


# Knowledge, Attitude, and Practice Toward Lifestyle Modification Among Diabetes Mellitus Patients Attending the University of Gondar Comprehensive Specialized Hospital Northwest, Ethiopia

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**Background:** Diabetes, which is a non-communicable metabolic disease, imposes several complications and death worldwide. Strict lifestyle modification can prevent the progression of complications associated with diabetes. There is much evidence to show that following a healthy lifestyle such as healthy diet, moderate weight loss, and doing regular exercise can maintain normal blood glucose levels and minimize diabetes-related complications. Moreover, this lifestyle modification has a great impact on the control of hyperglycemia. Good knowledge, positive attitude, and good practice towards lifestyle modification can help to maintain a normal blood glucose level.

**Objective:** The aim was to assess knowledge, attitude, and practice towards lifestyle modification of diabetes patients attending the University of Gondar Comprehensive Specialized Hospital, Northwest Ethiopia.

**Methods:** An institutional-based cross-sectional study was conducted among diabetes patients attending chronic follow-up clinic from November 15, 2019 to December 15, 2019. Study participants were selected using a systematic random sampling technique. Data were collected by using a structured questionnaire and analyzed using the statistical package for social science version 20. Descriptive statistics were computed to determine the knowledge, attitude, and practice of diabetes patients toward lifestyle modification.

**Results:** A total of 422 participants took part in this study with a response rate of 100%. In this study, 248 (59%) were knowledgeable, 223 (53%) had a positive attitude, and 172 (41%) had good practice, respectively.

**Conclusion:** The findings of this study showed that the knowledge and attitude toward lifestyle modification were found to be good. However, the result of practice of lifestyle modification was low.

**Recommendation:** Education about the disease condition and lifestyle modification (importance of physical exercise, weight loss, foot care, cessation of smoking, healthy dietary habit) to general society ought to be implemented by the responsible body.

**Keywords:** diabetes mellitus, knowledge, attitude, practice, lifestyle modification

## Introduction

Diabetes mellitus (DM) is a chronic noncommunicable metabolic disease characterized by a raised blood plasma glucose level. It has an important public concern nowadays due to a dramatic increase in incidence and prevalence.<sup>1</sup> It is a syndrome of hyperglycemia resulting from an absolute or relative deficiency or decreased effectiveness of the circulating insulin.<sup>2</sup>

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According to WHO estimates globally, DM is a risk factor for premature mortality, cardiovascular and kidney diseases associated with unhealthy nutrition, physical inactivity or insufficient exercise, cigarette smoking, excessive consumption of alcohol, and inappropriate sleeping experience.<sup>3</sup>

According to 2016 WHO report, there were around 422 million adult diabetes patients.<sup>4</sup> But, in 2019 it was found to be 463 million people (9.3%) and can be projected to 578 million (10.2%) by 2030 and 700 million (10.9%) by 2045. This figure is 4% in low-income countries, which is increasing and becoming a public health concern globally.<sup>5,6</sup>

Furthermore, according to WHO 2019 evidence type 2 DM makes up about 90–95% of all cases and the remaining 2–5% is type 1 DM.<sup>7</sup> The incidence and prevalence rate of DM is higher, especially in developing countries, compared with the developed countries due to early lifestyle change.<sup>8</sup> Lack of knowledge, negative attitude, and poor practice affect diabetes prognosis and hasten the occurrence which is preventable with early recognition.<sup>9</sup> The majority of DM patients receive their treatment in clinics when they adhere to treatments and gain education not only to achieve glycemic control but also to halt the occurrence of complications and disabilities.<sup>10</sup> On top of this, lifestyle modification is an integral and crucial component of diabetes control and management. Among the six important key areas recommended by American Diabetic Association (ADA), diabetic self-management support (DSMS), diabetic self-management education (DSME), dietary therapy, physical exercise, counselling of smoking cessation, and psychosocial care are crucial for diabetes management.<sup>11</sup> DSME and self-management support programs are primarily targeted to upscale an individual's knowledge, skill, and capability needed for self-care and management of DM.<sup>12</sup> One significant focus of nutritional therapy is promoting and supporting healthy conditions to maintain target body weight, blood glucose, blood pressure, and lipid profile.<sup>13</sup>

Moreover, promoting physical activity and exercise are among the core components of diabetic lifestyle management. Exercise plays a significant role for reducing weight, controlling blood glucose, and minimizing cardiovascular-related complications.<sup>14</sup> The correlation between smoking and other health consequences is already known. In this regard, there exists increased cardiovascular (macro and micro) complications and occurrence of type 2 diabetes among cigarette smokers.<sup>15</sup> According to the International

Diabetes Federation, in the African region, around 15.5 million adults who are aged 20–70 years were found to have DM. This region has a high prevalence (69.2%) with 69.2% of adults unaware of their disease condition and 55.3% of adults who lived in the urban area with changed lifestyle.<sup>16</sup> Nowadays, Ethiopia is challenged by the raised burden of noncommunicable diseases including DM, which took fourth place in Sub-Saharan Africa in the prevalence of diabetic population. Especially type 2 DM is an important cause of admission to Ethiopias largest referral Hospital where an estimated 1.9 million people live with diabetes.<sup>17</sup>

Diabetes patients may have complications during diagnosis due to genetic predispositions and long-term asymptomatic hyperglycemia. During diagnosis, about 25% and 4.8% of diabetic patients found to have neuropathy and peripheral vascular disease respectively.<sup>14</sup>

As a result of these complications, a significant number of diabetic patients have diabetic foot ulcers and nontraumatic amputation.<sup>18,19</sup> Evidence showed an increased burden of noncommunicable disease associated with unhealthy lifestyle.<sup>1,20</sup>

In spite of the fact that DM causes high resource wastage and life, still the management relies on pharmacological and lifestyle modifications. It is obvious that lifestyle modification plays a significant role in the prevention of diabetes occurrence and its complications. Therefore, the aim of this study was to assess the knowledge, attitude, and practice of DM patients toward lifestyle modification at UOGCSH.

## Method

### Study Design and Period

A cross-sectional institutional-based study conducted from November 15, 2019 to December 15, 2019.

### Study Setting

The study was done at UOGCSH OPD.

The hospital is located in Gondar City in Amhara regional state. Gondar town is situated 748 km from Addis Ababa and UOGCSH has more than 400 beds and 14 different outpatient medical service units, and around 250,000 patients seen in the units. The hospital serves at a comprehensive specialized level by providing teaching, research and serving a population of more than seven million people in the catchment area.

## Source Population

All DM patients attending DM follow-up clinic at UOGCSH.

## Study Population

DM patients who are available during data collection at UOGCSH.

## Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

All adult diabetic patients who attend at UOGCSH chronic follow-up clinic. Patients who were mentally ill, unable speak and those who had a major hearing problem were excluded from the study.

## Sample Size Determination and Procedures

The sample was determined using the single population by taking percentage score (p)=49.% from the study conducted in Adama<sup>21</sup> with the following assumptions: CI=95%, marginal error (d)=5%, and 10% nonresponse rate. A structured questionnaire was used to conduct a face-to-face interview of the participants attending the diabetes follow-up clinic. There were 966 patients with chronic diabetes having follow-up during the data collection period.

The study participants were selected using a systematic random sampling technique with every two intervals. In order to avoid recycling of data due to double interviewing special markers were used in the chart of the patient interviewed. It was also strengthened by verbal confirmation whether they were interviewed in the previous consecutive data collection days.

## Data Collection Tools and Procedures

A structured interviewer-administered questionnaire modified from other related studies was used to collect the data.<sup>21-23</sup> The Cronbach's alpha for knowledge, attitude, and practice items were (0.80, 0.78, and 0.69) respectively. Before the actual data collection, four BSc nurse data collectors who had worked outside of chronic illness and one MSc nurse supervisor had obtained one-days training about the aim of the study and the content of the questionnaire. The questionnaire had three parts which include: sociodemographic, knowledge, attitude and practice of lifestyle modification.

## Data Quality Control

For data quality, a pretest was done among 21 (10%) diabetes patients. The questionnaire was translated from

English to Amharic for the sake of better understanding for study participants. Then it was translated back to English by language experts in order to retain the original meaning. Data clearance was done at every point during collection time. Its completeness, accuracy and consistency were checked prior to entry.

## Operational Definition

- (i) **Lifestyle modification:** Is about nonpharmacological management including, dietary modification, physical activities, and exercise to control blood glucose level and complications.<sup>24</sup>
- (ii) **Knowledge:** From 10 questions of lifestyle modification if the patient answers 5 and above we say good knowledge, and if <5 poor knowledge towards LSM of DM.<sup>25</sup>
- (iii) **Attitude:** From 10 questions if the patient answers >5 classified as having a positive attitude and if <5 a negative attitude towards LSM of DM.<sup>21</sup>
- (iv) **Practice:** From 10 questions if the patient answers >5 classified as having a good practice and if <5 classified as having a poor practice towards LSM of DM.
- (v) **Fasting Blood Glucose:** Blood glucose estimation obtained from a subject who has undergone an overnight fast from any food or drink (excluding water or clear, plain tea) for at least eight hours.<sup>26</sup>
- (vi) **Regular follow-up:** Patients who have consistent follow-up in their appointment in hospitals having a diabetic unit.<sup>27</sup>
- (vii) <sup>28</sup>
- (i) **Family Support:** This involves all family members of the diabetic patients who understand how to support the diabetes patient in terms of standard management; healthy diet, self-monitoring.<sup>29</sup>

## Data Processing and Analysis

Collected data were checked for completeness, consistency, as well as accuracy prior to analysis. The data were coded, entered, and analyzed using SPSS version 20 (IBM Corporation, Armonk, NY, USA). It was processed and analyzed by using descriptive statistics like percentage and frequency. The results are presented by text and tables.

## Results

### Sociodemographic Characteristics

Four hundred twenty-two study participants were approached with a 100% response rate. Among 422 diabetes patients who took part in study 216 (49.1%) and 206 (48.9%) were male and female respectively. Concerning marital status 120 (28.5%) were single. Regarding the age of the participants 399 (94.6%), and 23 (5.5%) were in the age category of <30 and ≥30 years in order. In addition, 100 (23.7%) of the participants were illiterate; 168 (39.8%) of the participants attended grade 1–8, 108 (25.6%) participants attended grades 9–12 and above 46 (10.9%). In occupational status 145 (34.4%) were unemployed, and 184 (43.6%) were private business. Furthermore, 15 (3.5%) were government employees, 21 (4.9%) students, and 57 (13.5%) housewives. In another way 160 (37.9%) participants who had had a monthly income of <1000 ETB, 209 (49.5%) participants had had a monthly income of 1000–3000 ETB and 55 (12.5%) had ≥3000 ETB income. (Table 1)

### Knowledge of Lifestyle Modification

The majority of the participants were knowledgeable 248 (59%) (95%CI: 54.0–63.4) and 174 (41%) were poorly knowledgeable (Table 2).

In this study the age group >30 years old (55.5%), female 30%, separated 27.3%, employed 7.8%, urban 36.3%, orthodox 36.3%, monthly income 1000–3000 ETB, diploma and degree holders had a good knowledge respectively (Table 3).

### Attitude Towards Lifestyle Modifications

More than half of the participants 253 (53%) had had a positive attitude toward lifestyle modification and 199 (47%) participants had a negative attitude (Table 4).

In this study participants of the age group >30 years old 50%, being male 29.9%, widow/widower 19.4%, attended secondary school 17.1%, employed 2.4%, urban 34.1%, orthodox 42.2%, and having a monthly income of 1000–3000 ETB had a positive attitude respectively (Table 5).

### Practice Assessment of Respondents

In this study 172 (41%) had good practice toward LSM, and 250 (59%) had poor practice (Table 6). Cessation of smoking cigarettes was not practiced in 6.2% of the participants, more than half (58.1%) and (55.0%) had worn safety shoes and had regular blood sugar checkups as recommended (Table 7).

**Table 1** Frequency Distribution of the Participants' Sociodemographic Characteristics at the University of Gondar Comprehensive Specialized Hospital, Northwest Ethiopia, 2019 (n=422)

Variables	Category	Frequency	Percentage
Sex	Male	206	48
	Female	216	52
Age in years	<30	23	5.4
	≥30	399	94.5
Marital status	Single	44	10.4
	Widowed/widower	138	32.7
	Married	43	10.1
	Divorced	197	46.6
Level of education	Illiterate	100	23.69
	Primary (1–8)	168	39.8
	Secondary (9–10)	108	25.5
	Degree	7	1.6
Occupation	Student	21	4.9
	Private business	184	43.6
	Unemployed	145	34.3
	Housewife	57	13.5
	Employee	15	3.5
Residence	Urban	250	59.2
	Rural	172	40.8
Religious	Orthodox	333	78.9
	Catholic	4	0.9
	Protestant	7	1.6
	Muslim	78	18.4
Income	<1000 ETB	160	(38)
	1000–3000 ETB	207	(49)
	>3000 ETB	55	(13)

In this study participants of the age group <30 years old 2.8%, males 22.7%, unmarried 4.3%, attended secondary school 9.2%, housewives 4.3%, protestant 0.7% and monthly income below 1000 ETB, 13.7% had poor practice toward LSM. In this study 172 (41%) had good practice toward LSM, and 250 (59%) had poor practice (Table 8).

**Table 2** Frequency Distribution of Participants' Knowledge Score About Lifestyle Modification About Diabetes at the UOGCSH Northwest Ethiopia (n=422)

Level of knowledge	Frequency	Percent
Knowledgeable	248	59
Poor knowledge	174	41

**Abbreviation:** UOGCSH, University of Gondar Comprehensive Specialized Hospital.

**Table 3** Cross-tabulation of Sociodemographic Variables with Participant's Knowledge Score About Lifestyle Modification About Diabetes at the UOGCSH Northwest Ethiopia, 2019 G.C (n=422)

Variable	Category	Level of Knowledge	
		Poor Knowledge (%)	Good Knowledge (%)
Age in years	<30	9(2.1)	14(3.3)
	>30	165(39.1)	234(55.5)
Sex	Female	81(19.2)	125(29.7)
	Male	93(22)	123(29.1)
Marital status	Married	18(4.3)	25(5.9)
	Unmarried	23(5.5)	21(5)
	Separated	82(19.4)	115(27.3)
	Widow/widower	51(12.1)	87(20.6)
Educational status	No school	48(11.4)	52(12.3)
	Primary	76(18)	92(21.8)
	Secondary	34(8.1)	74(17.5)
	Tertiary	15(3.6)	24(5.7)
	Diploma/degree	1(0.2)	6(1.4)
Occupational status	Student	12(2.1)	9(2.8)
	Private	78(18.5)	106(25.1)
	Unemployed	59(14)	86(20.4)
	Employed	3(0.7)	12(2.8)
	Housewife	22(5.2)	35(8.3)
Residency	Urban	97(23)	153(36.3)
	Rural	77(18.2)	95(22.5)
Religion	Orthodox	138(32.7)	195(46.2)
	Muslim	31(7.3)	47(11.15)
	Protestant	3(0.7)	4(0.9)
	Catholic	2(0.5)	2(0.5)
Monthly income	Below 1000 ETB	75(17.8)	85(20.1)
	1000–3000 ETB	79(18.7)	130(30.8)
	Above 3000 ETB	22(4.7)	33(7.8)

**Abbreviation:** UOGCSH, University of Gondar Comprehensive Specialized Hospital.

**Table 4** Frequency Distribution of Participants' Attitude Score About Lifestyle Modification About Diabetes at the UOGCSH, Northwest Ethiopia, 2019 G.C (n=422)

Level of Attitude	Frequency	Percent
Positive	223	53
Negative	199	47

**Abbreviation:** UOGCSH, University of Gondar Comprehensive Specialized Hospital.

## Discussion

In this finding 248 (59%) were knowledgeable and 174 (41%) were poorly knowledgeable towards lifestyle modification. This result was higher than the studies conducted in South Africa<sup>30</sup> which was 7.8%, and 9.9% in Egypt,<sup>31</sup>

(20.37%) in another study in South Africa.<sup>32</sup> But the result was lower than the study conducted in Adama<sup>21</sup>, which was found to be 77.59%. The possible explanation might be due to the fact that there is a time gap, tool variation, and sociodemographic variations across the countries. The cross-tabulation of this study showed that participants in the age group of >30 years had good knowledge (55.5%) compared to those <30 years of age (3.3%).

The result further revealed that there was no difference between genders- related to knowledge level, females (19.2%) and (29.1%) males (22%) and (29.1%) had a poor and good level of knowledge respectively.

In this study only 5.9% unmarried participants were knowledgeable as compared with their counterpart. The

**Table 5** Frequency Distribution of Participants' Attitude Score About Lifestyle Modification About Diabetes at the UOGCSH, Northwest Ethiopia, 2019 G.C (n=422)

Variable	Category	Level of Attitude	
		Poor Attituden (%)	Good Attituden (%)
Age in years	<30	11(2.6)	12(2.8)
	>30	188(44.5)	211(50)
Sex	Female	109(25.8)	97(23)
	Male	90(21.3)	126(29.9)
Marital status	Married	19(4.5)	24(5.7)
	Unmarried	21(5)	23(5.5)
	Separated	103(24.4)	94(23.3)
	Widow/ widower	56(13.3)	82(19.4)
Educational status	No school	53(12.6)	47(11.1)
	Primary	91(21.1)	77(18.2)
	Secondary	36(8.5)	72(17.1)
	Tertiary	16(3.8)	23(5.5)
	Diploma/degree	3(0.7)	4(0.9)
Occupational status	Student	72(17.1)	73(17.3)
	Private	94(22.3)	90(21.3)
	Unemployed	72(17.1)	73(17.3)
	Employed	5(1.2)	10(2.4)
	Housewife	20(4.7)	37(8.8)
Residency	Urban	106(25.1)	144(34.1)
	Rural	93(22)	79(18.7)
Religion	Orthodox	155(36.7)	178(42.2)
	Muslim	39(9.2)	39(9.2)
	Protestant	2(0.5)	5(1.2)
	Catholic	3(0.7)	1(0.2)
Monthly income	Below 1000 ETB	113(26.8)	96(22.7)
	1000–3000 ETB	61(14.5)	99(23.5)
	Above 3000 ETB	25(5.9)	28(6.6)

**Abbreviation:** UOGCSH, University of Gondar Comprehensive Specialized Hospital.

**Table 6** Frequency Distribution of Participants' Practice Score About Lifestyle Modification Among Diabetes at the UOGCSH, Northwest Ethiopia, 2019 G.C (n=422)

Level of Practice	Frequency	Percent
Good practice	172	41
Poor practice	250	59

**Abbreviation:** UOGCSH, University of Gondar Comprehensive Specialized Hospital.

lowest score might be due to the fact that unmarried participants did not get support from their spouse when they decided to get information or help. Regarding the

**Table 7** Recommended Lifestyle Modification Practices of the Participants Among Diabetes at the UOGCSH, Northwest Ethiopia, 2019 G.C (n=422)

Variables	Category	Frequency	Percentage
Smoking cessation	Yes	396	93.8
	No	26	6.2
Wear safety shoes	Yes	245	58.1
	No	177	41.9
Regular blood checkup	Yes	232	55
	No	190	45
Having glucometer	Yes	186	44
	No	236	56
Cleaning and checking feet every day	Yes	294	69.7
	No	128	30.3

**Abbreviation:** UOGCSH, University of Gondar Comprehensive Specialized Hospital.

educational status of the participants, those who were illiterate were less knowledgeable compared with their counterparts. This indicates that low level of education among participants related to poor knowledge about their illness as well as lifestyle modification since they could not get enough information through reading magazines, leaflets, and other sources of information.

In this study participants with an occupational status of unemployed were more knowledgeable than their counterparts. This might be due to the fact those unemployed had free time to read and get information.

The results further revealed that the majority of urban residents were knowledgeable compared to rural residents (36.3%). It might be that urban residents had more access to information about LSM compared to rural residents. The study also revealed that respondents with a monthly income of 1000–3000 ETB (30.8%) were more knowledgeable than other comparators. This might be due to the fact that those who have money could have access to information in different ways.

This study revealed that the positive attitude towards lifestyle modification was 53%. It was found to be lower than the studies conducted in Adama 81.89%, Botswana 89.4%, Egypt 89.3 %, and South Africa 84.3%, respectively.<sup>21,30,31,33</sup> The possible explanations for the variations in the attitude score about diabetes lifestyle modification might be due to the fact that health service, sociodemographic, and the scoring system variation.

**Table 8** Cross-tabulation Sociodemographic Variables with Participants' Practice Score About Lifestyle Modification Among Diabetics at the UOGCSH, Northwest Ethiopia, 2019 G.C (n=422)

Variable	Category	Level of Practice	
		Poor practice	Good practice
		n (%)	n (%)
Age in years	<30	11(2.6)	12(2.8)
	≥30	161(38.2)	238(56.4)
Sex	Female	96(22.7)	110(26.1)
	Male	76(18)	140(33.2)
Marital status	Married	21(5)	22(5.2)
	Unmarried	18(4.3)	261(6.2)
	Separated	81(19.2)	116(27.5)
	Widow/widower	52(12.3)	86(20.4)
Education	No school	43(10.2)	57(13.5)
	Primary	73(17.3)	95(22.5)
	Secondary	39(9.2)	69(16.4)
	Tertiary	15(3.6)	24(5.7)
	Diploma/degree	2(0.5)	5(1.2)
Occupation	Student	11(2.6)	10(2.4)
	Private	83(19.7)	101(23.9)
	Unemployed	54(12.8)	91(21.6)
	Employed	6(1.4)	9(2.1)
	Housewife	18(4.3)	39(9.2)
Residency	Urban	96(22.4)	154(36.5)
	Rural	76(18)	96(22.7)
Religion	Orthodox	128(30.3)	205(48.6)
	Muslim	39(9.2)	39(9.2)
	Protestant	3(0.7)	4(0.9)
	Catholic	2(0.5)	2(0.5)
Monthly income	Below 1000 ETB	58(13.7)	102(24.2)
	1000–3000 ETB	87(20.6)	122(28.9)
	≥3000 ETB	27(6.4)	26(6.2)

**Abbreviation:** UOGCSH, University of Gondar Comprehensive Specialized Hospital.

The cross-tabulation showed that the majority of participants in the age group of ≥30 years had a good attitude (50%) compared to <30 years of age (2.8%).

The result further revealed that male respondents had a more positive attitude (29.9%) than females. The possible explanation might be males had more information than females through being an outsider and having more contact with the social environment.

Being married was a more positive attitude than their counterparts. It might be they were more likely to get support from their spouse. This study revealed that participants without formal education had a less positive

attitude (11.1%) towards lifestyle modification compared to those having a formal education.

In this study the participants with the occupational status of being employed (10%) had a more positive attitude than their comparators. The results further revealed that the majority of urban residents had a more positive attitude as compared to rural residents (34.1%). It might be that urban residents had more access to information about LSM compared to rural residents.

The results of this study with a monthly income below 1000 ETB (14.5%) and (23.5%) 1000–3000 ETB (26.8%) and (22.2%) above 3000 ETB (5.9%) and (6.6%) had a poor and good attitude on their LSM respectively. In this study, the good practice score toward lifestyle modification was found to be 41%. The result was higher than the study conducted in Egypt<sup>31</sup> (15.3%), but lower than the study in Adama<sup>21</sup> (49.1%) toward lifestyle modification.

The results of this study showed that the majority of participants in the age group of ≥30 years had poor practice (56.4%) compared to the age group of <30 years (2.8%). The results further revealed that males (33.2%) had a good level of practice on their LSM.

In this study participants with a diploma/degree (0.5%) and (1.2%) had a good practice on their LSM. This reflects that degree/diploma holders were at a good practice level so education was directly related to good practice of LSM.

In this study, participants with the occupational status of unemployed (21.6%) had a good practice on their LSM.

The result of further revealed that the majority of urban residents (36.5%) had relatively a good practice compared to rural residents. It might be urban residents had more access to information about LSM compared to rural residents.

The results of this study show that those with a monthly income below 1000 ETB (13.7%) and (24.2%) 1000–3000 ETB (20.6%) and (28.9%) above 3000 ETB (6.4%) and (6.2%) had a poor and good practice on their LSM, respectively.

The finding of this study was not that satisfactory since there exists much to do to enhance the knowledge, attitude, and practice of diabetes patients.

## Conclusions

The finding of the study showed that knowledge and attitude towards lifestyle modification of chronic DM patients attending OPD were generally good. However, the result of practice on lifestyle modification was not good enough.

## Recommendations

Lifestyle modification has a great role in the prevention and control of blood glucose raised. But, there has to be much to be done on this regard since its prevalence is increasing rapidly in worldwide especially in under-developing nations on the top of changed lifestyle, the deficit in the knowledge, attitude, and practice towards lifestyle modification. On the basis of the study findings, the following recommendations were forwarded Health education about diabetes and types of lifestyle modification has to be strengthened. Better to create awareness to the community through health education about the importance of physical exercise, weight loss, feet care, cessation of smoking, healthy dietary habit) to general society ought to be implemented by the responsible body.

## Abbreviations

ADA, American Diabetic Association; DM, diabetes mellitus; DSME, diabetes self-management education; UOGCSH, University of Gondar Comprehensive Specialized Hospital; IDF, International Diabetic Federation; LSM, lifestyle modification; NCDS, noncommunicable disease; SPSS, Statical Package for Social Sciences; WHO, World Health Organization.

## Consent to Publish

This is not applicable.

## Data and Material Availability

The data could not be given in order to protect participants' confidentiality by far for this study. However, the whole summary data is available in the mother document.

## The Ethical Approval and Consent of Participating

The study has been performed following the ethical standards laid down in the 1964 Declaration of Helsinki. The approval of the study was done by the University of Gondar, College of Medicine and Health Sciences, School of Nursing Research and Ethical Review Committee so as to precede it. The letter of permission and support was gained from the clinical director of the hospital. All the participants of the study were well informed about the overall rationales of the study. They gave written informed consent to secure their confidentiality.

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## Author Contributions

All the authors made substantial contributions to conception and design, acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data; took part in drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content; gave final approval of the version to be published; and agree to be accountable for all aspects of the work.

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## Disclosure

All the authors had declared that we have no competing interest concerning this manuscript.

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