fact that of the nearly 45 crore people are estimated to be suffering from mental illness globally. The strong stigma attached to mental illness is a particularly disturbing factor which leads to a discriminatory and unfair attitude towards those suffering from it. Thus it leads to the incorporation of human rights into the mental illness.<sup>1</sup>

From the beginning of human civilization, mentally ill patients have received the scant care and concern of the community because of their unproductive value in the socio-economic value system. They have not only been neglected but received step motherly treatment from the health planners especially in the developing countries. It was only after the plea of progressive incorporation of the norms of human rights and liberal jurisprudence in the respective legal system of nation states that has created the urgency and necessity of initiating appropriate steps for the care and treatment of mentally ill person.<sup>2</sup> It is admitted on all hands that barring few expectations the mentally ill person deserves the same privileges as enjoyed by any other human beings. They include a right for a better and more accessible care, to good recovery and increase hopes of integration into society.<sup>3</sup>

## 2. Objective of the Study

- 1) To assess the knowledge regarding human rights of mentally ill persons among rural and urban population of Wardha district.
- 2) To find out the association of the human rights knowledge with selected demographic variables.

## 3. Material & Method

This study was based on descriptive research design. The population was all the rural and urban population who are residing in selected area of Wardha. The subjects consisted of 100 Rural and urban population who are residing in selected area. The inclusion criteria were: (a) people who are willing to participate in the study. (b) People who are available at the time of data collection. Exclusion criteria (a) people who are related to medical and nursing field. (b) People who are mentally ill. The sampling technique used in the study was non probability convenience sampling. The tool was knowledge questionnaire regarding human rights of mentally ill person.

## 4. Result & Findings

### Section –A

#### Distribution of Subjects with regard to their Demographic Variables

This section deals with distribution of population in selected urban and rural population of Wardha district regarding rights of mentally ill persons with regards to their demographic variables. A convenient sample of 100 subjects was drawn from the study population, who were taken from selected urban and rural population of Wardha district. The data obtained to describe the sample characteristics including

age, gender, religion, residential area, educational status, marital status, occupation and monthly family income (Rs) respectively.

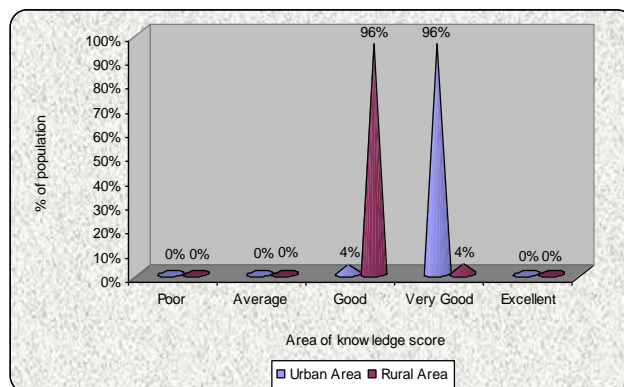
**Table 1:** Percentage wise distribution of population According to their demographic characteristics

Demographic Variables		Urban Area	Rural Area
<b>Age(yrs)</b>			
19-22 yrs	14(28%)	6(12%)	
23-26 yrs	18(36%)	20(40%)	
27-30 yrs	10(20%)	15(30%)	
>30 yrs	8(16%)	9(18%)	
<b>Gender</b>			
Male	22(44%)	22(44%)	
Female	28(56%)	28(56%)	
<b>Occupation</b>			
Housewife	43(86%)	44(88%)	
Daily Workers	4(8%)	5(10%)	
Permanent Job	1(2%)	0(0%)	
Others	2(4%)	1(2%)	
<b>Residential Area</b>			
Urban	50(100%)	0(0%)	
Rural	0(0%)	50(100%)	
<b>Educational Status</b>			
No formal education	4(8%)	6(12%)	
Primary	9(18%)	16(32%)	
Middle	23(46%)	20(40%)	
High School and above	14(28%)	8(16%)	
<b>Marital Status</b>			
Married	27(54%)	32(64%)	
Unmarried	21(42%)	17(34%)	
Divorced	0(0%)	0(0%)	
separated	2(4%)	1(2%)	
<b>Occupation</b>			
Govt. Job	5(10%)	3(6%)	
Pvt. Hob	17(34%)	14(28%)	
Homemaker	20(40%)	33(66%)	
Others	8(16%)	0(0%)	
<b>Family income(Rs) per month</b>			
Below 3000 Rs	0(0%)	5(10%)	
3001-6000 Rs	11(22%)	30(60%)	
6001-9000 Rs	5(10%)	6(12%)	
>9000 Rs	34(68%)	9(18%)	

## Section B

### Assessment of Knowledge Regarding Human Rights of Mentally Ill Persons among Rural and Urban Population of Wardha District

This section deals with the assessment of knowledge regarding human rights of mentally ill persons among rural and urban population of Wardha district. The level of knowledge is divided under following heading poor, average, good, very good and excellent.



## Section C

### Association of Knowledge Score in Relation to Demographic Variables

The study shows the significant association with education status, monthly family income, occupational status, education status.

## References

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## Author Profile



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