

ABSTRACT

A cross sectional descriptive study on environmental health situation was conducted in 52 General Practitioner clinics in Lashio, Northern Shan State from September to November, 2010. Self administered questionnaires, visits and observation by assessment checklists were used in data collection. About half of the respondents 42 percent were aged between 41-50 years. Nearly equal portion of employees was contributed to the study from government and private sectors. Nearly 80% of the studied clinic buildings were not a property of the respondents, all were rented rooms or houses. So although they have willingness to manage the environmental sanitation condition of their clinics, it was beyond the capabilities of the respondents. About half, 46 percent of the studied clinics had floor area ranged from 151 to 300 square feet. The study revealed that, 87 percent of the studied clinics separated their healthcare waste, among them 69 percent separated emphasized only on sharps nature of the waste and 20 percent segregated healthcare waste emphasized on both sharps and infectious characteristics of the healthcare waste. Among the containers used by the studied clinics, 30 percent were puncture resistant and leak proof. Regarding colour coding and labeling practices, six percent of the clinics were practicing. Concerning waste storage practice of the studied clinics, 83 percent stored more than 72 hours and among them 42 percent of the studied clinics stored inside the clinics while waiting for final disposal. Final disposal methods used by the studied clinics, 73 percent relied on municipal operating system and 10 percent used opened burning method. Concerning the water supply of the studied clinics, 85 percent got water from protected source and 98 percent used water of desirable in quality. Regarding the adequacy of the water supply of the studied clinics, 88 percent got adequate quantity intermittently and 77 percent had year round supply. The sanitary latrines coverage of the studied clinics was 92 percent. About 46 percent of the studied latrines had hand washing facilities. The basic environmental sanitation and hygiene condition of the studied clinics, 91 percent had rather fair sanitary environment. According to the information and hygiene promotion status of the health care providers of the studied clinics, 30 percent of the staff got trainings and guidelines on hygiene promotion, and universal precaution. Among the studied clinics, 30 percent of the clinics had posters and pamphlets concerned with hygiene promotion at their clinics. Proper hand washing practices was neglected by more than 50 percent of health care providers of the studied clinics.