ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND

COVID 19 infection is currently in a state of pandemic, and it is a highly contagious disease. Frontline healthcare workers are the biggest strength in controlling the situation and with the nature of the disease, they are at an increased risk for COVID 19 infection. The study was focused on assessing the level of knowledge, attitude, and practices regarding COVID 19 of medical and nursing officers at Colombo East Base Hospital – Mulleriyawa which was the second national focal point for managing inward COVID 19 patients.

METHODS

This research was carried out as a descriptive cross-sectional study. All eligible medical officers and nursing officers were included in the study sample. Of the eligible 289 medical officers and nursing officers attached to the CEBH were invited. A pre-tested, validated, self-administered questionnaire was used and was available in all three (Sinhala, Tamil, English) languages as the study tool. Data collected through the questionnaire was assessed statistically by the statistical package for social sciences (SPSS) version 20. Frequent distributions and descriptive statistics taken were used for conclusions and recommendations.

RESULTS

The study included 289 total participants (102 medical officers and 193nursing officers). Out of the 271 participants of the study 93 belonged to the category of medical officers and 178 were nursing officers. The study had an overall response rate of 93.7% (271/289). Among the medical officers 417.3% were male medical

officers (n=44) and 52.7% were female medical officers (n=49).out of the 178 nursing officers who participated in this study only 50 were male nursing officers (28.1%) and a majority of 128 were female nursing officers (71.9%). The age category with the highest number of participants for medical officers were 27-38 years (n=44, 47.31%) and age category of 25 – 35 years consisted of the highest number of nursing officers (n=129, 72.4%)

Highest number of medical officers were recorded to be Grade two medical officers (63.4%, n=59) assuring more than 2 years of working experience, but a majority of nursing officers were grade three nursing officers (n=107, 60.1%).

A majority 62.5% (n=60) among medical officers used social media as their main source of knowledge. While 122 nursing officers (68.2%, n=178) stated social media as their major source of knowledge.

The average knowledge score of medical officers who participated was 86.72% affirming a good knowledge of COVID 19 disease management among medical officers working at CEBH-Mulleriyawa. Similarly, the average knowledge score of nursing officers was also found to be 80.1% denoting a good level of knowledge in COVID 19 disease management among nursing officers of Colombo East Base Hospital-Mulleriyawa.

Overall positive attitude toward COVID 19 disease management was 69.8% among medical officers and the corresponding proportion among nursing officers was 65.1%.

A majority of the medical officers (89.7%, n=83) had good practices while a total of 152 (85.4%) nursing officers showed good practices in COVID 19 diseases management.

CONCLUSIONS

A majority of the medical officers and nursing officers had good levels of knowledge on COVID 19 management. Majority of both medical and nursing officers showed a positive attitude towards COVID 19 disease management. Practices of medical officers and nursing officers were mostly good. Medical officers showed room for improvement in the practices of infection prevention and control and adhering to guidelines at work while nursing officers showed improvement in their practices related to maintaining social distancing at work.