

Factors associated with the patients' attitudes towards medical students' involvement in patient care among inward patients in the medical wards of Teaching Hospital Jaffna

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Introduction and Objectives: Effectiveness of clinical practice which is essential for medical students to develop skills depend on patients' willingness to cooperate and contribute to the education and teaching of the medical students. This study aimed to assess the factors associated with the patients' attitudes towards the medical students' involvement in patient care among inward patients in the medical wards of Teaching Hospital Jaffna.

Methods: A descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted among 427 inward patients in Teaching Hospital Jaffna. Data was collected using an interviewer-administered questionnaire from September 2020 to February 2021. Quantitative data was analyzed by IBM SPSS version 25 for descriptive statistical analysis. Frequencies, percentages and Chi-square test were used for data analysis.

Results: Out of 427 patients, 234 (54.8%) were males. Majority of patients 384 (89.9%) allowed medical students to participate in the ward care while 43 (10.1%) of total patients did not allow. In relation to ward care 184 (44%) of patients allowed medical students to take history and 182 (42.6%) of patients allowed to do examinations. The responses for the involvement in different procedures (Blood drawing, Cannula insertion, Urinary Catheterization, Peritoneal tap, Lumbar puncture) were comparatively low. According to the study, educational level ($p=0.003$), and ethnicity ($p=0.019$) significantly correlated with patients' response to medical history. The age ($p<0.001$), sex ($p<0.001$), civil status ($p<0.001$), educational level ($p=0.003$) and ethnicity ($p=0.037$) had a significant association with allowing to do medical examinations. Age ($p=0.002$), sex ($p=0.015$), civil status ($p<0.001$) of the patients had a significant association with allowing to do interventional procedures.

Conclusion: Majority of patients did not mind presence of students during consultation. During ward setting, majority of the patients allowed to take histories and do the examinations but did not allow to do interventional procedures. This study reflects the positive attitude of the patients towards medical students.

Keywords: Clinical practice, Medical education, Perception, Health care, Civil status