

A Survey on Disaster Management Among the Dental Students

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Abstract: Recently, natural disasters and terrorist activities have been leading to mass casualty situations unexpectedly around the globe. In addition to the traditional emergency medical services centering around medically trained and paramedic personnel, dental practitioners having vital skills and attributes may be important in responding to a mass casualty situation. The study has focused on the assessment of the knowledge, attitude and behaviour regarding disaster management. This study investigated awareness of disaster management among 200 students of Mamata dental college, Khammam 2019. Among which 47 are males and 153 are females. Consistent with these results ones responses indicated that most of the students are aware of disaster management but the knowledge and experience is less in undergraduates when compared to postgraduates.

Keywords: Disaster Management

1. Introduction

Disasters are the stressful events not only for individuals who suffer from personal loss but also the community at large. They are categorized as Natural which include earthquakes, floods, tornadoes and Manmade disasters which includes chemical, biological, nuclear or explosive devices. Disasters in any form threaten the health and welfare of all civilized societies. Massive disasters are capable of destroying local health care facilities, clinics, and hospitals [1].

In India and abroad, dentists are subjected to medical and surgical training during their pre- doctoral education that makes them useful in disaster management situations. They are also trained for handling medical emergencies in dental clinics and hospitals such as performing minor surgery, dispensing of drugs, giving injections and administration of anesthesia. However, these services can also be provided by other health professionals like the physicians, pharmacists and nursing professionals [2].

But in a mass disaster scenario, when there is shortage of physicians the role of dentist becomes more important as only dentists have the standard training for carrying out these services both at undergraduate and postgraduate level [2]. A total of 80% of the area of India is susceptible to natural

disasters. Overall, 58.6% of landmass is at risk of earthquakes and 12% of it is subject to floods and river erosion [3].

2. Methodology

A. Study design

The present study is cross-sectional in design. A Convenience sampling method was followed where a pretested, self-administered questionnaire was distributed to the dental students of Mamata dental college, Khammam.

Prior to the start of the study, ethical clearance was taken from the Institutional ethical committee. Informed consent was taken from the study participants, who were willing to participate in the study and who were present on the day of the study. The present study was scheduled in the month of the June 2019.

B. Inclusion criteria

All the final years, Interns and postgraduates who were present during the study on the day.

C. Exclusion criteria

Survey was conducted. Students who were absent during the day of survey and not willing to participate are excluded.

D. Study procedure

Questionnaire was distributed to all the interns during working hours 9am to 4pm. Questionnaire consists of demographic data and 15 questions were given. Each question is given with different options. Data was collected by designed questionnaire about the Awareness regarding the disaster management among dental students.

E. Statistical analysis

Statistical analysis was done by using SPSS 25.0 Version. Descriptive statistics was performed, chi-square test was used to find the association among categorical variables.

3. Results

This study was conducted among 200 PGs, Interns and final

years out of which 76.5% are females and 23.5% are males.

Demographic data of study participants

Variables

Gender	Frequency	Percent
Female	153	76.5
Male	47	23.5
Total	200	100

Year of study	Frequency	Percent
PG	43	21.5
Interns	83	41.5
Final years	74	37
Total	200	100

- Based on the results obtained after analyzing each question separately majority of students which is 178(89.5%) are aware of disaster management, least number of students which is 21(10.5%) they are not aware of disaster management.

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	178	89.5
No	22	10.5
Total	200	100

- Most number of students which is 136(68%) think that dentists play a main role by rendering their services in disaster management least number of students which is 64(32%) think that dentists not play a main role by rendering their services in disaster management.

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	136	68
No	64	32
Total	200	100

- Majority number if the students which is 111(55.5%) think that their knowledge of disaster management is satisfactory, least number of students which is 89(44.5%) think that their knowledge on disaster management is satisfactory.

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	89	44.5
No	111	55.5
Total	200	100

- Most number of students which is 126(63%) like to receive any short-term course on disaster management least number of students which is 74(37%) are not like to receive any short- term course on disaster management.

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	126	63
No	74	37
Total	200	100

4. Discussion

My study includes the awareness of disaster management among the dental students. According to my study most of the students are aware of disaster management.

According to my study 68% of the students answered yes that the dentists play a main role in disaster management,55% of them think that their knowledge on disaster management is not satisfactory.63% of the students answered yes that they would like to receive the short- term course on disaster management. 57% of the students answered yes as they constantly update their knowledge on management of disasters.85% of the students answered yes that the forensic odontology plays a main role in identification during the disasters.

The Dental Council of India(DCI), necessitates inclusion of management of medical emergencies in the dental office. Students are also to be trained in basic life support and advanced life support, which can be of help in triage and tagging activities.

The National Disaster Life Support (NDLS) training program can also be developed to better prepare healthcare professionals and emergency response personnel for mass casualty events. This includes courses of Core Disaster life support, Basic life support, advanced life support can also be included into postgraduate training curriculum.

5. Conclusion

Dentists are well experienced in Infection control procedures taking and using information from medical histories to guide their actions, prescribing medications, diagnosis on the basis of clinical signs and symptoms Dentists can provide a valuable service to their patients and communities by providing quality Information regarding possibility of attacks, after effects and appropriate steps to be taken in response to such attacks. The dental profession, by its meaningful involvement in disaster management, will be fulfilling its responsibility to safeguard and protect the health and welfare not only of the community but also the nation as well.

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