



Knowledge regarding Occupational Health Hazards and its safety measures among Nursing Officers working at Shija Hospitals & Research Institutes with a view to develop the information guide sheet

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Abstract

Occupational health hazard is any workplace condition that causes a risk to employee health. Occupational health and safety (OHS) focuses primarily on protecting employees in the workplace from accidents, injuries and exposure to harmful substances. While accidents can happen at any time, it is still the employer's responsibility to ensure that they take steps to reduce the risk of incidents and maintain a safe working environment. Non experimental descriptive design was considered as an appropriate one to conduct the study in Shija Hospitals and Research institute, Langol among 40 nursing officers and Convenience sampling technique was used for the selection of nursing officers. The study further reported the distribution of nursing officers according to Level of Knowledge depicts that about 25(62.5%) of the staffs had inadequate knowledge on occupational health hazards and about 15 (37.5%) of the patient had moderately adequate knowledge on occupational health hazards and its safety measures and none of the patient had the adequate knowledge on occupational health hazards and its safety measures.

Key words: Occupational health hazards, Nursing Officers, OHS, HCW.

Introduction

Occupational health hazards are recognized as global problems for health care workers and especially among the nurses as they are often the first health care providers. It is increasing day by day due to change in science and technology and is quiet high in developing countries. Some potential hazards include physical hazards, biological hazards, chemicals hazards, psychosocial hazards etc.¹ Most common part of the body to be affected is the lower back pain with the prevalence rate of 29-64%, neck with the prevalence rate of 34%-54% and shoulders with the prevalence rate of 35-60%. Female staffs are more at risk when compared to male staff.² The most important aspect of a good occupational health and safety policy is identifying these hazards and ensuring that employees have the training, safety equipment, and other resources needed to work safely.³

Objectives of the study:

- To assess the knowledge of Nursing Officers on occupational health hazards and its safety measures.
- To associate the selected demographic variables with knowledge on occupational health hazards and its safety measures
- To develop information guide sheets on occupational health hazards and its safety measures.

Material and methods

The study adopted non-experimental descriptive design. Sample size was 40 nursing officers working at Shija Hospitals and research institute. The study was conducted in the Shija Hospitals. This setting was chosen based on investigator's feasibility, in terms of availability and accessibility of the nursing officers. The convenience sampling technique was used for the collection of data.⁴ The data collection was done by using structured knowledge questionnaires on occupational health hazards and its safety measures. Collected data was analysed by using descriptive and inferential statistics.⁵

Results

The finding of the study reported the knowledge score on occupational health hazards and its safety measures. In the general Knowledge about the occupational health hazards, the knowledge mean score was 3.18, SD was 1.534 and mean percent was 28.9. Where as in aspect of safety measures, the knowledge mean score was found to be 5.85, SD of 1.528 and mean percent was found to be 30.8.

The study further reported the distribution of nursing officers according to Level of Knowledge depicts that about 25(62.5%) of the staffs had inadequate knowledge on occupational health hazards and about 15 (37.5%) of the patient had moderately adequate knowledge on occupational health hazards and its safety measures and none of the patient had the adequate knowledge on occupational health hazards and its safety measures.

The overall knowledge mean score on occupational health hazards and its safety measures was 9.02, SD of 1.310 and mean percentage was 30.06.

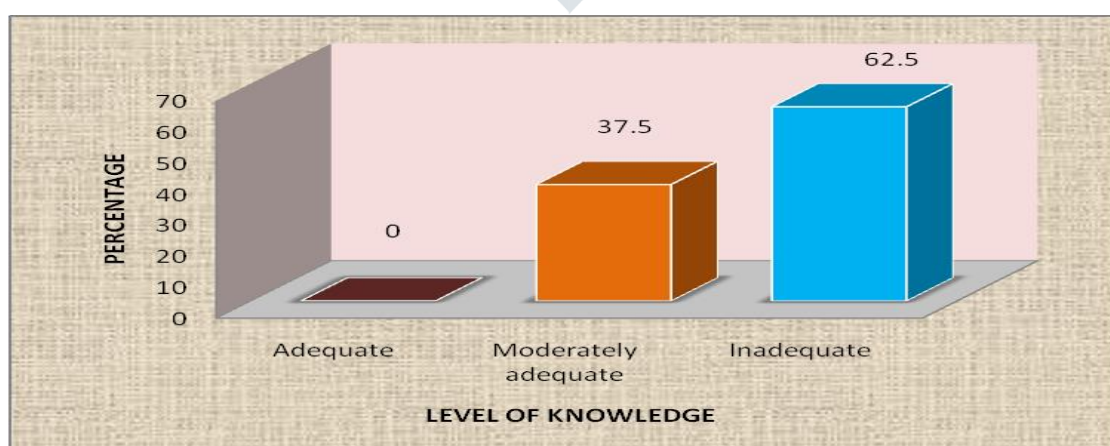


Figure 1: Distribution of Nursing Officers according to level of knowledge.

Discussion

In study represents the demographic wise assessment of knowledge scores in the aspects of age the significant t test value and p value was found to be ($P=0.422$, $t=0.961$), gender ($P=0.722$, $F=0.358$), religion ($P=0.511$, $F=0.685$), educational status ($P=0.070$, $F=2.858$), working unit ($P=0.468$, $F=0.775$), present health status ($P=0.538$, $t=0.622$), presence of unhealthy behavior ($P=0.911$, $F=0.177$), previous source of information ($P=0.417$, $F=0.895$), area of living ($P=0.809$, $F=0.213$) and monthly family income ($P=0.116$, $F=2.111$). The above demographic variables found to be non-significance.

The association between the level of Knowledge and their Demographic Variables and Chi- Square value computed for the age, gender, religion, educational status, working unit, present health status, history of unhealthy behaviour, previous source of information, area of living and monthly family income with the level of knowledge is statistically not significant which indicates that there is no association between the knowledge score and the demographic variables in relation to the knowledge.

Conclusion

The health of nurses is a prime concern for any organization as they are the direct caregivers to the patient and their emotional and physical stability is needed for effective patient care for maintaining their standards in relation to patient safety.⁶ In any health care organisation, back injury and back pain are the most important concerns for nursing staff. It affects negativity on the quality of life and affects the productivity of the organization⁷. Among all occupations, nursing was ranked highest for musculoskeletal disorders ranging from 40-80% among all populations.⁸ The purpose of writing this paper is to reinforce the nursing personnel regarding the knowledge of occupational health hazards and its safety measures.⁹

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