PP-11-PHS

KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDES, AND THEIR ASSOCIATION WITH PRACTICES RELATED TO PATIENTS' RIGHTS AMONG MEDICAL AND SURGICAL INWARD ADULT PATIENTS IN TEACHING HOSPITAL KALUTARA

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Doi: https://doi.org/10.31705/FOMAAS.2024.21

Background: Patients' rights are a part of human rights; rooted in ethics like autonomy and dignity, to emphasize collaborative doctor-patient relationship. These rights align with core ethical principles in healthcare, guiding medical practice towards respecting autonomy and human dignity. This study aimed at assessing the knowledge, attitudes and their association with practices related to patients' rights among medical and surgical inward adult patients in Teaching Hospital (TH) Kalutara.

Methods: A Descriptive Cross-Sectional study was done at the medical and surgical wards of TH Kalutara, with the participation of 222 adult in ward patients. ERC clearance was obtained from the Ethics Review Committees of Faculty of Medicine, University of Moratuwa and TH Kalutara. Data from individuals who provided informed written consent was gathered using an interviewer-administered questionnaire, and the interviewees were selected using a stratified probability proportional approach. Data were analyzed using a Standard Package for Social Sciences and a scoring system.

Results: Overall knowledge related to patients' rights of the participants was "good" (mean= 4.99, median=5.00, mode=7, SD=1.698). The overall attitude related to patients' rights of the participants was also "satisfactory" (mean=6.95, median=7.00, mode=9, SD=2.50). Overall practices were "satisfactory" (mean=3.98, median=4.00, mode=6, SD=2.13). There was a significant association found between the level of practice and the level of knowledge (p=0.004), but no significant association between the level of practice and the level of attitudes(p=0.381) was found.

Conclusion: The study findings indicate that most participants had good knowledge and satisfactory overall attitudes and practices, there existed a significant association between knowledge and practices, but no significant association between attitudes and practices.

Key Words: Patients' rights, Knowledge, Practice, Attitudes, Kalutara