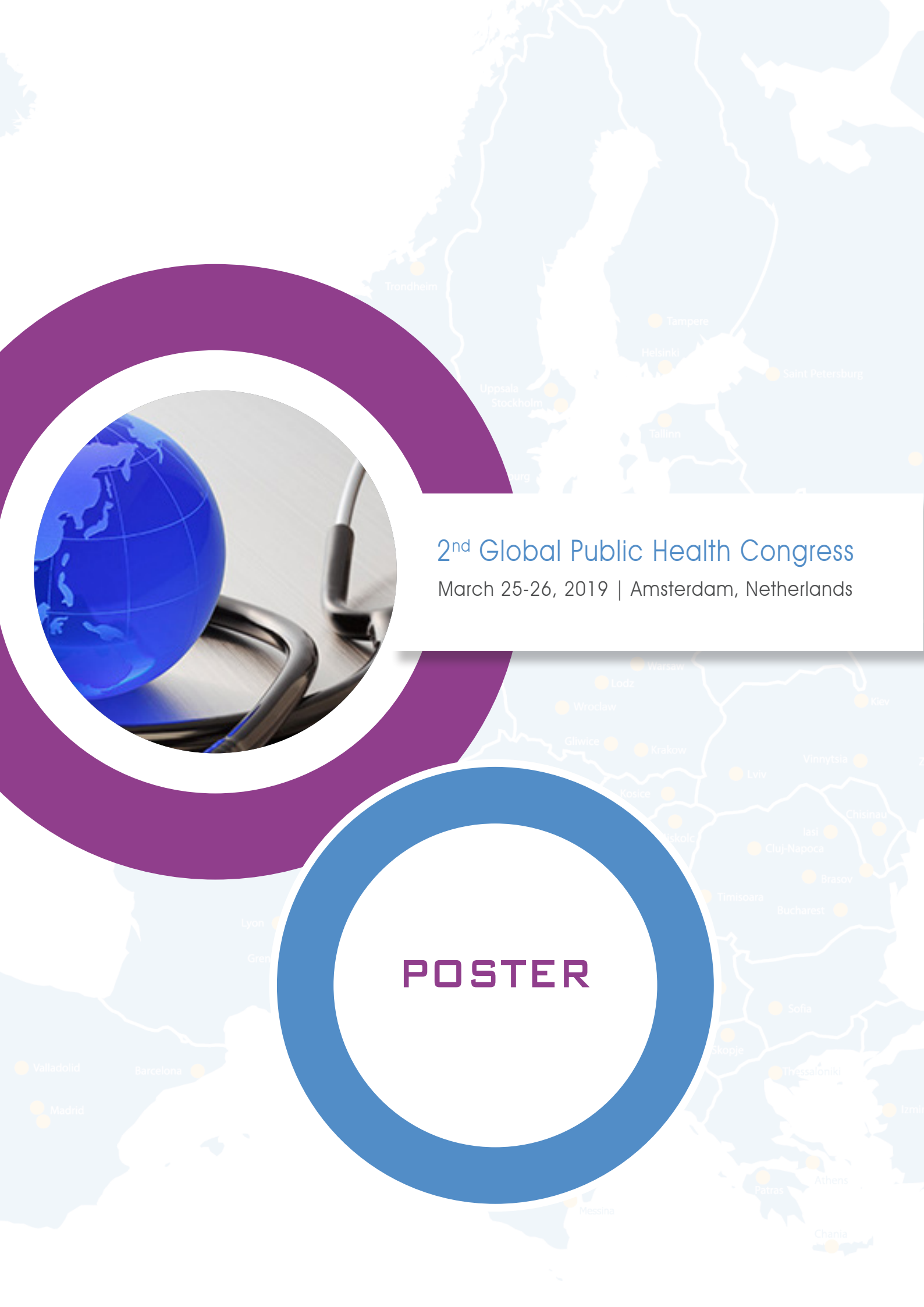




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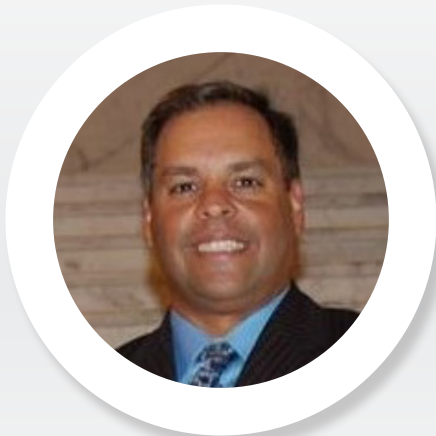
Early age drug injection initiation as risk factor for HIV/HCV coinfection among drug users in rural communities of Puerto Rico

This study aimed to estimate the prevalence of HIV/HCV coinfection and its association with drug injection initiation at an early age among drug users residing in the rural communities of Puerto Rico. With the utilization of a response driven sampling method, 315 intravenous drug users were recruited. Information on sociodemographics, drug use patterns, age of drug injection initiation, and risk behaviors were obtained through structured interviews. HIV and HCV status were determined by the results of the INSTI Rapid HIV and OraQuick Rapid HCV tests. Frequency distributions, bivariate analyses and multinomial logistic regression were used to assess covariates of HIV/HCV. The study received IRB approval through the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the University of Puerto Rico. Approximately 91% of study participants were males. Participants' mean age was 41.7 years and the majority had not completed high school (47.6%). More than three quarters (78.4%) tested positive for HCV during the rapid test, while 6.0% tested positive for HIV. The prevalence of HIV/HCV coinfection was 6.0%. The mean age of drug injection initiation was 21.9 years. HIV/HCV coinfection was strongly associated with drug injection initiation at an early age. The odds of IDUs who initiated drug injection before 18 years was 3 times the odds of IDUs who commenced drug injection after 18 years age (OR=3.8 95%; CI=1.3, 11.3). Strengthening policies and effective harm reduction interventions that prevent early drug injection initiation may reduce HIV/HCV coinfection among drug users in rural communities in Puerto Rico.

Biography

Juan Carlos Reyes-Pulliza received his EdD from the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus in 2003. He is a Research Associate in the Center for Addiction Studies of the Universidad Central del Caribe. He is currently a Professor and Director of the Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology in the University of Puerto Rico. He has published over 25 journal articles and chapters in the areas of Epidemiology of Drug Abuse, Mental Health and HIV risk behaviors. Currently, he is working as Co-investigator on several NIH-funded grants in Puerto Rico.

juan.reyes5@upr.edu



Juan Carlos Reyes-Pulliza

University of Puerto Rico, Medical Sciences
Campus, Puerto Rico

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Amjed Duwegoda

Ministry of Health, Nutrition and
Indigenous Medicine, Sri Lanka

Moral distress and educational level in medical officers at National Cancer Institute Sri Lanka

Background: Moral distress is emotional stress experienced by health care workers due to ethically conflicting situations while caring for patients. Medical officers providing care for cancer patients at National Cancer Institute Sri Lanka may encounter moral distress. Educational level of the medical officers can influence their moral distress.

Objectives: The main objective of this study is to describe the relationship between moral distress and level of education in medical officers working in National Cancer Institute Sri Lanka.

Method: A cross sectional survey carried out by a structured self-administered questionnaire using moral distress scale adapted to the study context with the educational level questionnaire. A total of 160 medical officers working in the national cancer institute were included in the study.

Results: The survey was completed by 132 medical officers and 77 of them had very mild or no moral distress and 55 of them had mild to moderate moral distress. Among the medical officers had very mild or no moral distress 35.1% of them had post graduate qualifications apart from their basic medical degree while only a 18.2% of medical officers had post graduate qualifications among the very mild or no moral distress group. In the assessment of the association of the level of moral distress with the education level, a statistically significant difference ($p=0.33$) was noted and further it is evident that this difference arises due to the low percentage of (27%) individuals with post graduate qualifications in the mild to moderate moral distress group.

Conclusion: A significant association of the level of moral distress with educational level was noted and those with postgraduate qualifications have low levels of moral distress in comparison with those without post graduate qualifications.

Biography

Amjed Duwegoda has obtained his MBBS (CTG), MSc (med Admin), MCGP (SL), DDM (India) has his expertise in evaluation and passion in improving the health and wellbeing of the community and the health care workers. He works as the Medical Superintendent of Base Hospital, Nikaweratiya, Sri Lanka.

Amjedduwegoda@gmail.com

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Future aspirations of interns of dental institutions in Karachi, Pakistan

Aim: The purpose of this study was to evaluate the aspirations and influencing factors of dental house officers to pursue advancements in their careers as dental professionals.

Material & Methods: This was a cross-sectional, observational study. A self-administered questionnaire was designed to evaluate their inclination to choose dentistry as a career. It took into account the participants' demographic and socioeconomic details along with a list of 30 factors grouped into three sections that were rated on a Likert scale. The sections covered career influencing factors, future career plans and interest in dental post-graduate specialties. Data from 220 respondents was recorded and analyzed using descriptive statistics.

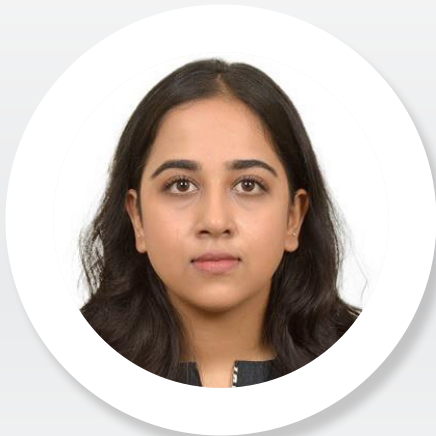
Results: The results showed that majority of the respondents were females (68.7%) and belonged to a middle socioeconomic background (65.4%). Age in the sample ranged from 22-25 years. Majority of the respondents reported financial stability (45.8%) and altruistic motives (37.5%) as the main encouragements to choose dentistry as a career. Work opportunities abroad (52.2%) and post-graduate studies (33.6%) were the most coveted future career plans. Participants expressed their greatest interest in the sub-specialty fields of oral surgery (42.9%) and operative and restorative dentistry (37.4%).

Conclusions: The future aspirations associated with dentistry as a career were primarily materialistic and academic. It would seem that dental interns in Karachi, Pakistan find more opportunities abroad and wish to work towards brighter future prospects. They also aim to pursue post-graduate studies and research which would ensure dentistry as a constantly progressing and prevailing area of healthcare.

Biography

Sonia Sameen is a Dentist who completed her professional studies from the prestigious Dow University of Health Sciences in Karachi, Pakistan in 2017. She has two international publications and currently serving as Assistant Editor for Dental and Medical News Group, Pakistan. She also practices Dentistry in a private clinic. With aspirations to pursue a career in public health in the future, she is a dedicated and precision-oriented person who is proud to be a part of the global healthcare community.

live.va939@hotmail.com



Sonia Sameen

Dow University of Health Sciences, Pakistan

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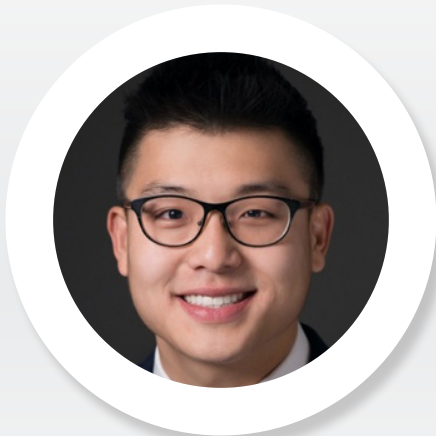
The Lack of Trust and Knowledge about Government-Provided Assistance Programs by Korean-Americans with Disabilities

Korean-American families with disabled family members often face difficulties in obtaining and utilizing government-provided aid. Due to negative societal views, language barriers, and lack of overall knowledge about the family member's disability and offered aid programs for such disabilities, many Korean-American families are not able to provide the most proper care for their family members. Many Korean-Americans, who are immigrants, express pressure and challenges in dealing with their families' disabilities. They also lack trust about patient information confidentiality, leading to many Korean-Americans hiding their family member's disability from medical professionals or government officials.

To investigate this issue, an anonymous survey was distributed to Korean-American communities in California and Georgia. Evaluation of each family's knowledge of government-provided assist programs was assessed. Furthermore, Koreans' societal views on disabilities and level of education about various mental disabilities were explored. The survey investigates the causal relationship between the lack of efficient patient-care for these disabled members and the family's understanding of government-provided assistance programs, societal views on disabilities, and their backgrounds.

Biography

David Ahn has completed his BA from the College of William & Mary in Virginia with a major in Economics. His experiences focus on econometric data analysis for public health and sustainable energy initiatives. His work investigates disease prevention, public health, and efficient public policy programs.



David Ahn

College of William & Mary, Virginia

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ABSTRACTS**

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Respiratory illness among brick kiln workers – A cross sectional study

Bal Rakshase

Tata Institute of Social Sciences, India

Respiratory illnesses involve multiple parts of the respiratory system and include ear infections, sinusitis, upper respiratory illnesses, asthma, pneumonia, influenza and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). Many individual factors and extrinsic factors such as exposure to environmental stimuli, different allergens, air pollution, exposure to dust, various particulate matter and tobacco smoke also contributes to respiratory illness. Air pollution from small and large-scale industrial areas has been considered dangerous to human health. Small-scale industries play a prominent role in environmental pollution. Amongst the small sectors, the brick kilns industry is growing very fast due to the rapid urbanization. In Asian countries, the workers are treated as bonded labourers, and they are working in conditions similar to slavery. The present study aimed to find out the extent of occupational hazards in terms of respiratory disorders among workers working at traditional and advanced brick kilns. The researcher took the cross sectional data, conducted on a sample of 251 subjects from traditional and advanced types of brick kilns from Maharashtra, state of India. The study found strong relationship between hazardous environmental conditions and the physical and respiratory health of brick kiln workers. The findings of the study indicate that most of the brick kiln workers are at higher risk of experiencing occupational hazards in the form of respiratory illness.

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Health insurance policy and the satisfaction with the health services in Kosovo

Hashim Mehmeti¹, Arian Musliu², Djellon Peci¹ and Bernard Tahirbegolli⁺

¹Heimerer College, Republic of Kosovo

²Ludwig Maximilian University, Germany

The health system in Kosovo is a streamlined system that is managed in three levels of health care. Management systems are divided into primary, secondary and tertiary (Assembly of Kosovo, 2004). According to Kosovo democratic institute (2011), functional health insurance systems are a necessity to increase the quality of health services. Since 2011, it has been proven that drafts are being piloted in order to implement health insurance but still without success (Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, 2018). The purpose of this research is to assess the need for health insurance in Kosovo and to evaluate the satisfaction of citizens with the health services and health system. In this research a sample of 123 participants was recruited (50.8% males) all citizens of Kosovo. The average age of the respondents was 24.4 years. Two different instruments were used in this research. First instrument was a self-created instrument based on the data from scientific literature to measure the need of proper health insurance. Also another instrument that originally was created by Wirral Community NHS was used to measure the satisfaction with 14 different processes of health system in Kosovo. Only 26% of respondents are insured and 74% of them are not insured. Respondents have shown that the need for health insurance is extremely high (82.2%). Also, 54% of respondents consider that health services are moderately satisfactory and 79.5% of citizens consider that proper health insurance will improve the health system. Most of the citizens consider that health services are satisfactory on average. Health insurances are seen as extremely important by citizens of Kosovo as the primary procedure to improve the health systems and satisfaction.

The holistic being of parents having a psychologically challenged child: an analysis

Jumar Talento Ubalde

Australia Institute of Business and Technology, Australia

Mental retardation is a subnormal intellectual development as a result of congenital causes, brain injury, or disease and characterized by any of various cognitive deficiencies, including impaired learning, social and vocational disability. It is now termed as mentally challenged, psychologically challenged or intellectual disability in order to preserve the dignity of the individual. On this research study, the researcher aims to show the holistic being of parents having a mentally retarded child. Thirty parents having a psychologically challenged child studying in Legarda Elementary School were the respondents of the study. The respondents were given thirty minutes to answer the Likert scale questionnaire categorized according to the components of holism and subcategorized according to Gordon's functional health patterns. The result showed that there is no significant difference on the holistic being according to the demographic profile of the parents. The results showed that there is no negative effect of having a psychologically challenged child on the holistic being of the parents, the public would still benefit from its results by evaluating and knowing the holistic being of the parents having psychologically challenged child.

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Bullying in schools in Peja Region 2018

Lendita Krasniqi, Adnora Nurboja, Shqipe Krasniqi, Fuat Dervishaj, Fatmire Kollqaku Burim Kotori and Fatime Dervishaj Ukaj

NIPHK- Peja Branch, Kosovo

Aim: The aim of the study is to observe the conditions in schools for presence of bullying phenomenon, according to the conditions, and to propose for the proactive and integrated precautionary methods that will make progression on quality of teaching, with intention to prevent all types of bullying.

Methodology: Methodology involved questionnaire, anonymous, data collected for the year 2018. Research included 304 students from 33 localities of Peja Region. Results are presented numericaly, by charts using SPSS programme.

Results: According to the questionnaire, results are as follows: Among the students 149 (49.0%) are female and 155 (51%) are male. Two hundred and sixty five (265 or 87.2%) are Albanians and 39 (12%) belongs to Bosnian community. Sixty (60 or 19.7%) of them don't know if in their school have bullying phenomenon, 65 (21.4%) acknowledge and 179 (58.7%) declare that there is no presence of bullying phenomenon.

Conclusions: According to this research, results shows that bullying phenomenon is not very much faced, only in few schools is expressible, however multiplicity of precaution measures is necessary with intention to eradicate this occurrence. There is need for adequate institutions for strategical planning for long time period, coordination and involvement of school staff and students, parents, psychologists and Institute of Public Health.

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The activities of the group for the promotion of health in the universal hospital in Maribor

Nina Lilija Sarman

Slovenia

Introduction: Health is the basis for good and successful life and work – both for individuals and for the organization. Health promotions in the workplace are systematically targeted actions and measures, by the employer implemented with the aim of preserving and enhancing the physical and mental health of workers. The purpose of this paper was to present health promotion and on the basis of needs expressed by employees to plan further activities.

Methods: Quantitative research, which took place in April 2016, will be presented. The obtained data was analyzed and graphically processed using the computer program Microsoft Windows Excel.

Results: The questionnaire was filled by 43.91% of employees. Thirty two percent (32%) of respondents were engaged in sports 1-3 times per week and in almost 70% employees would like to have organized exercise, relaxation and meditation. Sixty three percent (63%) of respondents raise loads and in 82% they know the correct ways to lift them. Fifty percent (50%) of employees are satisfied with their employer. 85.48% of respondents were informed about preventive measures in the field of occupational safety and health.

Discussion: Respondents expressed a great desire for activities in the field of health promotion in the workplace. The paper will present the results of the survey, which in depth describe the level of satisfaction, needs and wishes of employees.

Conclusion: Concern for preserving and improving the health of employees is reasonable, because healthy and satisfied employees, who work in a safe and supportive environment are more productive and creative, rarely get sick and are less absent from work, also they remain loyal to the work and employers. These findings pose a challenge for further research.

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A study of the social stigma of the patients receiving DOTS under RNTCP program in Bihar, India

Pankhuri Rai

HLFPPT, India

Background: Acceptance of DOTS strategy in the Indian RNTCP has certainly brought encouraging success in the management of TB cases within the country. However, there are challenges to be met in the program implementation, before the RNTCP objectives are finally realized. One such challenge is the social stigma associated with the TB patients. The study attempts to find out the concerns of the TB patients who receive the DOTS within the same community.

Objective: The objective of this study is to know the major concerns of the TB patients who are receiving the DOTS from the DOTS providers within the same community/village.

Methods & Materials: An interview was conducted of 256 patients who are receiving the DOTS within their communities/villages across the five development blocks of Munger district of Bihar.

Results: Of all the TB patients who were interviewed, 53 percent reported that they wanted to hide from the community that they have TB, but they have to reveal it to others about their disease because they have to take the DOTS from the providers within the village. Of all those interviewed, 47 percent said that taking DOTS had a negative impact on them with respect to social discrimination within the community. Fifty three (53) percent reported that because of DOTS, several people in the community knew that they have TB which led to the discrimination.

Conclusion: Notions restricting the acceptance of TB patients are still prevalent in the minds of people and require a propagation of frequent IEC campaigns to remove superstitions amongst the people.

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Change in knowledge attitude and practice of road safety measures after Polaris training

Shabbir Karim¹, Neha Sharma^{2,3}, Sahil Singhal^{3,4} and Puneet Sharma³

¹Polaris School of Motoring, UK

²Warwick Research Services, UK

³NMP Medical Research Institute, India

⁴Traffic Wardens, India

Introduction: Road Traffic accidents are among the eight leading causes of death worldwide killing more than malaria, HIV or tuberculosis. Immediate and effective measures are required at grass root levels other than law enforcements, strong policies, smart road designs and awareness programs. Polaris Training modules were designed with driving instructors and driving schools to include safety measure focused on incorporating measures in regular practice.

Objectives: The objective of the study is to assess the change in knowledge, attitude and practice of road safety measures among new learning drivers after Polaris teaching modules.

Methodology: A randomised controlled trial was conducted among 80 new learning drivers during the month of September 2018. Four professional driving schools were selected randomly and 20 learners from each school were chosen. Alternate random selection was included in the intervention group (n=40) and control group (n=40). Polaris training module was given to intervention group during their regular driving instructions. A pre-tested semi structured questionnaire was administered after taking consent from the individuals.

Results: Seventy-four (74) participants completed the study. There was difference in knowledge levels between two group but did not reach to significance level. Attitude change in intervention group was statistically significant (p=0.01). More than 90% of the students strongly agreed that making safe habits can prevent accidents. Practice assessments were taken from their instructors and were compared between groups. Intervention group used the techniques learned in the training significantly more often than control group (p<0.05).

Conclusion: Training instructions while learning to drive can be effective to make a change in attitude and practice of new learners. This study was first of its kind using randomised controlled trial.

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Stigma related mental health knowledge among community health workers - a cross sectional assessment

Vikram Arunachalam¹, Savitha SK², Vedavathi² and Anish V Cherian³

¹National Urban Health Mission, India

²Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, India

³National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences, India

Introduction: The accreted social health activists (ASHAs) or the community health workers have been involved in improving maternal and child health over a decade in rural India. There is growing evidences that in mental health resource poor settings, a 'task-shifting' strategy would be advantageous, where the community or the lay health workers (like ASHAs) provides front-line mental health care, instead of mental health professional at a primary care level. However, there is limited data on delivering the mental health services delivered through ASHAs in mental health resource scarce urban slums setting.

Aim: The aim of the present study is to assess the knowledge and attitude towards mental illness among ASHAs serving in government primary health centers in urban Bengaluru, India.

Materials & Methods: A cross-sectional study was conducted among randomly selected ASHA workers (n=150) in urban Bengaluru in the Karnataka state. Data were collected through mental health knowledge schedule (MAKS), and reported and intended behaviour scale (RIBS), self-administered questionnaire designed assess mental health knowledge and attitude towards mental illness. Data were computed using SPSS. The mean age of the participants was 38.6±5.68 years and educated at least tenth grade (66.1%) or above (20.2%). The mean year experience in the health field as ASHAs was 4.27±2.36 years. The ASHAs had lower score on MAKS.

Results: Our results show relatively lesser knowledge about mental health among ASHAs. Thus, indicating the need to develop training module to train the ASHAs for early identification of mental illness from the community and refer to available mental health service.

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