

A STUDY ON AWARENESS AND REPORTED PRACTICE OF BIOMEDICAL WASTE MANAGEMENT AMONG GRADE-2 ATTENDERS AND NURSING ASSISTANTS OF MEDICAL COLLEGE HOSPITAL, TRIVANDRUM 2004

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Abstract

Collection and disposal of all wastes is a major problem mankind faces today of which hospital wastes heralds the list. Grade 2 attenders and nursing assistants, the grass root level of the health care system in a tertiary hospital is the least skilled and trained workers in the system. Therefore it is necessary to evaluate awareness and practice of biomedical waste management amongst this group in order to assess the efficiency of the system. Also they are exposed to a large amount of potentially hazardous health care waste. Hence, it is mandatory that they adopt some protective measures or observe universal precautions.

A study on awareness and reported practice of biomedical waste management among grade 2 attenders and nursing assistants was conducted in Medical College Hospital, Trivandrum during the month of November 2007 using a pretested questionnaire. The data collected included personal details, awareness about infectivity; segregation, transport and disposal of biomedical waste and practice of the same were also evaluated.

As per our analysis, we inferred that attenders and nursing assistants do not show much variation either in their awareness or practice. Though their level of knowledge seems inadequate, their performance seems considerably above average. 44% of the total workers have attended awareness class earlier. Also parameters such as educational status and period of service are found to have no influence on the efficiency of their practice.

Though 97% of the study population is aware of the implementation of biomedical waste management & 88% is aware of its segregation only 72% of the study population is aware of the correct segregation through colour coding. It was also observed that the study population is well aware of the practice of universal precautions. While 100% of the study population practice handwashing following handling of waste & 99% use barrier methods (gloves, mask, etc), 95% was found to adopt precautions following a prick during handling of waste.