



KNOWLEDGE AND REPORTED PRACTICES OF HAND HYGIENE AMONG PARAMEDICAL STAFFS WORKING IN A GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL OF MUMBAI

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ABSTRACT

Objectives: To assess the knowledge and reported practices regarding of hand hygiene among paramedic staffs. **Materials and methods:** A cross sectional study was conducted to assess the knowledge and reported practices regarding hand hygiene among paramedic staffs. 60 paramedics were recruited in to the study who were working in a tertiary care hospital by non-probability purposive sampling. Data analysis was done using descriptive statistics. **Results:** The present study results revealed that maximum i.e. 31 (51.66%) of population had excellent knowledge, 25(41.67 %) had good knowledge, 3 (5 %) had average knowledge and only 01(1.67%) had poor knowledge regarding hand hygiene. However, when evaluated the reported practices it was seen that only 28(46.67%) respondents had excellent practice, 30(50%) had good practice, 02(3.33%) had average practices and no one had poor practice regarding hand hygiene. **Conclusion:** The study results highlight the fact that regular staff development programmes are required to keep the paramedics updated with the standard protocols like hand hygiene.

KEYWORDS

Knowledge, Reported Practices, Hand Hygiene

1. INTRODUCTION:

Infection caused due to hospital acquired microbes is an evolving problem worldwide, and horizontal transmission of bacterial organisms continues to cause a high nosocomial infection rate in health care settings. Nosocomial infections due to poor hand hygiene are a major cause of increasing morbidity, mortality, and health care costs among hospitalized patients worldwide¹.

The high prevalence of these infections, as high as 19%, in developing countries poses a challenge to health care providers. Hand hygiene is considered the single most cost-effective public health measure for preventing health care associated infection². The World Health Organisation (WHO) has issued guidelines for procedural hand washing to reduce the prevalence of hospital associated infections but lack of knowledge amongst health care workers is associated with poor compliance. An alarming revelation was that compliance was found to be worst before high risk procedures³.

2. Review of Literature:

Tomar S, Lodha R, Das B, Kapil A. conducted an observational study at AIIMS New Delhi to assess the hand hygiene compliance of healthcare Workers in a Paediatric Intensive Care Unit. The results of the observational study conducted over 11 months revealed that the overall compliance was 80.9%, which decreased with increase in workload (79.2% vs. 82.9%). The study results help understand the gaps in practices followed by healthcare workers, and plan effective protocols to improve the same.

Gitashree Dutta et al conducted a study to assess the Knowledge and practice of hand hygiene among undergraduate students and junior doctors in the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Imphal in 2020 and the study results revealed that out of the 924 participants, 49.1% had poor knowledge about hand hygiene, 14.3% had average knowledge, and 36.6% had good knowledge. Knowledge was significantly associated with the frequency of washing hands after patient contact or any laboratory procedure or after the removal of hand gloves ($P < 0.001$) and the frequency of following the six steps of hand washing ($P = 0.001$).

3. MATERIALS & METHODS:-

A cross sectional descriptive study was conducted among 60 paramedical staffs working at a government hospital situated at Mumbai. Samples were recruited using purposive technique. A self-administered questionnaire was prepared which consists of three sections to assess demographic profile, knowledge regarding hand hygiene. Reported practices was assessed by a checklist Data analysis was done by descriptive statistics.

4. RESULTS:-

- 35(58.33%) of the samples were between the age group of 25- 35 years whereas 19(31.67%) belong to age group above 35-45 years and 6(10%) where above 46 years.
- 40(66.67%) of the samples were male whereas 20 (33.33%) of the samples were female

- 25(41.67%) were educated up to 10+ 2 whereas 25(41.67%) were Graduates & 10(16.66%) were Post Graduates.
- 45(75%) of the samples had formal training regarding hand hygiene practices whereas 15 (25 %) learned from colleagues.
- 31(51.66%) of samples had excellent knowledge whereas 25(41.67%), 3(5%) & 1(1.67%) revealed good, average & poor knowledge regarding hand hygiene practices
- 45(75%) of samples possessed good knowledge regarding six steps of handwashing techniques
- 30 (50%) were aware about the terms medical and surgical hand hygiene and could appreciate the difference between them.
- 28(46.67%) of respondents followed excellent practices whereas 30(50%) had good practices & 02 (3.33%) revealed average practices of hand hygiene.
- 36(60%) of samples reported good practices regarding six steps of handwashing.
- Association between Knowledge & practice scores with selected demographic variables by Chi square at $df=1$ and $P < 0.05$ revealed
- Significant relationship was established between educational qualification and self-reported practices of hand washing techniques.

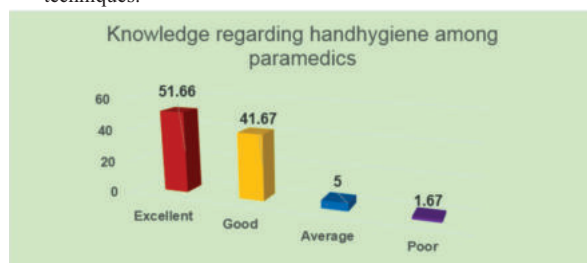


Fig.1: Distribution of samples as per their knowledge regarding hand hygiene n=60

Fig No 1 reveals that majority of the samples i.e. 31 (51.66%) possess excellent knowledge regarding hand hygiene while 01(1.67 %) had poor knowledge of hand hygiene



Fig.2: Distribution of samples as per their Reported Practices. n=50

Fig 2 shows that only 28 (46.67%) respondents had excellent practice whereas 02(3.33%) had average reported practices of hand hygiene.

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