

ABSTRACT

Introduction

Corona viruses are the newly emerging large family viruses with numerous variable strains that cause illness ranging from mild upper respiratory symptoms to more severe disease. A new viral strain was discovered in 2019 which was not previously identified in humans and is named as Covid-19. The unclear comprehension and negative attitudes may lead to panic and unnecessary worry among health staff, mainly Medical Officers and Nursing Officers who work in frontline.

Objectives

To assess the knowledge, attitudes and practices on COVID Triage among Medical Officers and Nursing Officers in DGH Vavuniya.

Methods

A self-administered questionnaire was developed from the guidelines and circulars issued by Ministry of Health on COVID triage. It includes questions to assess the knowledge, attitude and practices of the respondents. A Total of 150 Medical Officers and Nursing Officers at DGH Vavuniya participated in this study. Among them 54 Medical Officers and 96 Nursing Officers responded. Data analysis was done by using SPSS version 21.0 software.

Results

Out of 159 Medical Officers and Nursing Officers, 150 persons responded with a response rate of 94.33%. Among them 54 Medical Officers and 96 Nursing Officers responded. The majority of participants were females 61.3% and also majority of them were within the age category of 25-45 which was 57.3%. Most of the Medical Officers and Nursing Officers had good knowledge on COVID Triage in DGH Vavuniya. 84% (n=45) Medical Officers and 81.8% (n=79) Nursing Officers answered the questions correctly.

Moreover, Medical Officers and Nursing Officers had shown good attitude towards managing COVID Triage in DGH Vavuniya. 88.9% (n=48) Medical Officers and 88.3% (n=85) Nursing Officers answered the questions correctly.

Majority of Medical Officers and Nursing Officers in DGH Vavuniya answered correctly for the questions for practices towards managing COVID Triage in DGH Vavuniya. 88.9% (n=48) Medical Officers and 88.3% (n=85) Nursing Officers had answered the questions correctly.

Conclusion and Recommendation

The results of this study showed that most of the Doctors and Nursing Officers who assigned to work in COVID unit in DGH Vavuniya had good knowledge, attitude towards COVID

Triage. Majority of them are doing correct practices.

Medical Officers and Nursing Officers should be encouraged to read Ministry of Health guidelines and circulars on regular basis. Observational studies should be done to assess the practices more appropriately.

Key words: COVID triage, Knowledge, Health care workers.