

ASSESSMENT OF KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDES AND PRACTICES OF BLOOD DONATION AMONG ADULTS IN ADO-EKITI, NIGERIA

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Abstract

The aim of this research was to assess the knowledge, attitude and practice of adults in Ado-Ekiti regarding blood donation. It was a non-experimental descriptive design that utilized structured questionnaire to collect data from 196 respondents using multistage sampling technique. Data collected were analysed manually and were presented in tables, pie charts, histograms and bar charts. The findings revealed that majority (96.9%) of the respondents had adequate knowledge of blood donation. 33.7% of the respondents expressed fear of donating blood and 73% of the respondents will readily donate to a close relative in need of blood. 33.7% of the respondents had never donated blood before while 39.8% of the respondents have donated blood once. The respondents had a good knowledge about blood donation. However their attitude towards blood donation just fair and the practice toward donating blood was poor.

Key words: Knowledge, attitudes, practices and blood donation.

Introduction

Blood donation is when a healthy person voluntarily has his or her blood drawn for the purpose of transfusion or made into medication by a process called fractionation (Breeder, 2005). Donated blood can be life saving for individuals who have lost large amounts of blood because of serious accidents, as well as for individuals who have become severely anaemic or have a very low platelet counts, certain haematological disorders such as leukaemia. Therefore blood is an important concern

to the society. In spite of the extensive promising research, a substitute for blood and blood components will not be available for many years. Therefore, blood donation by humans will continue to be the only source for blood and blood components (Alam Masalmeh, 2004).

While the need for blood is universal, there is a major imbalance between developing and developed countries in the level of usage and access to safe blood. Identifying and targeting low risk volunteers for blood donations can be difficult in areas with high HIV prevalence especially in many developing countries. Also, the practice of voluntary blood donation, (VBD) is higher in developed countries than develop countries. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimated that donation by 1% of a country population the minimum blood required to meet a nation's most basic needs for blood. However, less than 1% of the populations in many countries donate blood (Alam and Masalmeh, 2004; Vishnu, Subhash et al., 2010).

The National Blood Transfusion Services (NBTS), (2009) reported that thousands of people died in Nigeria hospital due to unavailability of blood especially when the need for transfusion arises. This study was therefore conducted to elicit the factors affecting the donation of blood.

Materials and methods

The research was carried out in Ado-Ekiti in Ekiti State. Ado-Ekiti is a town in South -West Nigeria and located centrally in Ekiti State. It has 13 community wards with a total population of 313,690 (National Population Census, 2006). The major inhabitants are Yoruba and the major languages spoken are Yoruba and Ekiti dialect. It is also a trade centre for farming region where yams, cassava, grain and tobacco are grown. Islamic and Christianity religion are the main religions that are practiced. Adults between the 20 - 50 years were selected as this age group are believed to be active. The sample size was determined using Fishers' formula

$$n = \frac{Z^2 pq}{d^2}$$

Z = standard normal denote usually set as 1.96 P = proportion of the target population estimated to have certain characteristics, q = 1- p d = degree of accuracy derived set as 0.05 Therefore 196 respondent were selected.

The respondents' consent was gained with adequate explanation of the reason for conducting the research before the questionnaire was administered. They were assured that all information provided by them will treated with confidence and it will be used strictly for the purpose of research.

Multistage sampling technique was used for this study. Four wards were selected by balloting out thirteen wards. These include ward 1, 4, 7 and 9. Ward 1 had two streets, Ward 4 has four streets, Ware two streets and ward 9 has four streets. One street was selected from each ward using a balloting method structured questionnaires were distributed in each street using systematic random sampling to draw response from the respondents. The data was analyzed using frequency table, bar chart, pie chart and histograms.

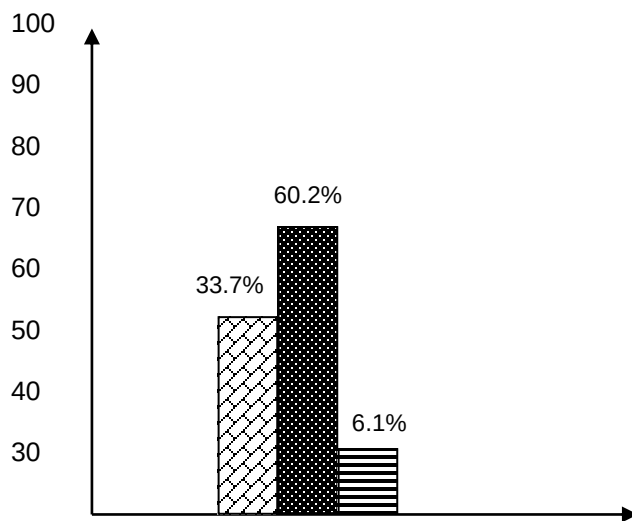
Results

Table 1. Demographic variables, of the Respondent

Variable	Frequency	%
Age (in years)		
20-25	44	22.4
25-30	57	29.1
30-35	47	24.0
35-40	30	15.3
40-50	18	9.2
Total	196	100
Sex		
Male	80	40.8
Female	116	59.2
Total	196	100
Tribe		
Yoruba	154	78.6
Hausa	14	7.1
Igbo	20	10.2
Ebirra	8	4.1
Total	196	100
Religion		
Islam	55	28.1
Christianity	134	68.4
Traditional	7	3.5
Total	196	100
Marital status		
Single	62	31.6
Married	122	62.3
Divorced	10	5.1
Widowed	2	1.0
Total	196	100
Level of education		
Primary	21	10.7
Secondary	72	36.7
Tertiary	103	52.6
Total	196	100
Occupation		
Civil servant	67	34.2
Unemployed	84	42.8
Self employed/ Trading	33	16.8
Artisan e.g. Hairdresser	6	3.1
Farming	6	3.1
Total	196	100

Table 2: Knowledge of the respondents on blood donation.

Have you heard about blood donation?	Frequency	%
Yes	190	96.9
No	6	3.1
Total	196	100
Where did you hear about blood donation?		
From friends and family	34	17.3
From posters and journals	8	4.1
From television and radio	148	75.5
No response	6	3.1
Total	196	100
What is your perception of blood donation?		
Harmful	62	33.7
Harmless	101	60.2
Others	33	6.1
Total	196	100



What is the amount of blood that someone can donate at a time?

1 litre	37	16.3
500mls	89	60.7
100mls	41	13.8
Less than 100mls	29	9.2
Total	169	

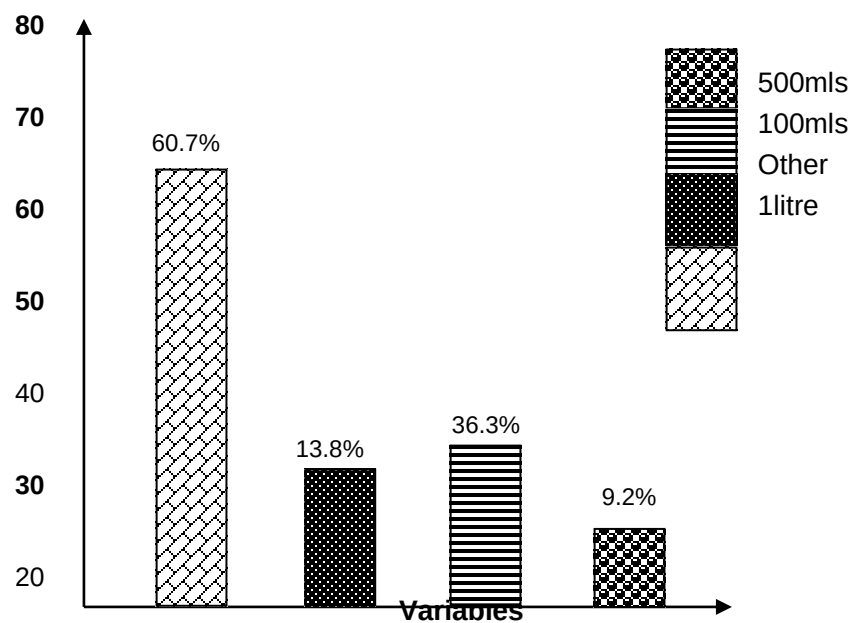


Figure 2. The quantity of blood that can be donated at a time.

Table 3. Knowledge of diseases that can be incurred following blood donation.

Diseases that can be incurred Frequency % following blood donation		
HIV/AIDS	41	20.9
Hepatitis	7	3.6
Malaria	17	8.6
Infections	95	48.5
Don't Know	36	18.4
<u>Total</u>	<u>196</u>	<u>100</u>

Table 4. Refusal to donate blood.

Why do think people don't like donating blood?	Frequency	%
It is harmful	17	8.7
Fear of contracting HIV/AIDS	30	15.3
Blood bank sell blood donated free	45	23.0
Fear of un-sterile equipment	18	9.1
No one requested blood from me	86	43.9
<u>Total</u>	<u>196</u>	<u>100</u>

Table 5. How often should blood be donated?

Variables	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yearly	17	8.7
Twice Yearly	35	17.8
Occasionally	144	73.5
Total	196	100

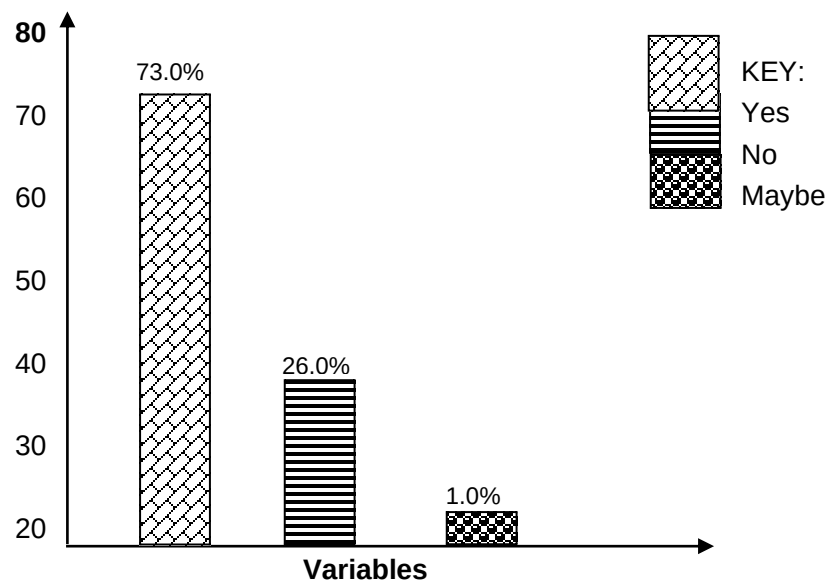


Figure 3. Willingness to donate to close relatives who need blood.

Demographic variables as shown in Table 1 revealed that 57(29.1%) respondents falls within the age group of 25 - 30years with 18(9.2%) falls within the age range of 40-50 years. Most of the respondents 116(59.2%) females with men only accounts for 80 (40.8%). 122(62.3%) were married. 154(78.6%) are of Yoruba tribe while Ebirra were 8(4.1%). Out of the 196 respondents, 99 (50.5%) are Christians, 55(28.1%) were Muslims while 7(3.5%) were Traditionalist. 103 (52.6%) had tertiary educational qualifications while 84 (42.8%) were unemployed and 67(34.2%) were civil servants.

Discussion

One hundred and ninety-nine percent (96.9%) respondents have heard about blood donation, while 6(3.1%) of the respondents had never heard of blood donation (Table 2). This result showed that most of the 53 respondents have heard and knew of blood donation as against the study carried out by Abdul-Majeed (2008) on the attitude, belief and knowledge about blood donation in Saudi which revealed that participant in the study are not well informed about blood donation.

One hundred and nineteen (60.7%) respondents said that one can donate 500 mls of blood at a time 27(13.8%) respondents said one can donate 1 1, 32(16.3%) of the respondents said 100 mls, while 18(9.2%) gave different opinions from the above listed options (Figure 2). This finding does not support the study conducted by Alam (2004) in Sharourah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia where majority of the respondents 130 (62.3%) said they do not know the amount of blood one can donate at time, 22 (11%) said it is between 500 - 1000 mls and 56 (26.8%) respondent said it is about 500 mls. Sixty-six (33.7%) of the respondents believed blood donation is harmful, 118 (60.2%) of the respondents believes blood donation is harmless, while 12(6.1%) of the respondents have different opinions about blood donation like maybe, not sure among others (Figure 1). This findings agreed with the study carried out by AbdulMajeed (2008) in which 85% of the participants believed that blood donation is not harmful to the donor because of the screening test done in blood bank prior to donation, although 11.5% believe that blood donation is harmful because of the acquiring an infectious disease.

Seventeen (8.7%) of the respondents think that the reason given by people for not donating blood was because it is harmful, 30 (15.3%) of the respondents said is due to fear of contracting HIV/AIDS (Table 3), 45(23.0%) of the respondent were of the opinion that it is because blood bank officials do sell freely blood donated, 18(9.1%) of the respondents said it is due to fear of unsterile equipment while majority of the responds (43.9%) said no one requested blood from them (Table 4). The study further revealed that majority of the respondents believed that blood donation should be done occasionally (Table 5). This supported the study carried out by Alam (2004) in which majority 89 (42.6%) of the non donor reason for not donating blood was because they were not approached for blood donation by anyone. Table 5 revealed that 78 (39.8%) of the respondents donated once in a years, 52 (26.5%) have donated once in two years while 66 (33.7%) of the respondents have never donated. These findings showed that most of the respondents have donated once and willing to donate to close relatives who need blood (Figure 3). Majority also expressed in Figure 4 that blood donation is not against their faith. This agrees with the study conducted by Alam (2004) where majority of the respondents 213 (73.2%) donated blood once, 40 (13.7%) donated 2 - 5 times, 26 (8.9%) more than 5 times.

Conclusion

Findings from this study showed that most of the respondents have heard about blood donation. However, there is the need to correct the notion and belief that blood donation is harmful through public health campaign and awareness.

It is further recommended that provision of incentives for blood donors may serve as a means for motivating and involving people to participate in voluntary blood donation to save lives.

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