Abstract

Knowledge, practices and selected health outcomes associated with household waste management among female householders in Millaniya Medical Officers of Health area

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Introduction: The waste will be a major public health problem if not manage process of waste generation and disposal appropriately. The house hold waste is a major contributor for the global waste production. Household waste comprises of several types of waste. Therefore, understanding of knowledge, practices and health outcomes in relation to household waste is important.

Objective: To describe the knowledge, methods of practices of household waste management, and to assess the association of practices of household waste management with selected socio-demographic factors and selected health outcomes among female householders in MOH, Millaniya

Methods: This study was cross sectional study carried out among female householders in Millaniya Medical Officers health area. An estimated sample size was 428 participants and sampling were done using 30 clusters as in WHO EPI coverage survey. The part of the questionnaire was interviewer administered and other part consist of observational check list. The statistical analysis was done using chi square test and significance was take at 95% confidence limits(p=0.05)

Results: Majority of participants were less than 50 years of age while mean age was 45.23 years and married Sinhala housewives. Among them majority 56.2% educated up to ordinary level or no formal education. Their mean knowledge score was 74% and 55.7% had good knowledge on waste management with significant association was noted knowledge level and age(p<0.001). Also having formal education and educated more than ordinary level significantly associated with knowledge level of participants (p<0.004) and no association with income category or employment level. When considering practices mean score was 51.97%, only 49.2% followed proper practices. The practices significantly associated with age(p=0.017) and education level of participants(p=0.002) but no association with income category and employment status. There was

a significant association with practice groups with knowledge category(p<0.001). There was no statistically significant association between practices and above described health outcome groups. There was no significant association between reported animal bites with giving food waste to stray dogs, living stray dogs around the house and practices but statistically significant association noted between giving food waste to stray dogs with living stray dogs around 500m from the household(p=0.005). In the study, the observed correct practices were lower than the reported practices.

Conclusion and recommendation: Though the knowledge level were good among participants, practices not satisfactory. Also, observations revealed more improper practices than what reported and most health outcomes not associated with practices, therefore need further studies on waste management.

Key words: Waste, practices, health outcomes, Knowledge