



Knowledge, Attitude and Practice of House Keeping Staff Regarding Biomedical Waste Management

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ABSTRACT

Medical care is vital for our life and health, but the waste generated from medical activities represents a real problem of living nature and human world. In order to make its disposal and treatment successful, it is vital that the various healthcare professionals working at the hospitals have correct knowledge, attitudes and practices regarding biomedical waste management(1). Objective: The present study was aimed to assess the knowledge, attitude and practice of housekeeping staff regarding biomedical waste management Methodology: The research design adopted for the present study was Descriptive research Design. The study was conducted among sixty six subjects of selected hospital. Informed consent was obtained from study participants and the data were collected by self report method using socio personal proforma, semi structured questionnaire Result: The findings shows more than half of the subject had good knowledge, positive attitude, healthy practices towards biomedical waste management and significant correlation was found between knowledge, attitude and practices. Summary: On the whole, the knowledge, attitudes and practices among the participants was fair.

KEYWORDS : Knowledge, Attitude, Practice, biomedical waste management

Introduction

The waste produced in the course of healthcare activities carries a higher potential for infection and injury than any other type of waste⁽¹⁾. Inadequate and inappropriate knowledge of handling of healthcare waste may have serious health consequences and a significant impact on the environment as well. It is estimated that annually about 0.33 million tonnes of hospital waste is generated in India and, the waste generation rate ranges from 0.5 to 2.0 kg per bed per day. Wherever, generated, a safe and reliable method for handling of biomedical waste is essential. Effective management of biomedical waste is not only a legal necessity but also a social

responsibility⁽²⁾. Although, there is an increased global awareness among health professionals about the hazards and also appropriate management techniques but the level of awareness in India is found to be unsatisfactory⁽²⁾. Adequate knowledge about the health hazard of hospital waste, proper technique and methods of handling the waste, and practice of safety measures can go a long way in protecting the community from various adverse effects of the hazardous waste⁽³⁾.

Statement of the problem

A descriptive study on Knowledge, Attitude and Practice of housekeeping staff in a selected hospital at Trivandrum

Objectives

1. To assess the knowledge of housekeeping staff regarding biomedical waste management
2. To assess the attitude of housekeeping staff regarding biomedical waste management.
3. To assess the practice of housekeeping staff regarding biomedical waste management
4. To determine the correlation between knowledge and practice of housekeeping staff regarding biomedical waste management
5. To determine the correlation between attitude and practice of housekeeping staff regarding biomedical waste management

Materials and methods

In this study researcher adopted a Quantitative research approach using descriptive design. The setting of the study was Sree Gokulam Medical College and Research Foundation. The population of the study was all housekeeping staff working in Sree Gokulam medical college and research foundation who satisfied the inclusion criteria. Sample size of 66 were selected using convenient sampling.

Tools & Technique

Socio personal proforma, Semi structured knowledge questionnaire, Likert scale & Semi

structured practice questionnaire

Technique - Self reporting

Data collection procedure

Formal permission was obtained from institutional ethical committee of the selected hospital. Data were collected over a period of 3 days from 8-6-2015 to 10-6-2015. The samples were selected based on sampling criteria and informed consent was obtained from study participants individually after explaining the objectives and purpose of the study. After obtaining permission from subjects socio personal proforma, structured knowledge, practice questionnaire and likert scale were administered and data were collected. The questionnaire were collected back by the investigator after being filled within 15 minutes.

Results

Majority of the subjects majority of the subjects (60.6 %) were in the age group of 31 -40 years. Majority (87.9%) of them were Hindus and about 36.4% of subjects were with less than one year experience .90.9% of the subject had attended training programme.

More than half of the subjects (54.5%) were found to have good knowledge and 45.5% of them have average knowledge regarding biomedical waste management. About 89.4% of them have positive attitude and 10.1% of them have negative attitude towards biomedical waste management. About 65.5% of housekeeping staff were following healthy practice and remaining 34.8% were following unhealthy practices.

There was a significant association between knowledge and practices & attitude and practices with the correlation coefficient of 0.266 at 0.05 levels and 0.415 at 0.01 levels respectively. The study revealed that those who had good knowledge and attitude also have good level of practices, thus are able to manage the waste in proper manner.

Discussion

In the present study, 54.5% of housekeeping staff were reported to have good knowledge and 45.5% have average knowledge regarding biomedical waste management. This finding is par with details from a study conducted by Saini S (2005) which showed that 78% of having

very good knowledge and 22% having average knowledge regarding biomedical waste management(4).

In the present study 89.4% of housekeeping staff were reported to have positive attitude and 67% of them were practicing healthy practices of Biomedical waste management. The findings are consistent with the findings reported by Pallavi V(2012) which stated that 81% of the healthcare professionals had positive attitude and 70% of them followed healthy waste disposal⁽⁵⁾

Conclusion

This study revealed that though overall knowledge of study participants was good but still they need of need good quality training to improve their current knowledge about BMW. For this there is a need for intensive training programme at regular time intervals to repeatedly train and retrain all the staff, which may include question raising and problem solving approach. There should be time to time informative session about newer way of scientific, safe and cost effective management of the waste and to sensitize them to the needs of BMW management in the hospital.

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