

# KNOWLEDGE ON MANAGEMENT OF SNAKE BITES AND FACTORS INFLUENCING ON IT AMONG NURSING OFFICERS WORKING IN GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS OF JAFFNA DISTRICT

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Snake bite has been recognized as a neglected tropical disease by the WHO. Envenoming is a significant public health hazard in Sri Lanka which is under tropical region. Snake bite victims have been being managed mainly by doctors and nursing officers. The effective outcome on required patients depend on level of knowledge of healthcare providers. Thus, this study was designed to assess the knowledge and to describe the association of educational, work related factors of nursing officers who are working in government hospitals of Jaffna district. A descriptive, cross-sectional study was conducted among 424 nursing officers working in government hospitals of Jaffna district during the data collection period from October 2018 to November 2018. A pre-designed and validated questionnaire was used for assessment. Data were processed in SPSS version 23. The mean age of the study participants was 32.81. Among the study participants only 8.4% had good knowledge, nearly 35% of the participants were in average knowledge level and majority of the study participants (56.1%) had poor knowledge. The knowledge on management of snake bites significantly influenced by the factors such as level of basic training, special training, type of unit, support from staff, high number of patients, ethical barrier, distraction and interruption, period of lecture hours, attended number of training programmes and educational level. Lack of knowledge among participants indicate the need of frequent updates to gain the knowledge on snake bite management. Relevant health institutions should take appropriate measures to ensure that nurses have the appropriate knowledge and skills to manage the snake bite.

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