



KNOWLEDGE ON PRIMARY AND SECONDARY PREVENTION OF LEPTOSPIROSIS AMONG NURSING OFFICERS IN GH HAMBANTOTA

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In Sri Lanka nearly 3000-4000 cases of Leptospirosis are reported each year and the annual death toll is over 100. Knowledge among Nursing Officers (NO's) on preventive measures plays an important role in decreasing death toll. This was conducted to describe knowledge regarding primary and secondary prevention of Leptospirosis and factors associated among NO's in General Hospital Hambantota. A descriptive cross sectional study was done involving all NO's, work in GH Hambantota. A pretested structured self-administered questionnaire was used. Variables were selected by reviewing text books, curricula of basic training of NO's and obtaining expert comments. List of all NO's was obtained and was used as the sampling frame. Research assistants visited each ward during shift breaks and administered the questionnaires. Knowledge score was developed by allocating two marks for correct answer while no marks were given for incorrect and 'don't know' responses. Twelve was considered as the average level. Then it was compared with selected socio demographic and professional characteristics by applying t test. Certain categories were dichotomized for the convenience of analysis. Ethical approval was obtained from Ethics Review Committee, Ragama. Total number of 231 questionnaires were taken for analysis with non-response rate of 8.7%. Majority (90.5 %) was females and mean age was 33.66 (SD 4.86) years. Study population had a mean work experience of 8.74 (SD 4.84) years and most of them passed out from NTS Galle (39.0 %). Mean knowledge score was 13.28 (SD 2.5). Males ($t = 4.071$, $p < 0.001$), those who were less than 35 years ($t = 7.294$, $p < 0.001$) and who had work experience of less than 10 years ($t = 3.052$, $p = 0.003$) had shown significantly higher level of knowledge. Overall knowledge was at average level. Training program focusing deficient areas of knowledge is warranted for the nursing staff. More attention should be paid on female nurses and those who are above 35 years.

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