

SUMMARY

The Government of Sri Lanka provides free health care services to the citizens of the country. The Sri Lankan health system, functions with the objectives of improving the health of the population to increase the life expectancy by reducing preventable deaths, to improve quality of life by promoting positive health, responding to people's legitimate expectations and providing financial protection against the cost of ill health. In order to achieve these objectives, a large number of institutions in the different health care sectors cater to the health care needs of the population. Institutions providing patient care services vary from sophisticated Teaching Hospital with specialist consultant services to small Central dispensaries, which provides only out patients service. This institutional network is linked to a system of health units that are primarily responsible for the preventive aspect of health and other domiciliary care.

The broad aim of the health policy of Sri Lanka is to increase life expectancy and improve quality of life. This is to be achieved by health promotion activities. The government will take every effort to maximize the financial allocations on health development. This will enable the government to provide an efficient and cost effective health services throughout the country, accessible to the needy people.

Pharmaceuticals play a crucial role in preventive and curative health care. Drugs are vital and expensive component in the provision of health services. According to Thomson it is claimed though not clearly demonstrated that the important factor, that determines the effectiveness of a health care system is the availability of drugs.

Among the many factors scarcity or non – availability of drugs in hospitals, lack of a proper monitoring system cuts across many of these reasons. Mean while Drug Review Committees plays a major role in drug monitoring system.

To provide an adequate quantity of safe and effective drugs of acceptable quality, a fair proportion of the health budget is invested in pharmaceuticals. In order to ensure maximum benefit from such investment it is essential that the drug requirements should be based on realistic estimates. The rational use of drugs is very important in a country like Sri Lanka because the country simply could not afford an ever increasing drug bill for its health services.

Even though, a major concern of the drug policy is to ensure the readily availability of safe and effective pharmaceuticals of acceptable quality at a reasonable cost and rational use of such products, that the mass media and the patients are frequently complaining of non-availability of essential drugs in Medical Institutions where the patients are treated.

General Objective

To assess the effectiveness of the monitoring system of drug supply in the Kalutara District.

Specific Objective

1. To describe current practices regarding monitoring of the drug supply in the Kalutara District;
2. To assess the knowledge and attitude of the members of drug review committee on monitoring functions;
3. To assess the supervisory practices performed by the managers;
4. To identify the strengths and weaknesses associated with monitoring system of drug supply;
5. To recommend measures to strengthen the monitoring system of supply of drugs.

This research has been conducted on the basis of a cross sectional descriptive study design.

Aim of this study to understand the function of the DRC and current practices adapted by them with regard to effective drug monitoring system. The study was conducted in the Kalutara District.

This study reveals even though there are Drug Review Committees in the health care institutions of DPDHS area Kalutara, responsibilities and activities of these committees are not carried out in effective manner to pro

Participation of prescribing officers in annual drug estimates less in smaller institutions. Out of 73 respondents only 9.6% have been given training on drug management. Basic facilities of the drug stores that are available to store drugs are not satisfactory. Especially the space for drug storage in drug stores is not adequate.

If the instruction given in the drug manual followed the health care system will be able to establish good drug management system.