

## ABSTRACT

Infection control activities are set of practices carried out in healthcare settings to prevent or reduce Healthcare Associated Infections (HAI). HAI is a globally recognised problem with hospital wise prevalence of 5.9% to 19.1% globally and pooled prevalence of 10.1 in middle and low-income countries.

Objective of the study is to assess the level of knowledge and attitude of Nursing Officers of who are working in Base hospitals Point Pedro and Thellippalai and Teaching Hospital, Jaffna. With factors affecting their knowledge and attitude and to find the level of implementation of infection control activities with the influence of Nursing Officers knowledge and attitude and vice versa.

A descriptive cross-sectional study of influence of knowledge and attitudes of Nursing Officers on the level of infection control activities in Secondary and tertiary care hospitals in Jaffna district conducted during the period of December 2016 to 20 August 2017.

*Total population was selected for the study.* Self-administered questionnaire was used to assess the Nursing Officers' knowledge and attitude and two checklists were used to assess the implementation level.

A total of 231 respondents' answers were analysed and of these 66.7% found to have average overall knowledge with the mean of  $65.5 \pm 11.67$ . Overall attitude is also poor as majority are with poor (50.2%) and average (39.0%) attitude group. Chi squared test was done to find any association between knowledge and attitude with selected socio demographic and service related factors. It was found that

males, have statistically significant better attitude and Nursing Officers working in intensive care units has statistically significant better overall knowledge ( $p < 0.05$ ).

Implementation level was poor in some aspects and better in some aspects. Proper sinks, special masks, heavy duty gloves, goggles are not available in more than three fourth of the units and sharp management alcohol hand rub, hand drying method are better in more than half of the units. However, only linen, sterile glove are available in more than three fourth of the units while only 26.0% has good knowledge on hand washing.

In where waste management implementation is good the knowledge of that hospital's Nursing Officers on waste management is high

Self-realisation of their level of knowledge on hand washing and blood borne infection has statistical correlation.

There are gaps in knowledge and attitude among the Nursing Officers including lack of training and shortcomings in implementation.

All these hospitals has to develop their own policy on infection control and base hospitals has to establish their infection control units with full time infection control Nursing Officers.

Facilities, trainings and monitoring systems have to be improved with immediate intervention