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Poulami Mondal Health and Family Welfare, West Bengal Health University, Midnapur, West Bengal, India Distress and its associated factors, coping strategies among diabetes mellitus patients attending medicine Out Patient Department, Bankura Sammilani Medical College and Hospital, Bankura, West Bengal

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Abstract

A descriptive study was conducted on distress and its associated factors, coping strategies among diabetes mellitus patients attending medicine OPD, Bankura Sammilani Medical College and Hospital, Bankura, West Bengal with the objectives to assess distress among diabetes mellitus patients, to identify the associated factors causing distress, to ascertain coping strategies adopted by the diabetes mellitus patient and to find out the association between distress, coping strategies with their selected demographic variables. 96 diabetes mellitus patients were selected by non probability consecutive sampling technique. Semi structured demographic proforma was used to collect demographic characteristics. Standardized Diabetes Distress Screening Scale 17 was used to assess level of diabetes distress. Structured interview schedule and record analysis proforma was used to collect data regarding associated factors of diabetes distress and Standardized Brief COPE Scale was used for measuring adopted coping strategies. The study results depicted that 1.04% of diabetes mellitus patients had high diabetes distress followed by 37.50% had moderate distress, 61.46% had little distress, most 92.71% diabetes distress was due to regular use of oral hypoglycemic drug, majority 70.83% diabetes distress was due to having financial problem for diabetes management. About 16.67% of diabetes mellitus patients were having poor adopted coping strategies followed by 65.62% moderate and only 17.71% good. Diabetes distress and adopted coping strategies were significantly associated with gender, type of family, socio-economic class at 0.05 level of significance. The scope of generalization of findings were limited to present study population and study has implicated on nursing practice, education and research.

Keywords: Distress and its associated factors, coping strategies, diabetes mellitus patients attending medicine OPD

Introduction

There are many global health emergencies in this century. Among them diabetes mellitus is one of the largest global health emergencies in this century. Current global statistics 2019 showed that 463 million individuals have diabetes and 374 million individuals have impaired glucose tolerance, a prediabetic condition [1]. Worldwide predicted that diabetes mellitus to be affected to 552 million people by the year 2030, that can reach 9.9% from the world's adult population [2]. Diabetes mellitus is now one of the most common non-communicable diseases (NCDs) globally. In the 21st century Diabetes is undoubtedly one of the most challenging health problems ^[3]. Diabetes mellitus is a lifelong (chronic) disease and is a group of metabolic disorder characterized by high level of sugar in blood (hyperglycemia) [4]. According to the World Health Organization, diabetes mellitus is a condition with diverse aetiologies that is characterised by persistent hyperglycemia and disturbances in the metabolism of carbohydrates, proteins, and fats as a result of abnormalities in insulin secretion, insulin action, or both [5]. Diabetes mellitus is a multisystem illness associated with decreased insulin production, inadequate insulin utilization, or both. The two most common types of diabetes mellitus is classified as type 1 and type 2 diabetes mellitus. Type 1 diabetes mellitus occurs due to absent or minimal insulin production. Insulin resistance, decreased insulin production over time, and alterations in production of adipokines causes type 2 diabetes mellitus [6]. According to World Health organization (2022) report worldwide 422 million people have diabetes, the majority of them living in low and middle income

Corresponding Author: Poulami Mondal Health and Family Welfare, West Bengal Health University, Midnapur, West Bengal, India countries, and each year 1.5 million deaths are directly attributed to diabetes. Worldwide 422 million people have diabetes, the majority living in low-and-middle income countries, and 1.5 million deaths occurs due to diabetes in each year ^[7]. In a report of International Diabetes Federation (2021) stated that India accounts for 1 in 7 of all adults living with diabetes worldwide. The people living with diabetes mellitus expected to increase by 69% to 152 million by 2045. Adults living with diabetes 51.2% are undiagnosed. Diabetes was responsible for 747,000 deaths in 2021, approximately 537 million adults (20-79 years) around the world are living with diabetes. The prevalence of diabetes mellitus is expected to rise to 643 million by 2030 and 783 million by 2045 [8]. The diabetes mellitus patients and their families face various challenges in their day to day life that include diet, physical activity, routine examination of foot, eye and tooth, self-care, self-monitoring, stress management, fear of diabetes related complications. All these challenges leads to mental health problem. The most prevalent mental health problem among patients with diabetes mellitus i.e diabetes distress ^[9]. Research have shown that anxiety disorders are the most common psychological comorbid condition among patients with diabetes mellitus. Diabetes related distress consists of negative emotional reaction to diagnosis, the threat of complications and self-management demands that increase too much stress and tension to patients' day to day living [10]. Diabetes is a difficult and demanding disease. Emotional burden of diabetes develops due to ongoing demands of managing diabetes as well as development of any diabetes related emergencies, development of any diabetes related complications, health issues or even any changes in treatment plan like changing insulin or starting a new continuous glucose monitoring. The emotional burden of diabetes and its management leads to significant diabetes distress [11].

Materials and Methods

• Research approach: Quantitative research approach.

- **Research design:** Descriptive Survey research design.
- Variables: Research Variables: Diabetes distress and associated factors causing diabetes distress, Coping strategies related to diabetes distress

Demographic Variables

Age (in years), Gender, Marital status, Educational Status, Type of family, Occupational Status, Socio-economic class (according to Modified B. G. Prasad Scale January 2022), Type of diabetes mellitus, Presence of any diabetes related complications, Information regarding diabetes mellitus, Source of information regarding diabetes mellitus.

Research Setting

- **Pilot Study:** Medicine Out Patient Department, Midnapore Medical College and Hospital, Paschim Medinipur, West Bengal.
- Final study: Medicine Out Patient Department, Bankura Sammilani Medical College and Hospital, Bankura, West Bengal.
- Population: All diabetes mellitus patients of Bankura, West Bengal.
- Sample: Diabetes mellitus patients attending medicine OPD, BSMC and H, Bankura, West Bengal.
- Sample size: 96 diabetes mellitus patients attending medicine OPD

Inclusion criteria

- Diabetes mellitus (both type 1 and type 2) suffering more than 1 year
- 2. Male and female diabetes mellitus patients
- 3. Willing to participate in the study

Exclusion criteria: Acute physical illness.

Sampling technique

Data was collected by Non probability consecutive sampling technique.

Table 1: Data collection tools & techniques

Variables to be measured	Tools	Techniques
Demographic variables	Tool-I Semi structured demographic proforma	Interviewing
Diabetes distress	Tool-II Standard Diabetes Distress Screening Scale 17	Interviewing
	Tool-III	
Associated factors of distress	IIIA Structured interview schedule	Interviewing
	IIIB Record analysis Proforma	Record analysis
Coping strategies	Tool-IV Standard Brief-COPE Scale	Interviewing

Pretesting of the tool: Pretesting of the tool was done on ten (10) diabetes mellitus patients attending medicine OPD

of BSMC and H, Bankura, to check the simplicity, clarity of language and ambiguity of items included in the tool.

 Table 2: Distribution of study subjects according to type of diabetes mellitus, presence of complications related to diabetes mellitus, source of information regarding diabetes mellitus

Variables	N	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Type of Diabetes Mellitus	96		_
Type 1		2	2.08
Type 2		94	97.92
Presence of Complication			
Retinopathy		5	5.00
Ischaemic Heart Disease		15	15.00
Chronic Kidney Disease		70	70.00
Bilateral Nephrolithiasis		5	5.00
Diabetic Ketoacidosis		5	5.00
Source of Information Regarding Diabetes Mellitus	96		
Teacher		Nil	0.00
Book/Magazine/Journal		Nil	0.00
Friends/Family/Relatives		53	55.20
Health Worker		96	100.00
Internet		2	2.08
Television		1	1.04

All data are collectively exhaustive but not mutually exclusive (Respondent had multiple response)

Data also indicated that most of (97.92%) diabetes mellitus patients were type 2 category, only 2.08% were type 1 category.

Data presented in the table 2 showed that majority (70%) diabetes mellitus patients were having chronic kidney disease.

Data in the table 2 showed that showed that most (100%) diabetes mellitus patients were getting information from health worker.

Data also indicated that most of (97.92%) diabetes mellitus patients were type 2 category, only 2.08% were type 1 category.

Table 3: Mean, Median and standard deviation of level of diabetes distress among diabetes mellitus patients, n=96

Variables	Mean	Median	Standard deviation
Diabetes distress	31.26	31	8.01

Maximum score:102 Minimum Score:17

Data presented in table 3 showed that calculated mean was 31.26, median 31 and standard deviation 8.01 of diabetes distress screening score.

Table 4: Frequency and percentage distribution of diabetes mellitus patients according to level of diabetes distress, n=96

Level of Diabetes Distress	Range of Score	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Little/No Distress	< 2	59	61.46
Moderate Distress	2.0-2.9	36	37.50
High Distress	3.0 or higher	1	1.04

Maximum score:102 Minimum score:17

Data presented in table 4 depicted that majority (61.46%) of diabetes mellitus patients had little/no distress, maximum (37.50%) had moderate distress and (1.04%) had high distress.

Table 5: Distribution of study subjects according to emotional burden, physician distress, regimen distress and interpersonal distress in terms of mean percentage, n=96

Diabetes Distress	Maximum Possible Score	Minimum Possible Score	N/LOOM	Mean (%)
Emotional Burden	30	5	8.01	26.70
Physician Distress	24	4	9.55	39.79
Regimen Distress	30	5	9.81	32.70
Interpersonal Distress	18	3	3.38	18.77

Data presented in the table 5 depicted that maximum mean percentage (39.79) of diabetes distress score was in the area of physician distress, mean percentage (32.7) of diabetes distress score was in the area of regimen distress, mean percentage (26.7) diabetes distress score was in the area of emotional burden, then mean percentage (18.77) of diabetes distress score was in the area of interpersonal distress.

Table 6: Mean, median and standard deviation of associated factors of diabetes distress, n=96

Variables	Mean	Median	SD
Associated factors of diabetes distress	2.10	2	1.95

Data presented in table 6 showed that calculated mean was 2.10, median was 2 and standard deviation was 1.95 of associated factors of diabetes distress score.

Table 7: Frequency and percentage distribution of factors causing diabetes distress among diabetes mellitus patients, n=96

Variables	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Not walking 30 minutes for 5 days a week	37	38.54
Feeling distressed due to change of dietary pattern	40	41.67
Disturbance in sleep pattern	49	51.04
Regular use of oral hypoglycaemic drug	89	92.71
Daily use of insulin injection	22	22.92
Both oral hypoglycaemic drug and insulin daily	18	18.75
Financial problem	68	70.83
No support from family members	8	8.33
No support from health care professional	2	2.08
Conflict at workplace/home	5	5.21

All data are collectively exhaustive but not mutually exclusive (Respondent had multiple response).

Data presented in the table 7 depicted that most (92.71%) diabetes distress was due to regular use of oral hypoglycemic drug, majority (70.83%) diabetes distress was due to having financial problem for diabetes management, maximum (38.54%) diabetes distress was due to not walking 30 minutes for 5 days in a week.

Table 8: Frequency and percentage distribution of diabetes mellitus patients according to presence of comorbid condition causing diabetes distress, n=67

Variables	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Hypertension	32	47.76
Visual Problem	5	7.46
Diabetic Nephropathy	4	5.97
Diabetic Foot Ulcer	3	4.48
Diabetes-Related Coronary Artery Disease	9	13.43
Diabetes-Related Peripheral Neuropathy	14	20.90

All data are collectively exhaustive but not mutually exclusive (Respondent had multiple response).

Data presented in the table 8 showed that maximum (47.76%) diabetes mellitus patients were having hypertension, (20.90%) were having diabetes related peripheral neuropathy, (4.48%) diabetes mellitus patients were having diabetes foot ulcer.

Table 9: Mean, median and standard deviation of adopted coping strategies of diabetes mellitus patients, n=96

Variables	Mean	Median	SD
Adopted coping strategies	67.07	68	9.53

Maximum score: 112 Minimum score: 28

Data presented in the table 9 showed that calculated mean was 67.07, median was 68 and standard deviation was 9.53 of adopted coping strategies.

Table 10: Frequency and percentage distribution of diabetes mellitus patients according to level of coping, n=96

Variables	Range of Score	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Poor Coping	<58.47 (<median-1sd)< td=""><td>16</td><td>16.67</td></median-1sd)<>	16	16.67
Moderate Coping	58.47 to 77.53 (Median ±1SD)	63	65.62
Good Coping	>77.53 (Median +1SD)	17	17.71

Maximum score: 112 Minimum score: 28 Data presented in table 10 depicted that majority (65.62%) of diabetes mellitus patients adopted moderate coping strategies and (16.67%) adopted poor coping strategies.

Discussion

Discussion related to demographic characteristics of diabetes mellitus patient

In the present study maximum (38.54%) of diabetes mellitus patients were belonged to 51-60 years of age, majority (65.63%) of diabetes mellitus patients were male, most of diabetes mellitus patients (83.33%) were married, maximum (32.29%) diabetes mellitus patients were completed upto primary level of education, maximum of diabetes mellitus patients (41.67%) were daily labour, maximum (33.34%) diabetes mellitus patients were belonged to middle socioeconomic class, majority of diabetes mellitus patients (54.16%) were belonged to joint family, most of (97.92%) diabetes mellitus patients were type 2 category, majority (79.16%) diabetes mellitus patients were having no complications, majority (70%) diabetes mellitus patients were having chronic kidney disease, most of (100%) diabetes mellitus patients were getting information regarding diabetes mellitus, most of (100%) diabetes mellitus patients were getting information from health worker.

The present study was supported by the study conducted by Dr. Panda Kumar Bijan, Dr. Chhotaray Saubhagya, Dr. Behera Desabandhu, Dr. Rout Rabinarayan (2022) on assessment of diabetes-related distress among 135 type II diabetic patients in Bolangir, Odisha. The analysis showed that 63% were male, 90% were married [32].

The present study was supported by the study conducted by Vidya K R, Lohit K, Roopashree S (2021) on diabetes distress and disease -related factors in patients with type 2 diabetes attending a tertiary care hospital in Tumkur, Karnataka among 140 diabetic patients. The analysis showed that 58.57% were male, 51.43% were in the age group of 51-70 years [34].

The present study was fully supported by the study conducted by MR Islam, MR Karim, SH Habib, Yesmin K (2013) on diabetes distress among type 2 diabetic patients in Bangladesh among 165 diabetes mellitus patients. The analysis showed that 39.4% of diabetes mellitus patients were belonged to 50-59 years age group, 93.9% were married, 49.7% were completed upto primary level of education [3].

The present study was partially supported by the study conducted by Mrs. Fernandes Perpetua, Dr. Dasila Prabha, Dr. Rai Sandeep, Dr. Gopalkrishnan Sripriya (2019) conducted a study on psychosocial distress among people with type 2 diabetes in India. The result showed that 37.4% diabetes mellitus patients were completed upto primary level of education, 41.98% of diabetes mellitus patients were belonged to 55-65 years of age [37].

Discussion related to diabetes distress of diabetes mellitus patients

The present study revealed that majority (61.46%) of diabetes mellitus patients had little/no distress, maximum (37.50%) had moderate distress and (1.04%) had high distress, maximum mean percentage of diabetes distress score (39.79) was obtained by the diabetes mellitus patients of the present study in the area of physician distress, mean percentage (32.7) of diabetes distress score was in the area of regimen distress, mean percentage (26.7) diabetes distress score was in the area of emotional burden, then mean percentage (18.77) of diabetes distress score was in the area

of interpersonal distress.

The study was partially supported by the study conducted by Sankar Prasanth, Sasikumar Priyanka, Medayil Rituna, Jacob Rittin, Sasidharan Saranya (2018) conducted a study on high prevalence of distress among type 2 diabetes -a hospital based, cross-sectional study from South India. The study result showed that 22.1% had moderate distress and 5.7% had high distress [39].

The study also partially supported by another study conducted by Dr. Panda Kumar Bijan, Dr. Chhotaray Saubhagya, Dr. Behera Desabandhu, Dr. Rout Rabinarayan (2022) on assessment of diabetes related distress among type 2 diabetic patients in Bolangir, Odisha. The study result showed that 12.7% had high distress, 26.7% had moderate distress and 60.6% had little or no distress [32].

The study also partially supported by another study conducted by Hasan-Kamrul A. B. M. *et al.* (2022) conducted a facility-based cross-sectional study to assess prevalence and predictors of diabetes distress among 259 persons with type II diabetes mellitus in Bangladesh. The analysis showed that 29.7% had moderate distress and 22.8% had high distress [43].

The present study was supported by a study on diabetes related distress in adults with type 2 diabetes mellitus: a community-based study conducted by Symon K. Allbright, Vargese Susan Saritha, Mathew Elsheba, R. K. Akshay, Abraham Jacob (2018). The study results showed that physician related distress 17.2%, regimen related distress 21.6%. Regimen and physician related distress were more prevalent [46].

The present study also partially supported by another study conducted by Nagabhushana Amruthavarshini, Ramaiah Madhumati, Khan Ali Mumtaz, Nijaguna Siddesh (2021) on diabetes distress and other factors, which affect glycemic control in patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus Bengaluru, Karnataka, India. The study showed that 59.2% had physician related distress and 60.4% had regimen related distress [49].

Discussion related to associated factors of diabetes distress of diabetes mellitus patients

Most (92.71%) diabetes distress were due to regular use of oral hypoglycemic drug, majority (70.83%) diabetes distress were due to having financial problem for diabetes management, maximum (47.76%) diabetes mellitus patients having hypertension, (20.90%) had diabetes related peripheral neuropathy.

The study was partially supported by another study conducted by Gupta Kumar Saurabh, Rastogi Ashu, Kaur Manmeet, Lakshmi P.V.M (2022) on diabetes-related distress and its impact on self care of diabetes among people with type2 diabetes mellitus living in a resource-limited setting: A community-based cross-sectional study in rural Punjab, India. The study showed that hypertension increased the odds of severe DRD [aOR 3.47;95% CI:2.48-4.87, p-<0.01] [30].

The study also partially supported by another study conducted by Mrs. Fernandes Perpetua, Dr. Dasila Prabha, Dr. Rai Sandeep, Dr. Gopalkrishnan Sripriya (2019) conducted a study on psychosocial distress among people with type 2 diabetes in India. The study showed that 77.1% type 2 diabetes mellitus patients have managed their diabetes with only regular use of oral hypoglycemic agent [37]

Discussion related to adopted coping strategies of diabetes mellitus patients: The present study results

depicted that majority of diabetes mellitus patients 63(65.62%) had moderate coping followed by 17(17.71%) had good adopted coping strategies and 16(16.67%) had poor coping strategies. Diabetes mellitus patients used acceptance (mean% 91.5) maximum time as adopted coping strategies.

The study was partially supported by the study conducted by Sathiyakala K, Danasu R, Tamilpulavendran V. (2023) on a study to assess the level of coping strategies among the patients with chronic diabetes mellitus admitted in selected hospital, Puducherry, India. The study result showed that 79% had strengthening of coping,21% had weakening of coping [56].

The study was partially supported by another study conducted by Hapunda G. (2022) on coping strategies and their association with diabetes specific distress, depression and diabetes self-care among people living with diabetes in Zambia. The study result showed that acceptance was the most frequently used coping strategies among diabetes mellitus patients in Zambian [22].

Discussion related to association between adopted coping strategies and selected demographic variables

Chi square of the association was computed between coping strategies and selected demographic variables of diabetes mellitus patients like gender, socio-economic class and the result found to be statistically significant. So, it can be concluded that there is association with coping strategies with gender, socio-economic class and coping strategies dependent on gender, socio-economic class.

The present study was supported by a study conducted by Sathiyakala K., Danasu R, Tamilpulavendran V. (2023) on a study to assess the level of coping strategies among the patients with chronic diabetes mellitus admitted in selected hospital, Puducherry, India among 200 diabetes mellitus patients. The study showed that there is significant association between adopted coping strategies and gender.⁵⁶

Conclusion

The study findings revealed that among 96 diabetes mellitus patients 1(1.04%) had high distress, 36 (37.50%) had moderate distress,59 (61.46%) had little/ no distress. Findings also revealed that 16 (16.67%) had poor coping, 63 (65.62%) had moderate coping and 17 (17.71%) had good coping. It can be concluded that there is need for frequent awareness programme regarding diabetes distress and its associated factors that causing distress, so that diabetes mellitus patients can easily cope with the diabetes distress, make a healthy life.

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Conflict of Interest

Not available.

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