

The incidence of Injuries and knowledge, attitude and practice of basic first aid measures among undergraduate students of Faculty of Engineering and Faculty of Agriculture, University of Jaffna

Karunarathne KADR¹Lankathilaka NMSS¹, Premakrishna S², Sivarajah N³

¹ *Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna*

² *Teaching Hospital, Jaffna*

³ *Department of Community and Family Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna*

Background:Injuries are a leading cause of death, hospitalization and disability throughout the world and is a major public health problem in the South East Asia Region including Sri Lanka. Thousands of people are dying each year in situations where first aid could have made the difference. Therefore, every citizen shares the responsibility of having basic first aid knowledge and practices. The objective was to assess the incidence of injuries and knowledge, attitudes and practices on first aid among undergraduate students of Faculty of Agriculture and Faculty of Engineering, University of Jaffna.

Methodology:This cross-sectional study was conducted among 412 University students (-). Data collection was done using a self-administered questionnaire. Overall knowledge was graded as good, moderate and poor based on the score which is obtained from MCQs. Separate sections for attitude and practice were included to the questionnaire to assess the attitude and practice towards first aid and described according to the results.

Results:A total of 412 students were interviewed. Among them, 128 (31.1%) students had faced at least one injury during the previous one-year duration. The students scored the questions with mean value of 4, so 249 (60.4%) had poor knowledge, 136 (33.0%) had moderate knowledge and 27 (6.6%) had good knowledge on basic first aid. Only 100(24.3%) students had previous exposure to formal first aid training and their first aid knowledge was better than the others. Overall attitude towards first aid was satisfactory in both faculties. Out of the study population 121 (29.4%) faced situations where they had provided first aid and 161 (39.1%) faced situations where they were unable to provide first aid. Among the participants 365 (88.6%) wished to have a training on basic first aid.

Conclusion: Undergraduate students of Faculty of Agriculture and Faculty of Engineering, University of Jaffna, did not have adequate knowledge and to practice on basic first aid measures. The attitude of participants towards the first aid was satisfactory in both faculties. Even though students who had previous formal first aid training had better knowledge, they are lacking skills as a first aid provider. Practical based first aid training programs should be introduced in the university curriculum.