

Conclusion: Knowledge on postpartum contraception in general was inadequate. The attitudes and practices on postpartum contraception were affected by their religion. Short acting contraceptives were popular and it was the most common method of contraception. The major information provider was public health midwife.

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Knowledge and practices regarding preventive measures of dengue fever among hospitalized patients in Infectious Disease Hospital, Sri Lanka

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Objectives: The current study was conducted to identify the level of knowledge and practices regarding preventive measures of dengue fever among hospitalized patients in Infectious Disease Hospital, Sri Lanka.

Methods: A cross-sectional study was conducted among simple random sampled three hundred and six (306) hospitalized patients using a pre-tested and structured interviewer-administered questionnaire.

Results: Fifty two percent (52%) of the participants were having dengue fever. They had high and moderate (46%) level of knowledge on dengue fever and its preventive measures (mean=11.03, SD=1.767). The majority (88%) had a poor level of practice in prevention (mean= 10.05, SD= 2.718). Television and radio were the predominant sources of information. Ninety eight percent (98%) of the participants identified the signs and symptoms correctly. Eliminating standing water collection sites was the most prevalent (96%) practice. There was significant positive association between the level of knowledge and preventive practices ($p=0.030$).

Conclusions: The good knowledge about dengue fever among patients, did not translate to adoption of preventive measures. It indicates the value of education programmes as a tool in dengue prevention. Future campaigns should focus on educating individuals to adopt simple, inexpensive preventive methods. Education programmes need to be reviewed and maximize the opportunity to health care team in promoting better preventive behaviors.

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Knowledge, attitudes, practices and its associated factors of biomedical waste management among nurses in a teaching hospital, Sri Lanka

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Objective: This study was undertaken to assess the knowledge, attitudes, practices and its associated factors regarding Bio Medical Waste (BMW) management among nurses in a teaching hospital, Sri Lanka.

Methods: A descriptive cross-sectional design was used and data were collected by using pre-tested, self-administered questionnaire among purposively selected 201 nurses. The data were analyzed for descriptive statistics. Ethics approval was obtained from the Ethics committee of the FMS, USJ.

Results: The majority of the participants (85.6%) were female. More than half of the participants had participated in BMW management workshops during their working period. The level of knowledge regarding BMW management categories in 04 groups: <10-Poor knowledge, 10-Good knowledge, 15-Average knowledge and 20-Very good knowledge. Nearly half of the participants (55.2%) had good level of knowledge regarding BMW management. Most of them had positive attitudes towards BMW management. Seventy percent of the participants had excellent practices regarding BMW management. Participants who had more than ten years of working experience (41.7%) had very good level of knowledge regarding BMW management and there was a significant association between working experience and their knowledge level ($p=.034$).