

A STUDY ON AWARENESS ON WORK SAFETY MEASURES AMONG HOUSEKEEPING EMPLOYEES, IN ONE OF THE MULTISPECIALITY HOSPITALS IN COIMBATORE

Ms. U. Suji¹, S. Srimathi²

¹Assistant Professor, Department of Hospital Administration, Dr.N.G.P. Arts and Science College

²Student, Department of Hospital Administration, Dr.N.G.P. Arts and Science College

ABSTRACT

The study aims to evaluate the awareness on work safety measures among housekeeping employees. A descriptive study was done to gauge housekeeping employee' knowledge of work safety. To take part in this study, 100 housekeeping employee were chosen using a Simple random sampling method. Questionnaires were utilized as the data collection instrument to gauge housekeeping employee' level of awareness .The expected outcome of this paper is the improvement in already existing policy and framing of new policies and increasing the rate of awareness through different modes. The findings are also expected to pave the way for future research work.

Keywords: work safety, Awareness, knowledge, housekeeping employee.

1.INTRODUCTION:

Hospital waste management refers to the control of disease transmission through the management of trash generated by hospitals.

Because of the delivery of patient care services, hospitals are the location where infectious and non-infectious healthcare waste is produced.

Hospitals have been described as hazardous work environments with an increase in job-related injuries. This situation creates great risks and hazards for housekeepers while carrying out their job. Medical waste management (MWM) is of concern to the medical and general communities. Adequate knowledge regarding the management of healthcare waste is an important precursor to the synthesis of appropriate attitudes and practices for the proper handling and disposal of medical waste by healthcare workers (HCWs).

Every day, hospital housekeeping employee work in an atmosphere that could be hazardous, learning how to be safe will help them avoid potential risks.

Each individual should take safety seriously and take steps to reduce risk.

By being aware of safety procedures, employees can avoid accidents and illnesses, and patients at the hospital can benefit from better health.

To foster the best atmosphere for everyone, managerial staff, especially head housekeepers, must emphasize the value of safety to each employee.

The housekeeping employee should be aware of handling all the chemicals they are exposed to. This involves being aware of where to find and how to use Material Safety Data Sheets, or MSDS, which are educational materials produced by the manufacturer or importer of each chemical product. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), which mandates the existence of an MSDS for any potentially hazardous chemicals present in the institution, claims that these are significant source of information about the safe handling of chemicals used in hospitals. Cleaning staff must be aware of where everything is kept and must always put chemical containers back where they belong to. Additionally, they need to be aware of potentially dangerous interactions between compounds, such as those involving oxygen and other volatile gases, and they need to report in case of any problems right away.

Housekeepers must constantly adhere to hospital policies for adequate containment and removal of potentially hazardous waste instead of just pouring chemicals down the drain. Cleaning rags, papers, and other items must be stored safely and disposed of properly; they cannot be left in closets or other vacant areas of the hospital since they could represent a major fire risk.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration's requirements for employee safety must be followed by every hospital. According to OSHA regulations, hospital housekeepers must receive training in safety procedures such as how to alert other employees to potential dangers, infection control, fire safety, and electrical safety. The knowledge gained from this training enables employees to take the proper safety precautions and respond appropriately in the event of an unsafe circumstance. Workers should receive any appropriate training and updates.

The main objectives of the study are

- To study the housekeeping work safety measures.
- To assess the knowledge and practice regarding hospital housekeeping procedures among housekeeping employee.
- To create awareness about work safety measures.

II.REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

According Nirmala Devi N, et al (2014), The study is to determine the level of knowledge of needle stick injury (NSI) among the various staff groups based on designation, department, and unit, and to make recommendations for controlling infections brought on by NSI. 185 people were selected as the sample size from various departments using stratified simple random approach. The basic data used in this study was gathered through the creation of a questionnaire. Percentage analysis was used as the method for the analysis. It was discovered that 73% of the workers knew about NSI, 24% didn't, and 3% didn't respond to the questions. Ward boys, male nurse assistants, and cleaning staffs, respectively, were oblivious of NSI to a degree of 25% and 37%.

According Priscilla Santos Ferreira Ream, et al (2016),

This study was conducted to identify risk variables, the profile and incidence of accidents among hospital housekeepers, and to describe behavior before and after accidents. This study, which included hospital housekeepers in Goiania, Brazil, was cross-sectional. Interviews and vaccination records provided the data. Upon evaluation, the frequency of accidents was influenced by the duration of service being less than five years, having received a hepatitis B vaccination, and having been tested for anti-HBs (hepatitis B surface antigen). These findings imply that incorrect garbage disposal may increase the risk to hospitals.

According to Mausumi, et al (2021), This study was to assess the knowledge, attitudes, and practice of the housekeeping staff at a tertiary care hospital in Kolkata about hand hygiene. The single most crucial step in infection prevention is good hand cleanliness. The cleaning staffs, who do not provide direct patient care but frequently interact with the patient's environment, frequently fail to recognize this. Increased nosocomial infection transmission could result from this.

According to shiraz iran, et al (2012), One of the main risk factors for blood-borne infections (BBPs) in healthcare institutions is injuries from needles, sticks, and sharp objects (NSSIs). The prevalence of NSSIs among housekeeping staff handling and discarding biomedical waste (BMW) at public and private hospitals is examined in this study.

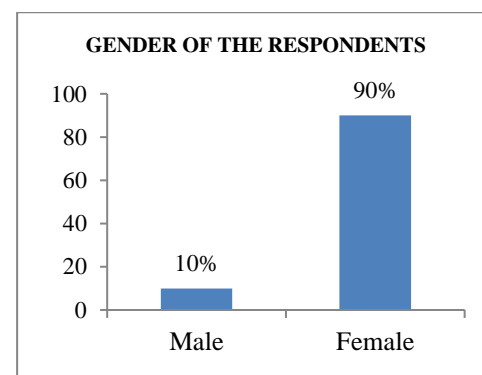
III.METHODOLOGY

This is a descriptive research that aims on the housekeeping employee of the selected hospital and their awareness on work safety. The simple random sampling is used in order to collect data. About 200

housekeeping employee were present in the hospital and by considering the Morgan's table with 95% confidence and 5% error, 100 data was collected. For this purpose, a questionnaire has been designed. Accordingly the survey tool is a structured questionnaire divided into two parts the first part includes the demographic questions such as Age, gender, working experience, designation and the second part is composed of 16 questions that tests housekeeping employee work safety awareness.

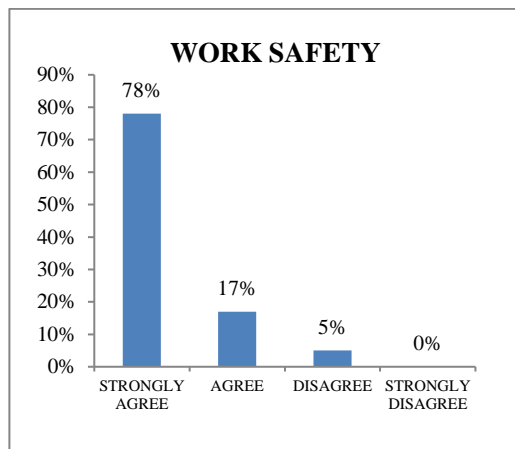
IV.ANALYSIS

Chart I- Chart showing respondents gender



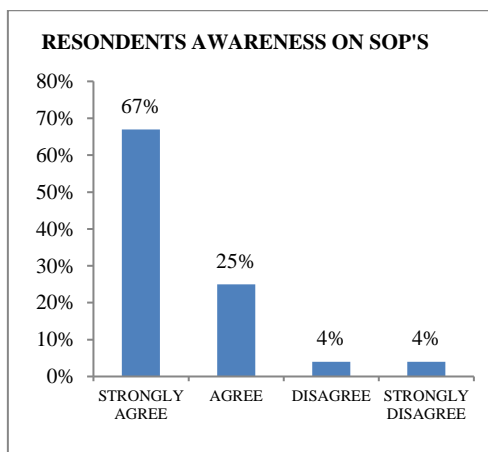
The above chart shows that 10% of the respondents are male and 90% of the respondents are female.

Chart II- Chart showing the respondent's opinion on "The work you perform is safe"



The above chart shows that 78% of the respondents strongly agree that their work is safe, 17% of the respondents agree that their work is safe and 5% of the respondents disagree that their work is safe and 0% of the respondents strongly disagree that their work is safe.

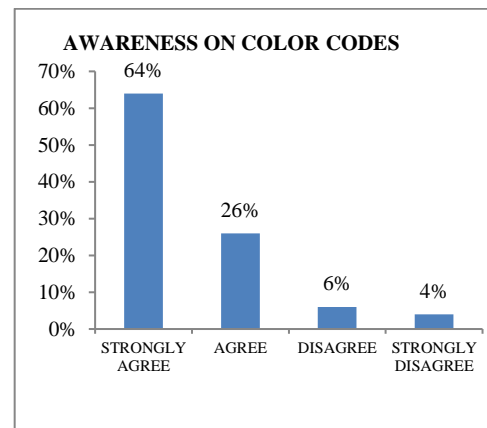
Chart III- Chart showing respondents awareness on "Do you follow SOP'S after a needle stick injury"



The above chart shows that 67% of the employee strongly agree that they are aware of following SOP's

after a needle stick injury, 25% of the employee agree, 4% of the employee disagree and 4% of the employee strongly disagree.

Chart IV- Chart showing the respondents opinion on "Awareness on color codes for waste disposal"



The chart shows that 64% of the employee strongly agree that they are aware of color codes for disposal of waste, 26% of the employee agree, 6% of the employee disagree and 4% of the employee strongly disagree.

MAJOR FINDINGS

- Majority, 90% of the respondents were female and 10% of the respondents were male.
- About 78% of the employee strongly agree that their work is safe and only 5% of the employee disagree
- About 67% of the employee strongly agree that they are aware of following SOP's after needle stick injury and 5% of the employee strongly disagree
- About 64% of the employee strongly agree that they are aware of color codes for waste disposal, 26% of the employee agree, 6% of the employee disagree and 4% of the employee strongly disagree.

SUGGESTIONS

- Providing protective equipment to improve safety of employee during work.
- Provide training classes regarding sanitization and housekeeping procedures.
- Creating awareness about importance of wearing PPE's (Personal Protective Equipment) while working.
- Conducting classes regarding fire safety and emergency situation handling techniques for housekeeping employee.
- The organization can create awareness and importance of color codes for disposal of waste
- Provide training classes regarding the importance of following SOP's (Standard Operating Procedure) after a needle stick injury.
- Employee must be vaccinated in correct period of time to avoid infections and diseases.
- Conducting safety classes regarding work safety to avoid work place injuries among housekeeping employee.

CONCLUSION

Health boards and hospital trusts must develop plans to enhance the working environment of healthcare professionals, discourage the over use of injections, and strengthen their adherence to general precautions if they are to effectively prevent these accidents. Despite the necessity for frequent lessons in fire safety preparedness, the majority of healthcare professionals have a good level of understanding in this area. They should have provision for fire safety tools like smoke detectors and fire alarms and spread awareness once those tools are available.

REFERENCE

1. Panakkal, et al (2021), Knowledge of Magnetic Resonance Safety Measures among Nursing and Housekeeping Staff in a Tertiary Care Hospital. Turkish Online Journal of Qualitative Inquiry. 2021, Vol. 12 Issue 9, p4556-4561. 6p.
2. Rekha, et al (2021), Effectiveness of Video Assisted Teaching [VAT] in Terms of Knowledge and Self-expressed Stigma Regarding COVID-19 and its Preventive Measures among Housekeeping Staff (2021), Journal of Pharmaceutical Research International, 33 (60B). pp. 854-864. ISSN 2456-9119.
3. Sunilkumar Suryavanshi, et al (2020), Knowledge, attitude, and practices towards COVID-19 among nurses, ward attendants, and housekeeping staff at a tertiary psychiatric institute in India. International Journal of Community Medicine and Public Health (2020) Dec;7(12):50355043. <https://dx.doi.org/10.18203/2394-6040.ijcmph20205181>.
4. Vidya G. Doddawad, et al (2018), Assessment of Knowledge, Attitude and Practices Among Health Care Professionals in a Tertiary Care Teaching hospital Biomed Pharmacol Journal 2018. <https://dx.doi.org/10.13005/bpj/1543>
5. Romy Biswas, et al (2016), Awareness and practice of biomedical waste management among healthcare providers International Journal of Medicine and Public Health, 2016, 6, 1, 19-25 Published: Jan 2016 DOI: 10.4103/2230-8598.179755

6. Priscilla Santos Ferreira Ream, et al (2016),
Biological risk among hospital housekeepers in
Journal: Archives of Environmental &
Occupational Health 2016, Doi :
<https://doi.org/10.1080/19338244.2014.927347>
7. Priscilla Santos Ferreira Ream, et al (2016),
Hospital housekeepers: Victims of ineffective
hospital waste management volume 71, 2016 –
Issue5.<https://doi.org/10.1080/19338244.2015.1089827>
8. Nirmala Devi N, et al (2014), awareness on
needle stick injury (NSI) with regard to infection
control measures among the paramedical and
Housekeeping staffs Asian Journal of
management research 4.3 Volume 4 Issue 3, 2014
9. Fabiana Cristina Pimenta, et al (2011),
Staphylococcus aureus detection in the mouth of
housekeepers2011,Doi:<https://doi.org/10.1590/S0104-11692011000100013>.
10. M. Shawki, et al (2011), Needlestick injuries
among health care workers EMHJ - Eastern
Mediterranean Health Journal, 17 (1), 26-35,
2011 17_1_2011_0026_0035.pdf (252.0Kb).