

Original Article

Knowledge And Information Survey On Mahakumbh Among Nursing Students Of Selected Nursing Colleges, Meerut

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ABSTRACT

Background: Hosting nearly 400 million attendees is no small feat for Prayagraj, a city of just 5.5 million residents. This year, a sprawling temporary settlement spanning 4,000 hectares will feature a mega global event⁽¹⁾. One of the central rituals of the Mahakumbh is the holy dip in rivers like the Ganges, Yamuna, and the mythical Saraswati. Beyond the spiritual significance, scientific studies have revealed the self-purifying nature of the Ganges. Psychological studies suggest that shared experiences in large gatherings can foster a sense of collective consciousness and emotional well-being. **Objective:** To assess the knowledge/ general awareness among nursing students regarding Maha Kumbh. **Study design:** Descriptive design was used for the study. **Setting:** The survey was carried out in selected nursing colleges, Meerut. **Material and Method:** Quantitative research approach was used in this study consisting of 400 samples, selected using non probability convenient sampling method. The data was collected using structured questionnaire to assess knowledge / general awareness among the participants. **Statistics:** The data collected was analyzed using both descriptive and inferential statistics. **Results:** The result showed that majority of 183 (45.75%) samples felt that the event was of utmost importance and 332 (83%) samples felt that this event will signify our country's perception among foreign nations. With regard to knowledge 241 (60.25%) had adequate knowledge, 131 (32.75%) had moderate knowledge and 38 (09.50%) had poor knowledge. **Conclusion:** The findings highlight that, the student nurses had a significant knowledge or they were aware of the global event widely and they were willing to contribute to the event through health camps and it was also found that a significant proportion of the samples need more knowledge or training in the field of disaster management with relation to any mega public event.

Keywords: Mahakumbh, Knowledge, Awareness, Nursing students, Disaster, Health

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Introduction

Hosting millions of pilgrims at a single site requires extraordinary planning and execution. From sanitation to healthcare and crowd control, the Mahakumbh showcases exceptional organizational skills. Scientists and urban planners often study the festival's logistics to develop models for managing large-scale events. Innovations in technology, such as real-time monitoring, AI-driven crowd management, and mobile healthcare units, are increasingly employed, blending ancient traditions with modern solutions⁽²⁾.

Psychological studies suggest that shared experiences in large gatherings can foster a sense of collective consciousness and emotional well-being. The Mahakumbh exemplifies this, as millions come together to meditate, pray, and celebrate. Such collective positivity can have measurable benefits on mental health, resonating with modern concepts of mindfulness and community support.

The Mahakumbh is a testament to India's rich heritage, where spiritual practices were often intertwined with scientific wisdom. By revisiting these traditions through the lens of modern science, we can preserve their essence while adapting them to contemporary challenges. Whether it's leveraging technology for better event management or drawing inspiration from ancient environmental practices, the Mahakumbh bridges the gap between India's storied past and its aspirational future⁽³⁾.

As we celebrate this remarkable festival, let us embrace its lessons—respect for nature, community spirit, and sustainable living⁽⁴⁾. The Mahakumbh is more than a ritual; it is a reflection of how science and spirituality can coexist, guiding humanity toward a harmonious future.

Methods And Materials:

Quantitative research approach with descriptive research design was used for this study. The study samples comprised of nursing students of various nursing colleges. And non probability convenient sampling

technique is used for this study. All samples available during the period of data collection were included in the study and thus the data was collected from 400 samples.

Each individual subject was informed about the purpose of the study, their benefits and after which both oral and written consent was obtained. The individual had the freedom to withdraw from the study at any point of time.

The data collection tool was developed in English and consists of 2 sections i.e., Baseline Performa consisting of demographic variables, Structured questionnaire to assess the knowledge and general awareness of Mahakumbh.

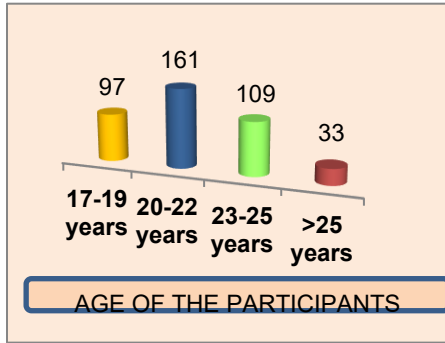
With regard to the demographic variables, with respect to age majority of 161 (40.25%) subjects were in the age group of 20-22 yrs, 309 (77.25%) subjects were females, whereas majority of subjects 261 (65.25%) wish to be part of the event by attending physically and 113 (28.25%) wish to get involved in health camps, In context to importance of the event, majority of 183 (45.75%) of the samples felt that the event was of utmost importance and with regard to the arrangements made by the concerned authorities 159 (39.75%) felt the arrangements made were good though not excellent. Most of the samples 332 (83%) felt that this event will signify our country's perception among foreign nations

Inferences From Demographic Variables:

Table 1: Demographic variables of the study sample (n=400)

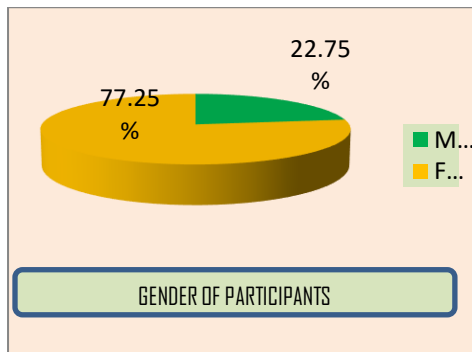
DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES	FREQUENCY (F)	PERCENTAGE (%)
AGE (IN YEARS)		
17-19 years	97	24.25%
20-22 years	161	40.25%
23-25 years	109	27.25%
>25 years	33	08.25%
SEX		
Male	91	22.75%
Female	309	77.25%
HOW DO YOU WISH TO BE PART OF THIS GRAND EVENT?		
By attending the event physically	261	65.25%
By getting involved in health camps	113	28.25%
Active part in social media campaigning	26	06.50%
IMPORTANCE OF EVENT IN A SCALE OF 1 – 5 (LESS IMPORTANT TO MOST IMPORTANT)		
1	21	05.25%
2	28	07.00%
3	39	09.75%
4	129	32.25%
5	183	45.75%
ARRANGEMENT DONE FOR THE GLOBAL EVENT IN A SCALE OF 1 – 5 (POOR TO EXCELLENT)		
1	38	09.50%
2	25	06.25%
3	77	19.25%
4	159	39.75%
5	101	25.25%
WILL THIS GLOBAL EVENT SIGNIFY OUR COUNTRY'S PERCEPTION AMONG FOREIGN NATIONS?		
Yes	332	83%
No	12	03%
Maybe	56	14%

Figure 1: AGE OF THE PARTICIPANTS.



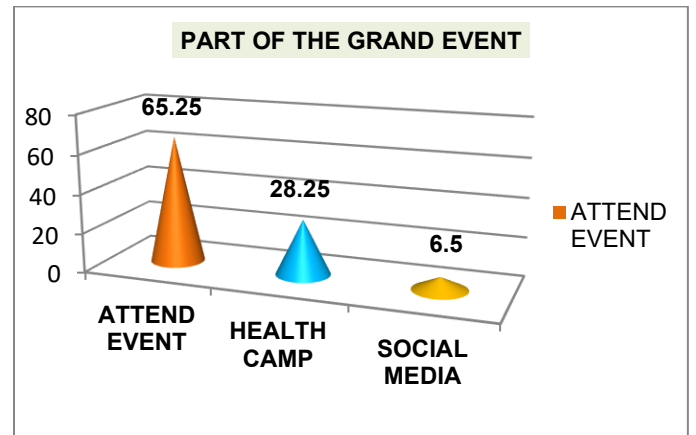
With regard to the age of the participant's majority of the participants 161 (40.25%) were in the age group of 20-22 years, followed by 109 (27.25%) participants in the age group of 23-25 years, 97 (24.25%) were in the age group of 17-19 years and the minimum of 33 (08.25%) were falling in the age group of more than 25 years.

Figure 2: GENDER OF THE PARTICIPANTS.



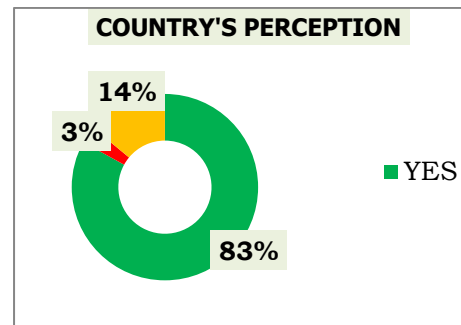
With regard to the gender of the participant's majority of the participants 309 (77.25%) were females and remaining 91 (22.75%) of participants were males

Figure 3: HOW DO YOU WISH TO BE PART OF THIS GRAND EVENT?



When asked to the participants how they wish to be part of this grand event, a majority of 261 (65.25%) participants have and wanted to attend the event physically.

Figure 4: WILL THIS EVENT SIGNIFY OUR COUNTRY'S PERCEPTION AMONG FOREIGN NATIONS?



The majority of the participants 332 (83%) felt that this event will signify our country's perception among foreign nations where as 56 (14%) of the participants felt it may signify and a minimum of 12 (3%) gave negative response.

TABLE 2: KNOWLEDGE QUESTIONNAIRE

KNOWLEDGE SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE	FREQUENCY (F)	PERCENTAGE (%)
When is the Kumbh Mela 2025 scheduled to take place?		
1 January 2025 - 28 February 2025	9	2.25%
13 January 2025 – 26 February 2025	287	71.75%
14 January 2025 – 26 February 2025	78	19.5%

14 January 2025 – 28 February 2025	26	6.5%
How many days will the Kumbh Mela 2025 last		
30 days	13	03.25%
40 days	102	25.5%
45 days	213	53.25%
48 days	72	18%
Which rivers are associated with the Triveni Sangam?		
Ganga, Yamuna, Godavari	45	11.25
Ganga, Yamuna, Saraswati	321	80.25%
Godavari, Krishna, Kaveri	34	08.5%
Narmada, Tapti, Chambal	0	0
What is the ritual bath in Mahakumbh called?		
Ganga Snan	101	25.25%
Shahi Snan	155	38.75%
Pavitra Snan	112	28%
Moksha Snan	32	08%
In which year was the Mahakumbh Mela recognized as an Intangible Cultural Heritage by UNESCO?		
2003	17	04.25%
2013	32	08%
2017	312	78%
2023	39	09.75%
What is the name of the mobile app launched for Kumbh Mela 2025?		
Kumbh 2025 App	121	30.25%
Maha Kumbh Tracker	97	24.25%
Kumbh Info'2025 App	11	2.75%
Mahakumbh Mela 2025 App	171	42.75%
A special eye camp spanning 9 acres inaugurated in Mahakumbh is named as,		
Netra Sangh	39	9.75%
Netra Kumbh	311	77.75%
Nethralaya	32	8%
Surya Sangh	18	4.5%
What is the name of the mobile medical service given in mid of river Ganga?		
River Medical Camp	11	02.75%
Ganga River Medical Boat	107	26.75%
River Ambulances	274	68.5%
Ganga MediCare	8	02%
To ensure clean water in the Ganga and Yamuna rivers how many temporary sewage treatment plants are installed?		
2	91	22.75%
3	121	30.25%
4	107	26.75%
5	71	17.75%
Full form of IRS, the term used in disaster management is		
Incidence Report Service	131	32.75%
Incidence response system	97	24.25%
International Response system	106	26.50%
Indian Rescue service	66	16.50%
The Major health concern during Maha Kumbh Mela are because of		
Airborne diseases	26	06.50%
Waterborne diseases	319	79.75%
Pollution	43	10.75%
Food borne diseases	12	03%

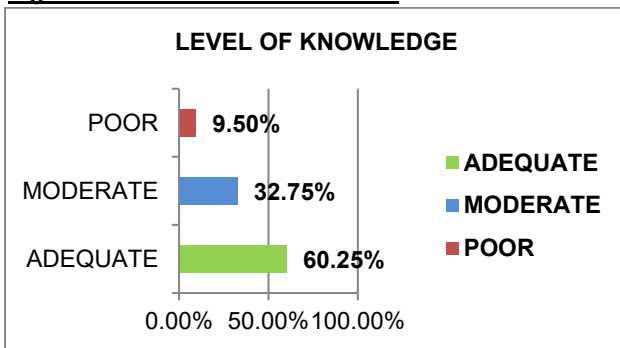
Common disaster event in Maha kumbh can be?		
Fire accidents	41	10.25%
Drowning	186	46.50%
Stampede	157	39.25%
Road Accidents	16	04%

TABLE 3: LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE

LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE	FREQUENCY (F)	PERCENTAGE (%)
ADEQUATE KNOWLEDGE	241	60.25%
MODERATE KNOWLEDGE	131	32.75%
POOR KNOWLEDGE	38	09.50%

The above table shows that in the knowledge questionnaire out of the 400 subjects, 241 (60.25%) had adequate knowledge, 131 (32.75%) had moderate knowledge and 38 (09.50%) had poor knowledge.

Figure 5: LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE



The above figure shows that with regard to knowledge, out of the 400 subjects, 241 (60.25%) had adequate knowledge, 131 (32.75%) had moderate knowledge and 38 (09.50%) had poor knowledge.

The mean knowledge score of the subjects was 9 with S.D 0.91; the chi-square computed to assess the influence of demographic variables on knowledge showed a significant association with the age of the samples. Samples who were in the age group of 23 – 25 years had a better knowledge and practice of foot care.

Result:

The result showed that majority of 183 (45.75%) samples felt that the event was of utmost importance and 332 (83%) samples felt that this event will signify our country's perception among foreign nations. With regard to knowledge 241 (60.25%) had adequate knowledge, 131 (32.75%) had moderate knowledge and 38 (09.50%) had poor knowledge.

Discussion:

In the present study, 241 (60.25%) had adequate knowledge, 131 (32.75%) had moderate knowledge and 38 (09.50%) had poor knowledge.

The results or the data obtained from the knowledge questionnaire showed that most of the participants had moderate knowledge with regard to disaster management⁽⁵⁾. So with this we could develop a course and give more importance to disaster management.

Conclusion: The findings highlight that, the student nurses had a significant knowledge or they were aware

of the global event widely and they were willing to contribute to the event through health camps and it was also found that a significant proportion of the samples need more knowledge or training in the field of disaster management with relation to any mega public event.

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