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Occupational Safety Aspects in Tertiary Care Hospital: A Letter to the Editor

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It is a pleasure writing a Letter to the Editor for the published article: **Khapre M, Naik S, Mudey A. Study on knowledge and attitude regarding the occupational safety in tertiary care hospital. Int J Cur Res Rev. 2015;7(5):30-3.**

Workplace-related health impairments, injuries and illnesses cause great human suffering and incur high costs, both for those affected and for society as a whole. As in any workplace, hospitals have their own share of occupational health hazards as they play an integral role in health care of inpatients, nosocomial infection control, emergencies management and maintenance of hospital kitchen and also environment protection through contaminated waste management.

Occupational safety results from a continuous process of anticipating, identifying, designing, implementing, and evaluating risk-reduction practices. Here, the authors have surveyed one-tenth of the total doctors, nurses, and attendants and the data was collected by questionnaire method and Descriptive Epidemiological Analysis was done. Hence, the authors have done a commendable job to highlight the awareness levels amongst those at risk and the existing lacuna so that remedial measures may be taken.

Table-1 should have been more descriptive regarding age-specific and gender-specific distribution of study population.

Table-2 lacks a description. A few more tables would have highlighted the problems more specifically in addition to the bar-graphs shown.

The study revealed that awareness regarding occupational health and safety is low among the hospital staff. Very few nurses and attendants were aware of the infection control committee in the hospital. About one-third of doctors, one-fourth of nurses and one-fifth of attendants have suffered injuries in the hospital. They believe that mostly the accidents were due to lack of safety equipments or lack of training. But the reason for more percentage of doctors being injured has not been accounted for.

This study has revealed that there is no felt need for implementation of Occupational Health Services (OHS). The authors have recommended training for all the hospital staff at regular intervals and that OHS should be properly implemented, monitored, and supervised according to relevant laws and regulations to eliminate or minimize the risk at work and their safety and health is protected. This study should be a starting point towards further study to assess whether training at regular intervals and use of protective equipments can lead to reduced injuries and the extent to which they are used.