

Poster presentations

Theme 3: Education and health

PP21

### **Knowledge, attitude, and practices relating to solid waste management among grade eight students in the Uduvil Education Division**

S.M.R.M. Senavirathna<sup>1</sup>, D.M.D.G.C.M. Dasanayaka<sup>1</sup>, R. Banuja<sup>1</sup>, C.J. Mathanraj<sup>2</sup>, S. Mohanakumar<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna.*

<sup>2</sup>*Department of Community and Family Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna*

<sup>3</sup>*Office of the Regional Director of Health Services - Jaffna*

**Background and objective:** Solid waste management has emerged as a serious global concern. Urbanization generates huge amounts of solid waste and poses a threat to the environment and health. This research aims to assess knowledge, attitude, and practice, and describe the influence of knowledge and attitude on practices relating to solid waste management among grade eight students in the Uduvil Education Division in the Valikamam Education Zone.

**Methods:** This was a descriptive cross-sectional school-based study among all grade eight students of the Uduvil Education Division. A self-administered questionnaire was used to collect data. Analysis was performed by using descriptive statistics and the chi-square test to see the association between variables.  $P < 0.05$  was considered significant.

**Results:** Of 410 students approached, 398 students participated in this study, giving a response rate of 97%. In the sample, 38.2% of students had good knowledge, 47.2% had positive attitudes and 57.3% students had good practice. There was no significant association between knowledge and practice ( $p=0.217$ ) or attitude and practice ( $p=0.887$ ) regarding solid waste management.

**Conclusion:** Although majority of the study population do not have good knowledge and attitudes regarding solid waste management, the majority of students have good practice. Correspondingly, the results of this study suggest that there is no significant association between knowledge/attitude and practice regarding solid waste management among grade eight students in the Uduvil Education Zone.

**Keywords:** Solid Waste Management, Knowledge, Attitude, Practice, Secondary School Students