



International Journal of Innovative Research in Health Science

Published: October 2026

Volume 2, Issue 10, Pages 31-37

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.63349/ijirhs.202661>

Research Article

A Study To Assess The Knowledge And Attitude Towards Effects Of Tattooing And Body Piercing Among Adolescents In Selected Colleges Of Kalapet, Puducherry

¹J.Suganya, ²M. Navaneetha

^{1,2} College of Nursing, Pondicherry Institute of Medical Sciences, Puducherry, India.

Author Designation: ¹ Assistant Professor, ² HOD cum Professor

Corresponding author: J. Suganya

Abstract:

Women and a tattoo is a form of body modification, made by inserting ink, using a needle either indelible or temporary, into the dermis layer of the skin to change the pigment. A body piercing is exactly that a piercing or puncture made in the body by a needle, after which a piece of jewellery is inserted into the puncture. The most popular pierced body parts seem to be the ears, nostrils and the belly button. A study to assess the knowledge and attitude on effects of tattooing and body piercing among adolescent in selected college of Kalapet, Puducherry To assess the knowledge and attitude on effects of tattooing and body piercing among adolescents. To find the correlation between the knowledge and attitude of adolescent regarding the effects of tattooing and body piercing. To find the association between the knowledge and attitude and body piercing with selected demographic variables. The research approach adopted for this study is Quantitative Research Approach. Purposive sampling technique is used to select the samples. Inclusive criteria: Willing to participate in the study. Male and female adolescent who are in the age of 18- 21years.Exclusive criteria: Who have already attended health programmes related to effects of tattooing and Body piercing. Regard to age nearly 35.2% of adolescent were 18years, 11.7% of adolescents were 21years.Majority of the adolescents were Male 79.1% and the minor group of adolescents were female 20.9%.only 1% of adolescents have adequate knowledge 43.4% of adolescents have moderately adequate knowledge and 55.6% have inadequate knowledge on body piercing.51.5% of adolescents have favorable attitude and 48.5% of adolescents have neutral attitude towards tattooing and body piercing. There was (p value = 0.05) no statistically significant association between knowledge level and gender, father's education, mother's education. There was (p value = 0.05) no statistically significant associated between level of attitude and age, father's education and mother's education. There is a statistically significant association between attitude level and gender. There is a weak positive($r = 0.051$) correlation between knowledge and attitude on effects of tattooing among adolescents. There is a weak positive($r = 0.118$) correlation between knowledge and attitude on effects of body piercing among adolescent. The study concludes that 32.6% of adolescent have inadequate knowledge on tattooing and 55.6% have inadequate knowledge on body piercing. There is a positive correlation between knowledge and attitude towards tattooing and body piercing among adolescents. There was no statistically significant association between knowledge and age, gender and father's education. There was statistically significant association between attitude and gender.

Keywords: Tattooing, Body piercing, Knowledge, Attitude, Association, Correlation .

INTRODUCTION

Women and a tattoo is a form of body modification, made by inserting ink, using a needle either indelible or temporary, into the dermis layer of the skin to change the pigment. A body piercing is exactly that a piercing or puncture made in the body by a needle, after which a piece of jewellery is inserted into the puncture. The most popular pierced body parts seem to be the ears, nostrils and the belly button. Although inserted in body modification has increased recently, history teaches us that body modification are not new. Archaeologists have found evidence of tattoos, piercing as far back as 2000Bc, when they were largely used as a form of art or to identify group membership, such as a religious group or tribe. Although mostly used to describe loyalty, interests, and lifestyle choices, body modification had also been used to label criminals, slaves, and convicts. Tattooing and piercing were most popular among elders in the previous era, but it become most fascinated act among youngest nowadays. The age group of tattooing and piercing become less till fifteen.

METHODS

The research approach adopted for this study is Quantitative Research Approach. Purposive sampling technique is used to select the samples. Inclusive criteria: Willing to participate in the study. Male and female adolescent who are in the age of 18- 21years. The sample is 196 adolescents of the age group 18-21 years from Swami Vivekananda Community college,

Ganapathichettikulam, Kalapet. Purposive sampling technique is used to select the samples. Exclusive criteria: Who have already attended health programmes related to effects of tattooing and Body piercing.

DEVELOPMENT AND DESCRIPTION OF THE TOOL

In the study the tool was organized into the three parts.

SECTION –A: SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC DETAILS

This will be used for collecting demographic details of study participants such as age, gender, Religion, Income of the family, Education Status of the father, Education status of the mother, family members with tattoo, friends with tattoo and physical examination to identify the body parts pierced.

SECTION-B: KNOWLEDGE QUESTIONNAIRE

It consists of items regarding knowledge of the adolescents on the effects of tattooing and body piercing. Total number of items is 30 and each statement is given 4 options. The structured questionnaire is classified under the 3 parts.

PART 1: Knowledge on effects of tattooing.

PART 2: Knowledge on effects of body piercing.

SECTION-C: ATTITUDE

- A modified Likert's 5-point scale is used to measure adolescence attitude on the effects of tattooing and body piercing.

RESULTS

Regarding age, nearly 35.2% of adolescents were 18 years, 11.7% of adolescents were 21 years. Majority of the adolescents were Male 79.1% and the minor group of adolescents were female 20.9%. Only 1% of adolescents have adequate knowledge, 43.4% of adolescents have moderate knowledge and 55.6% have inadequate knowledge on body piercing. 51.5% of adolescents have favorable attitude and 48.5% of adolescents have neutral attitude towards tattooing and body piercing. There was (p value = 0.05) no statistically significant association between knowledge level and gender, father's education, mother's education. There was (p value = 0.05) no statistically significant association between level of attitude and age, father's education and mother's education. There was a statistically significant association between attitude level and gender. There is a weak positive (r = 0.051) correlation between knowledge and attitude on effects of tattooing among adolescents. There is a weak positive (r = 0.118) correlation between knowledge and attitude on effects of body piercing among adolescents.

CONCLUSION

The findings revealed that out of 196 adolescents, majority of them 63.2% of adolescents had moderate knowledge, only 4% have adequate knowledge and 32.6% had inadequate knowledge for tattooing and out of 196 adolescents, majority of them 55.6% had inadequate knowledge, only 1% had adequate knowledge, 43.4% had moderate knowledge for body piercing. Out of 196 adolescents, majority of them 51.5% have favorable attitude and 48.5% of adolescents have neutral attitude towards tattooing and body piercing. The findings also revealed that in tattooing, there was statistically significant association between knowledge level and age of the students with P value 0.042. There was no statistically significant association between knowledge level and gender, father's education, mother's education. In body piercing, there was statistically significant association between knowledge level of body piercing and Mother's education with P value 0.041. There was no statistically significant association between knowledge level of body piercing and age, gender and father's education. There was a weak positive correlation between knowledge and attitude on effects of tattooing with R value 0.051 and there was a weak positive correlation between knowledge and attitude on effects of body piercing with R value 0.118. Hence the study helped to assess the knowledge and attitude level on effects of tattooing and body piercing among adolescents in selected colleges of Kalapet, Puducherry. This study also helped to improve the knowledge level of adolescents on effects of tattooing and body piercing with the help of an information booklet and health talk.

REFERENCES

1. Olateru olanrewaju "awareness of health risks associated with body piercing and tattooing amongst undergraduate students" pg.no:2 <https://www.academia.edu>
2. Cora c.Breuner, David.Levine and the committee on adolescence, America, (2018)"Adolescent and young adult tattooing, piercing, and scarification." <https://doi.org>
3. K.Rewathy(2019),the social perspective of tattoo and piercing among Tamil speaking communities in Kotahena, an international scientific journal page no194-208 <https://bmcpublichealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/1471-2458-11-774>
4. An American addiction centers resources "Tattoos and body piercing" <https://americanaddictioncenters.org>
5. Sean T.carroll, Robert H.Riffenburgh, Timothy A.Roberts and Elizabeth B.Myhre (2005), Tattoos and body piercings as indicators of adolescent risk taking Behaviors."pg.no:1021. <https://www.researchgate.net>
6. Alessia Quaranta, Christian Napoli (2010) Body piercing and tattoos: A survey on young adults' knowledge of the risks and practices in body art. BMC Public Health <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/21981772/>
7. <http://www.healthofchildren.com/P/Piercing-and-Tattoos.html>
8. <https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tattoo>
9. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/bodypiercing>
10. Breuner CC, Levine DA (2017) AAP Committee on Adolescence. Adolescent and
11. Young Adult Tattooing, Piercing, and Scarification. Pediatrics. 2017;140(4):e20171962. February 01, 2018 <https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/140/4/e20163494#T1>

TABLE 1: Distribution of socio-demographic variables among adolescents in selected colleges of Kalapet, Puducherry.

Sl. No	Demographic Variable	Frequency	Percentage
1	Age in years		
	18	69	35.2
	19	67	34.2
	20	37	18.9
	21	24	11.7
2	Gender		
	Male	155	79.1
	Female	41	20.9
3	Religion		
	Hindu	179	91.3
	Christian	4	2
	Muslim	13	6.6
4	Income		
	Low class	137	69.9
	Middle class	43	21.9
	High class	16	8.28
5	Fathers Education		
	Non formal	43	21.9
	Primary school	50	25.5
	Middle school	57	29.1
	Higher secondary	36	18.4
	Under graduated	10	5.1
6	Mothers Education		
	Non formal	38	19.4
	Primary school	58	29.6
	Middle school	62	31.6
	Higher secondary	31	15.8
	Under graduated	7	3.6
7	Self tattooing		
	Yes	76	38.8
	No	120	61.2
8	Family mem. Tattooing		
	Yes	162	82.7
	No	34	17.3

SECTION-B: LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE ON TATTOOING AND BODY PIERCING AMONG ADOLESCENTS

TABLE 2: Frequency and Percentage distribution of level of knowledge on tattooing among adolescents in selected colleges of Kalapet, Puducherry.

Knowledge on Tattooing	Frequency	Percentage
Adequate knowledge (11.5 – 15)	8	4%
Moderately adequate knowledge (7.5 - 11)	124	63.2%
Inadequate knowledge (< 7.5)	64	32.6%

TABLE 2 shows that only 4% of adolescents have adequate knowledge, 63.2% of adolescents have moderately adequate knowledge and 32.6% have inadequate knowledge on tattooing.

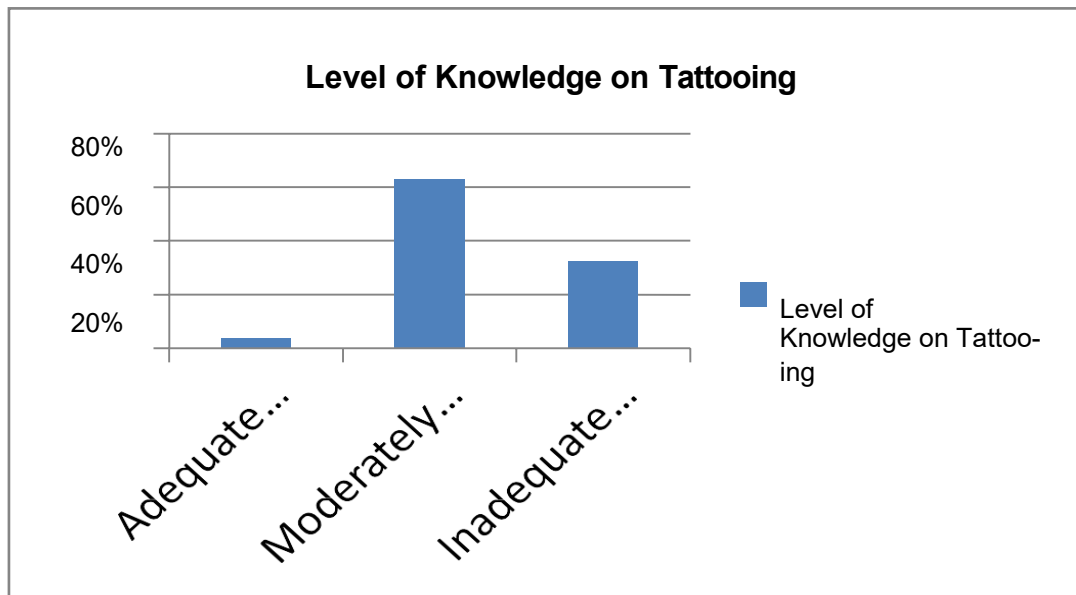


TABLE 3: Frequency and percentage distribution of level of knowledge on body piercing among adolescents in selected colleges of Kalapet, Puducherry

Knowledge on Body piercing	Frequency	Percentage
Adequate knowledge (11.5 – 15)	2	1%
Moderately adequate knowledge (7.5 – 11)	85	43.4%
Inadequate knowledge (< 7.5)	109	55.6%

TABLE 3 shows that only 1% of adolescents have adequate knowledge, 43.4% of adolescents have moderately adequate knowledge and 55.6% have inadequate knowledge on body piercing.

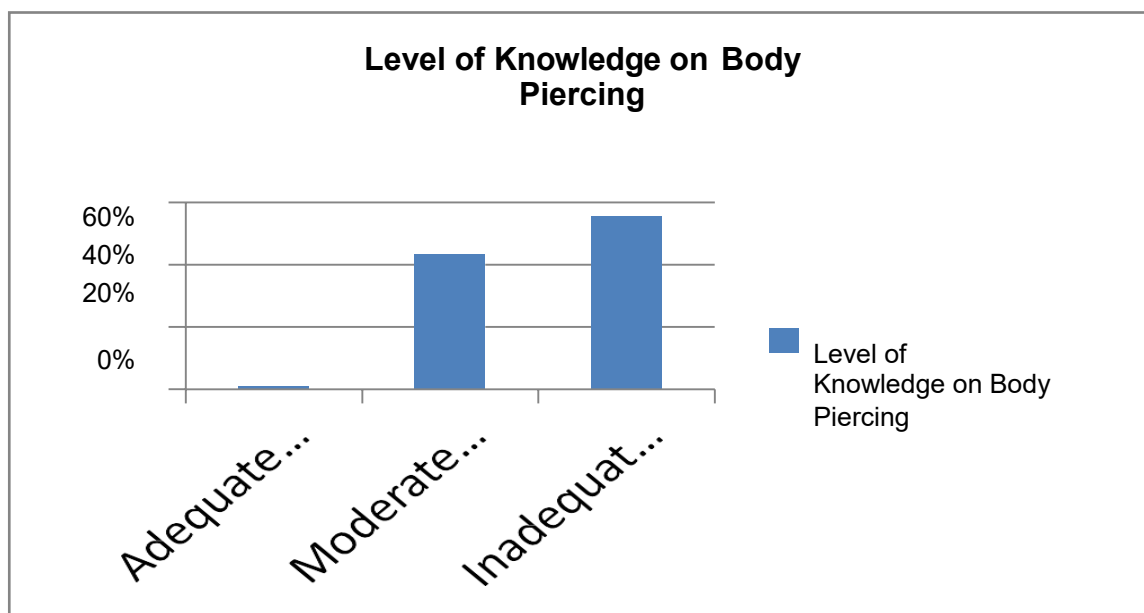
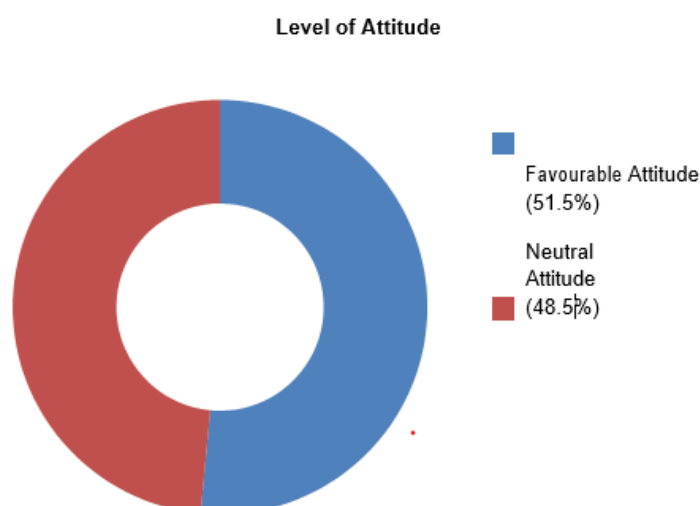


TABLE 4: Frequency and Percentage distribution of level of attitude towards tattooing and body piercing among adolescents in selected colleges of Kalapet, Puducherry

Attitude level	Frequency	Percentage
Favourable attitude (37.5 – 50)	101	51.5%
Neutral attitude (26 – 37)	95	48.5%
Unfavourable attitude(< 25)	–	–

TABLE 4 shows that 51.5% of adolescents have favourable attitude and 48.5% of adolescents have neutral attitude towards tattooing and body piercing.



SECTION C: ASSOCIATION BETWEEN LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDE ON TATTOOING AND BODY PIERCING AMONG ADOLESCENTS WITH SELECTED DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES

TABLE 5: Association between levels of knowledge on tattooing among adolescents in selected colleges of Kalapet with selected demographic variables.

Socio-demographic variable	Category	Adequate		Moderately Adequate		Inadequate		χ^2 Value	p-value
		F	(%)	F	(%)	F	(%)		
Age	18 years	3	1.50	44	22.40	22	11.20	0.042	S
	19 years	2	1.02	46	23.40	19	9.69		
	20 years	2	1.02	25	12.75	10	5.10		
	21 years	1	0.50	9	4.50	13	6.60		
Gender	Male	4	2.04	100	51.00	51	26.02	0.139	NS
	Female	4	2.04	24	12.20	13	6.63		
Father's education	Non-formal	1	0.51	29	14.79	13	6.63	0.317	NS
	Primary	3	1.53	30	15.30	17	8.67		
	Middle school	2	1.02	42	21.42	13	6.63		
	High school	2	1.02	19	9.69	15	7.65		
	Graduate	0	0.00	4	2.04	6	3.06		
Mother's education	Non-formal	4	2.04	26	13.26	8	4.08	0.126	NS
	Primary	1	0.51	40	20.40	17	8.67		
	Middle school	3	1.53	39	19.89	20	10.20		
	High school	0	0.00	16	8.16	15	7.65		
	Graduate	0	0.00	3	1.53	4	2.04		

TABLE 6: Association between level of knowledge on body piercing among adolescents in selected colleges of Kalapet with selected demographic variables.

socio-demographic variable	Category	Adequate		Moderately Adequate		Inadequate		χ^2 Value	p-value
		F	(%)	F	(%)	F	(%)		
Age	18 years	0	0.00	29	14.79	40	20.40		
	19 years	0	0.00	30	15.30	37	18.87		
	20 years	1	0.51	16	8.16	20	10.20	0.550	NS
	21 years	1	0.51	10	5.10	12	6.12		
Gender	Male	1	0.51	67	34.18	87	44.38		
	Female	1	0.51	18	9.18	22	11.20	0.463	NS
Father's education	Non-formal	0	0.00	19	9.69	24	12.24		
	Primary	2	1.02	24	12.24	24	12.24		
	Middle school	0	0.00	19	9.69	38	19.38	0.292	NS
	High school	0	0.00	19	9.69	17	8.67		
	Graduated	0	0.00	4	2.04	6	3.06		
Mother's education	Non-formal	0	0.00	19	9.69	19	9.69		
	Primary	2	1.02	28	14.28	28	14.28		
	Middle school	0	0.00	23	11.73	39	19.89	0.041	S
	High school	0	0.00	14	7.14	17	8.67		
	Graduated	0	0.00	1	0.51	6	3.06		

NOTE: p<0.05 is statistically significant, NS- Not significant, S-significant

TABLE 7: Association between level of attitude towards tattooing and body piercing among adolescents in selected colleges of Kalapet with selected socio-demographic variables

Socio-demographic variable	Category	Neutral		Favorable		χ^2 Value	p-value
		F	(%)	F	(%)		
Age	18 years	34	17.34	35	17.85		
	19 years	35	17.85	32	16.32		
	20 years	18	9.18	19	9.69	0.551	NS
	21 years	8	4.08	15	7.65		
Gender	Male	76	38.77	79	40.30		
	Female	19	9.69	22	11.22	0.049	S
Father's education	Non-formal	18	9.18	25	12.75		
	Primary school	30	15.30	20	10.20		
	Middle school	26	13.26	31	15.81	0.135	NS
	High school	19	9.69	17	8.67		
	Graduated	2	1.02	8	4.08		
Mother's education	Non-formal	15	7.65	23	11.73		
	Primary school	31	15.81	27	13.77		
	Middle school	29	14.79	33	16.83	0.132	NS
	High school	19	9.69	12	6.12		
	Graduated	1	0.51	6	3.06		

SECTION D: CORRELATION BETWEEN KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDE ON THE EFFECTS OF TATTOOING AND BODY PIERCING AMONG ADOLESCENTS

TABLE 8: Correlation between knowledge and attitude on effects of tattooing among adolescents in selected colleges of Kalapet, Puducherry.

	Knowledge on Tattooing	Attitude	R value
Mean	8.33	37.94	0.051
Standard Deviation	2.099	3.567	

TABLE 8 shows that there is a positive correlation between knowledge and attitude on effects of tattooing among adolescents.

TABLE 9: Correlation between knowledge and attitude on effects of body piercing among adolescents in selected colleges of Kalapet, Puducherry.

	Knowledge on Body Piercing	Attitude	R value
Mean	7.17	37.94	0.118
Standard Deviation	2.127	3.567	

TABLE 9 shows that there is a positive correlation between knowledge and attitude on effects of body piercing among adolescents.

Cite this article as: J.Suganya, M. Navaneetha (2026). 'A Study To Assess The Knowledge And Attitude Towards Effects Of Tattooing And Body Piercing Among Adolescents In Selected Colleges Of Kalapet, Puducherry'. International Journal of Innovative Research in Health Science, 2(10), 31-37

Creative Commons (CC) License: ©2026 the Author(s). Open access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0>)