

Knowledge and Attitude Regarding Adverse Drug Reaction Reporting and Associated Factors among State Pharmacists in Northern Province, Sri Lanka

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Adverse drug reaction (ADR) is a significant cause of morbidity and mortality worldwide. Reporting of ADRs is considered to be an important step to achieve safe drug use. Reporting of ADR becomes a part of the professional obligation of a pharmacist, as their role expands towards patient care rather than the dispensing. This study was conducted to assess the knowledge and attitude regarding ADR reporting, and to find out the association of socio-demographic and work-related factors among pharmacists working at public sector hospitals in Northern Province, Sri Lanka. It is a descriptive cross-sectional study which was conducted among 76 pharmacists using a validated self-administered questionnaire. Descriptive statistics were used to describe the data. Association of socio-demographic and work-related factors on knowledge and attitude was determined by chi-square test and fisher's exact test. Data were analysed by using SPSS version 23. The response rate of the study was 88.2% (n=67). The mean age of participants was 35.8 ± 9.3 years and most of them were females (71.6%, n=48). A predetermined cut-off value was used as 70 % to determine the level of knowledge and attitude regarding ADR reporting. Among participants, 65.2% (n=44) of participants had good knowledge about ADRs and 67.2% (n=45) had a positive attitude towards ADR reporting. Extra working hours had statistically significant influence on knowledge on ADR (p=0.048) and working experience showed a significant influence on the attitude toward ADR reporting (p=0.03). This study revealed that the majority of pharmacists had a good level of knowledge and a positive attitude towards ADR reporting.

Keywords: Adverse drug reaction (ADR), Adverse drug reaction reporting, Pharmacists