

Abstract

Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) is a progressive condition where kidney function deteriorates over months or years, classified into five stages from minor damage (stage 1) to end-stage renal failure (stage 5). Early stages often exhibit no symptoms, while later stages may present with symptoms such as edema, fatigue, altered urinary frequency and consistency, and nausea. Considering Sri Lanka in particular, CKDu is a serious public health crisis, especially among rural agricultural communities in the dry zone. Even decades after its first emergence, its exact causes remain uncertain, which has made prevention and control especially difficult. Objective of this study was to assess the impact of the recent economic crisis on the progression of CKDu among patients in the Dehiattakandiya MOH area. Study carried out using Descriptive Cross-sectional study design based on data retrieved from clinical records and data collected by using interview administrated questionnaire. Target population included diagnosed CKDu patients who have been registered and were currently receiving treatment at regional hospital clinics in the Dehiattakandiya MOH area. Sample size of the study was 65 CKDu patients. Data with regards to how the economic crisis has impacted the lifestyle of the target population, particularly the impact on CKDu progression collected by subjecting the selected sample population for a survey and by accessing the corresponding clinical records of the same population from the hospital. Major findings of the study showed that males made up most of the CKDu patients in this study group, and the majority of them only completed primary school. Prior to the economic crisis in 2022, the majority of CKDu patients (n = 32, 49.23%) had average household expenditures between Rs. 10,000 and Rs. 20,000. However, following the economic crisis, the majority of CKDu patients reported spending less than Rs. 10,000.00. (n=38, 58.46%). The average age of the CKDu patients in the study sample was 67.07 years. The majority of patients stated that they occasionally had issues paying for their usual prescription drugs. (n=58, 89.23%). Sixty-three of them stated that the availability of healthcare experts or services has not changed recently. As in conclusion Chronic kidney disease is an endemic disease in Dehiattakandiya M.O.H area and patients are affected in numerous ways as the result of the economic crisis in Sri Lanka 2022.

Key words: Chronic, kidney, healthcare, Dehiattakandiya, economic