



---

## **KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDES ON MEDICAL LABORATORY ACCREDITATION AMONG THE MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGISTS IN GALLE**

Amarasingha A.A.D.S\* and Bandara W.V.R.T.D.G.

Department of Medical Laboratory Science, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka

dinusha.s.amarasingha@gmail.com

### **Abstract**

Accreditation is a process, in which trained external peer reviewers evaluate the compliance of a healthcare organization with pre-established performance standards. The general objective of this study was to determine the knowledge and attitudes on quality laboratory essentials and accreditation among Medical Laboratory Technologists (MLTs) in both government and private sector laboratories in Galle. Sample size was calculated and purposive sampling technique was adopted to recruit participants. A descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted using self-administered, pre-tested questionnaires with the participation of 52 MLTs from main government hospitals and leading private sector laboratories in Galle. The results were analyzed using SPSS software version 21. Among study participants, 59.6% were females, 86.5% of the participants worked in government hospitals and 13.5% in private sector laboratories. Study participants were categorized based on their knowledge score as follows: less than 50% - poor knowledge, between 50%-75% - average knowledge, between 75%-90% - good knowledge and more than 90% - excellent knowledge. The mean (SD) knowledge score among participants was 40.33% ( $\pm 29.35$ ). The knowledge score was significantly higher in graduates ( $57.05 \pm 25.15$ ) compared to diploma holders ( $25.72 \pm 23.31$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ). MLTs with less than ten years of experience had a significantly higher knowledge score ( $50.70 \pm 27.8$ ) compared to MLTs with more than ten years of experience ( $26.18 \pm 25.71$ ,  $p = 0.002$ ). MLTs' attitudes on medical laboratory accreditation were satisfactory. Among the study participants, 82.69% ( $n = 43$ ) believed that medical laboratories should be accredited. However, 42.31% ( $n = 22$ ) believed that accreditation increases workload, 48.0% ( $n = 25$ ) believed that accreditation will cause financial problems, and 50% ( $n = 26$ ) believed that accreditation will increase paper work. The study was conducted in and around Galle and we assume that knowledge scores could be poorer in MLTs who work at rural laboratories since they have less opportunities for continuous education compared to the urban set up. This study concluded that overall knowledge of MLTs on medical laboratory accreditation is not satisfactory. The overall attitudes of MLTs on accreditation are satisfactory. The value of educational and training programs on medical laboratory accreditation and evaluation of their effectiveness is emphasized.

**Keywords:** Accreditation, Attitude, ISO 15189, Knowledge, Medical Laboratory Technologists