

## **Knowledge and Attitude of Tuberculosis among Bahrainis Age 18-50**

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**Background:** Tuberculosis (TB) is an infectious disease caused by *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. It mainly affects the lung and is spread by droplets released into the air by coughing and sneezing. Therefore, it is important for Bahrainis to be aware of TB because its incidence in 2012 was 12.5 per 100,000, and especially Bahrain has a high percentage of foreign workers and travelers.

**Objective:** To evaluate the Tuberculosis knowledge and attitude of Bahrainis aged 18-50.

**Design:** A Cross-Sectional Study.

**Setting:** Five Primary Healthcare Centers, Bahrain.

**Method:** Four hundred randomly selected Bahraini individuals aged 18-50 were questioned about their attitude and knowledge of Tuberculosis. The data were analyzed using SPSS 20. Continuous variables were expressed as mean $\pm$ SD, while qualitative variables were reported as absolute number and percentage.

**Result:** One hundred sixty-eight (42%) males and 232 (58%) females participated in this study. The mean age was 31 years. The majority of the subjects knew what TB was, but did not know how it was transmitted, as well as the signs and symptoms and the preventive measures. Females were more aware of TB than males. The majority knew that it could be prevented by personal hygiene.

**Conclusion:** Bahrainis had basic knowledge and awareness of TB and had a positive attitude. Educating the public and increasing the awareness of TB is still needed and should be considered as a preventive measure.

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