

Poster presentations

Theme 2: Healthcare workers

PP14

Knowledge, attitude, and practice regarding antimicrobial resistance among public health inspectors and public health midwives in the Jaffna district

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Background and objective: Antimicrobial resistance is a major health issue particularly in developing countries. Public health inspectors (PHI) and public health midwives (PHM) could help to prevent and control the spread of antimicrobial resistance. The aim of the study was to describe knowledge, attitude and practice regarding antimicrobial resistance among PHI and PHM in the Jaffna district.

Methods: This is an institution-based descriptive cross-sectional study carried out among all 33 PHI, 111 field PHM, and 14 hospital-based PHM working in the Jaffna district. Data were collected from September to December 2019 using a self-administered questionnaire. Descriptive statistics were used in data analysis.

Results: Two-thirds of PHI (66.7%) had good knowledge on antimicrobial resistance. However, only 21.6% and 7.1% of field and hospital based PHM, respectively, had good knowledge. Only 15.2% of PHI had good attitudes, while among PHM, 42.3 % of field PHM and 35.7% of hospital based PHM had poor attitudes. Just below half of the PHI (48.5%) who participated had good practices in relation to antimicrobial resistance; this figure was 57.7% and 78.6% among field and hospital based PHM, respectively.

Conclusion: Knowledge on antimicrobial resistance is good among PHI in the Jaffna district, but attitudes and practices are poor. Most field and hospital based PHM do not have good knowledge and attitudes on antimicrobial resistance, but they report better practices than PHI.

Keywords: Knowledge, Attitude, Practice, Antimicrobial Resistance, Healthcare Workers