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Title : Knowledge, Attitude and Practice of Infection Control Measures among Hospital staffs in a District in Northern Malaysia

INTRODUCTION

Infection is one of the most crucial problems in health care services worldwide. It is considered one of the most important causes of morbidity and mortality associated with clinical, diagnostic and therapeutic procedures. Therefore, the purpose of this study was to investigate knowledge, attitude, and compliance with recommended infection control guidelines among Hospital staffs in a District Hospital in Northern Malaysia.

OBJECTIVE

This study aimed to determine the proportion of clinical staffs with good knowledge, positive attitudes, and good practice levels regarding infection control measures.

Additionally, to determine the association between:

- socio- demographic characteristics
- training and levels of knowledge, attitude, and practice concerning infection control measures among clinical staffs.

METHODS

This single-centre cross-sectional study was conducted from 1st February to 20th May 2024. A validated online questionnaire was used as the study tool to collect data.

Inclusion criteria:

- all Ministry of Health (MOH) clinical staff (permanent and contract) working at Hospital Seri Manjung.

Exclusion criteria:

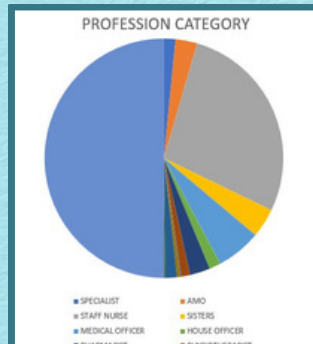
- staff who refuse to consent,
- staffs worked less than 3 months,
- staffs on maternity or study leave.

RESULTS

A total of 255 clinical staffs participated in the survey. The median age of the participants was 40.0 years (IQR: 35.0-46.0), while the median years of working experience was 15.0 years (IQR: 11.0-22.0).

Majority were female (84.7%), worked as staff nurses/ community nurses (55.3%) and diploma holders (65.1%).

Most of the participants (87 1%) have received training on infection control measures.



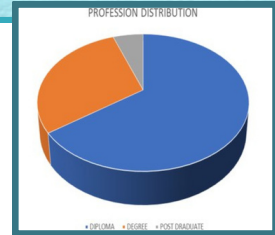
Although 79.2% and 95.3% of the participants were having good knowledge level and positive attitude on infection control measures respectively, only 67.8% of them were having good practice level.

Univariate analysis elicited that the education level of the participants was significantly associated with the knowledge (p=0.043) and practice level (p=0.013).

Although a lower proportion of diploma holders were having good knowledge levels on infection control as compared to the Bachelor and Postgraduate degree holders, a higher proportion of this group were having good practice levels on infection control than the rest.

SCORING GUIDELINE FOR THE SURVEY:

Good knowledge and practice: 75% and above, Moderate knowledge and practice: 50-75% and Poor knowledge and practice: below 50%.
Positive attitude: 50% and above
Negative attitude: below 50%



ATTITUDE LEVEL	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Positive	243	95.3
Negative	12	4.7
Total	255	100

DISCUSSION / CONCLUSION:

Overall, we conclude that good knowledge level and positive attitude towards infection control did not translate into good practice. Therefore, regular monitoring and audits are necessary to strengthen the compliance and improve infection prevention and control. Additionally, effective and regular training is needed.

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	PRACTISE		KNOWLEDGE	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Good	173	67.8	202	79.2
Moderate	78	30.6	52	20.4
Poor	14	1.6	1	0.4
Total	255	100	255	100

