

Knowledge and attitudes of nursing officers employed in government hospitals on the usage of antibacterial drugs

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Introduction and Objectives: According to the World Health Organization, one of the major threats the world is currently facing is increased development of resistance to antibacterial drugs, and some studies have identified that the misuse of antibacterial drugs by healthcare professionals has contributed to this increase. Therefore, this study aimed to assess the knowledge and attitudes regarding the proper use of antibacterial drugs among nursing officers, who are considered to be frontline caregivers in the healthcare system.

Methods: A descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted among 302 nursing officers employed at government hospitals (> 6 months of experience) using a pretested self-administered questionnaire to assess the socio-demographics, knowledge, and attitudes on the proper usage of antibacterial drugs. Participants were recruited via a network sampling technique by sharing the questionnaire via a Google Form link on social media platforms. Data was analysed using IBM SPSS v. 25 to assess the relationship between knowledge, attitudes, and demographics. The questionnaire was analysed according to Bloom's cutoff categories for total knowledge and attitudes, with good levels being >80% (≥ 9 marks), moderate levels being 60% -80% (6-8 marks), and poor levels being <60% (≤ 5 marks).

Results: Most respondents had good knowledge (58%, n=176), and positive attitudes (52%, n=157). Significant statistical associations were found between knowledge and level of education ($p<0.001$), and knowledge and the total service period ($p=0.010$). Statistically significant associations were also identified with attitudes and age ($p=0.038$), marital status ($p=0.002$), having children ($p=0.001$), level of education ($p=0.019$), nursing grade ($p=0.005$), and total service period ($p=0.001$).

Conclusion: According to this study, the majority of nursing officers had good knowledge and positive attitudes toward the proper use of antibacterial drugs.

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