

ABSTRACT

Introduction

Corona virus disease is a highly infectious disease caused by newly diagnosed “Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Corona Virus 2” - (SARS-COV-2). Irrespective of preventive measures implemented worldwide the pandemic is still having not been able to keep under control. Therefore, it is crucial to improve public knowledge, attitude and practices towards COVID 19.

Objectives

To assess the knowledge, attitudes and practices towards COVID 19 and factors associated with them, - among garment workers in a selected garment factory in Colombo district.

Methods

A cross sectional study was conducted in a garment factory in Seethawaka industrial zone in Awissawella among 195 garment factory workers. Self-administered questionnaire was used to gather information on knowledge, attitudes and practices towards COVID 19 and associated factors. SPSS software was used for statistical data analysis. According to the responses of the questionnaire scoring system was developed and each correct answer was given marks. Following that total score percentage was calculated.

Results:

There were 195 workers who fulfilled eligibility criteria and all were responded (100%) in the study. Majority of them were females (87.2%) and between 26-35 years' age group. Sixty-six percent of them were machine operators.

Out of them, 164 (84.1%) workers were having satisfactory level of knowledge.

Almost all (n = 188, 96.4%) were aware that the disease is transmitted through respiratory droplets of an infected person and it is transmitted by a virus (N=181, 92.8%). Lower level of knowledge score (29.2%) was seen in the results regarding the availability of vaccines.

Majority (n=191, 97.9%) of the study participants were agreed that each individual is responsible for prevention of COVID. Hundred and seventy-eight (91.3%) had disagreed that they are safe among known people and no need wear masks or wash hands. Most of them (n=118, 92.8%) had been stated that the cough should be covered with a handkerchief or elbow when coughing. Hundred and fifty-three (78.5%) had responded that Sri Lanka has the ability to win against the pandemic.

The study demonstrated that 110 workers (56.4%) of the study population were having satisfactory attitude level.

Hundred and eighty-eight workers (96.4%) had answered that they are washing hands more frequently due to COVID. Majority (n=187, 95.9%) of them are used to cover nose and mouth when they are coughing or sneezing. Hundred and ninety-one (97 %) of the workers have replied that they will inform the management if they had contact with COVID.

Hundred and seventy-one (87.7%) of the garment workers had showed satisfactory practice level.

This study demonstrated that there was a statistically significant association between education level and knowledge ($p < 0.05$). Statically significant association was found between age group and attitude ($p < 0.05$). The study also revealed that there was a statistically significant association between knowledge and practice ($p < 0.05$).

Conclusion and recommendations:

This study demonstrated the assessment of knowledge, attitude and practice towards COVID 19 among garment workers in a selected garment factory in Colombo district. Majority of them were having highly satisfactory levels of knowledge and practices. Outcomes suggested that although most of them are having satisfactory knowledge, attitudes and practices of them have to be further improved.

Improvement of above aspects should be done with taking necessary steps to establish measures such as implementation of awareness campaigns through media, work place oriented programs on COVID prevention, monitoring and evaluation of practicing preventive measures.