

Research article

Assessment of effect of awareness program regarding biomedical waste management

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Abstract

Aim The aim of study was to assess the effect of awareness program on knowledge and practice regarding bio - medical waste management. **Methodology** Quantitative research approach with pre- experimental design was used to assess the knowledge and practice of 50 staff nurses at SKIMS Soura Srinagar Kashmir. Data was collected by using knowledge questionnaire and checklist. **Results** The study revealed that the mean pre interventional knowledge and practice score were 24.50 and 13.96 respectively and the mean post interventional knowledge and practice score were 44.04 and 15.80 respectively. The mean difference between pre and post interventional knowledge and practice score was 19.54 and 1.34 respectively with a p value of (<0.001). **Conclusion** The findings of the study revealed that awareness program was effective in improving the knowledge and practice scores of study subjects.

Key Words: Awareness Program; Knowledge; practice; Bio medical waste management.

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1. Introduction

The Bio-Medical Waste (BMW) is any waste generated during diagnosis, treatment or immunization, of human beings or animals or in research activity. As per the recent Bio medical waste Management and handling Rules, 2016 these rules apply to all persons who generate, collect, receive, store, transport, treat, dispose or handle bio medical waste in any form including hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, dispensaries, veterinary institutions, animal houses, pathological laboratories, blood banks, Ayush hospitals, clinical establishments, research or educational institutions, health camps, medical or surgical camps, vaccination camps, blood donation camps, first aid rooms of schools, forensic laboratories and research laboratories by whatever name they are called. [1].

The waste generated during entire course of healthcare activities is special in terms of its composition, quantity and their potential hazardous effect as compared to waste of other places, which require special attentiveness for its management [2]. Data from Government of India site indicates that total biomedical waste generated in India is 484 Tons Per Day (TPD) from 1,68,869 health care facilities [1].

According to World health Organization, Of total amount waste generated in health care activities only 15% is hazardous while as 85% is considered as general non hazardous waste. It has been estimated that round about 16 billion injections are administered worldwide annually, but after wards all the needles and syringes are not properly disposed. Health-care waste contains potentially harmful microorganisms, which can infect hospital, patients, health workers and the general public. Health-care waste in some circumstances is incinerated, and dioxins, furans and other toxic air pollutants may be produced as emissions.. In 2010 unsafe injections were still responsible for as many as 33800 new HIV infections, 1.7million Hepatitis B infections and 318000 Hepatitis C infections. [4].The hepatitis outbreak in Modassa, Gujarat (India) 2009, pointed towards the core issue of poor biomedical waste management in the country [5].

Shashwati Nema and Ms. Akansha Singh-2015 conducted a study about health care waste management among hospital staff of a medical college hospital in Bhopal, central India It was found that 25(20 %) of study subjects have good knowledge 89(71.2) had average knowledge and 11(8.8%) had poor level of knowledge. The study concluded that there is a need of continuing education program about the proper management of Health care waste at all levels [6].

The need for study

Staff Nurses are one of the main occupational groups in

Access this article online

<http://innovationalpublishers.com/Journal/ijnr>

e-ISSN: 2456-1320

DOI: doi.org/10.31690/ijnr/56

How to cite this article: Fehmeeda Mehmood, Assessment of effect of awareness program regarding biomedical waste management. Int J Nur Res 2018; 4(3): 212-218..

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