

Needle Stick Injury: Occupational Hazards from Medical Waste among Healthcare Workers

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Abstract

Needle Stick Injury (NSI) is a percutaneous wound set by a needle point, other sharp instruments or objects which is a major risk factor to transmit blood-borne diseases among health care professionals. Present study was done to assess NSI as a health hazard in regard to their knowledge & practice & to find out the correlation between knowledge & practice among 100 health care workers of Private Hospitals, Pokhara, Nepal. Data was collected by structured questionnaire. Study result revealed that majority of health care workers were females (93%) with mean age of 22.66 years (± 3.1). Forty two percent had wrong concept about the meaning of NSI. There were only 35% of workers who dispose the sharps in cardboard box where as 65% used wrong place. Only 22% had a proper practice of disposal of sharp box when it is 3/4th full. While finding a used needle on the floor after closing the box with sharp only 38% use a new box which is the correct means. Seventy nine percent of workers expressed that, they never received any training in the prevention &/ or treatment of NSI. There was a positive correlation between knowledge & practice scores ($p= 0.004$). As it denotes that poor knowledge leads to poor practice, thus study concludes that poor knowledge and practice can be the key causes to get NSI as a major health hazards among health care professionals.

Keywords

Needle Stick Injury, Knowledge, Practice, Health Care Workers, Nepal.

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Biography / Biographies

Jaita Mondal (Ghosh) is the Associate Professor, and Vice Principal working at VISWASS (Vivekananda Institute of Social Work & Social Sciences) School & College of Nursing, Chhatabar, Odisha. She was lecturer at Manipal College of Medical Sciences, Pokhara, Nepal. She has a 13 years of experience in clinical and teaching. She has done and also guided various research projects. She has to her credit a number of papers published in national & international journals and she is Editor-in-chief of International Journal of Nursing Research & Practice. She has written a book named "Community Health Nursing: Health Care Starts at Home".