

ABSTRACT

A cross sectional descriptive study on assessment of knowledge, attitude and practice of health care workers on health care waste disposal was conducted in Mandalay General Hospital, Chan Aye Thar San Township, Mandalay Region from September to November, 2011. Pre-tested structured questionnaires were used in data collection. In this study, the studied health care workers were categorized into operational level and managerial level. Operational level included menial workers, trained nurses, staff nurses and technicians and managerial level included ward sisters, medical officers, specialist medical officers and consultant specialists. There were 226 respondents participating in this study including 146 respondents (64.6%) in operational level and 80 respondents (35.4%) in managerial level. In the operational level, 58 menial workers, 35 trained nurses, 47 staff nurses and 6 technicians were participated and there were 24 sisters, 26 medical officers, 21 specialist medical officers and 9 consultant specialists in managerial level. Most of the respondents in both levels were female respondents, 82% in operational level and 55% in managerial level. Among the respondents, most of the respondents were aged between 30 to 39 years, 45.9% in operational level and 37.5% in managerial level. Services of respondents at MGH were range between 6 months to 30 years. According to this study, there were 21.2% of respondents having poor knowledge and 78.8% of respondents having good knowledge scores in operational level. Among the respondents in managerial level, there were 12.5% of respondents having poor knowledge and 87.5% of respondents having good knowledge scores. Most of respondents had well knowledge about the disposal of health care waste, 78.8% in operational level and 87.5% in managerial level. Waste segregation system was well known among the respondents. Concerning to the knowledge on color coding for health care waste, most of respondents knew the color coding used for general waste, infectious waste and sharp waste but did not know the color for pathological, chemical and pharmaceutical waste. In operational level, 0.7 % of respondents had negative attitude

and 99.3% of respondents had positive attitude. There were 8.8% of respondents with negative attitude and 91.2% of respondents with positive attitude in managerial level. Regarding the practice in operational level, most of the respondents (84.1%) had good practice on disposal of health care waste. Among 146 respondents at operational level, 15.9 % of respondents had poor practice and 84.1% of respondents had good practice. There was no significant association between knowledge, attitude and practice of respondents in both levels of health care workers. There were a number of problems found in medical waste management, including lack of discipline, lack of knowledge on health care waste and its effect on health and environment and lack of support and supervision for proper disposal of waste. Training program, health education program and awareness raising on the waste management should be provided. Moreover, provision of sufficient manpower, money and materials for health care waste disposal should be recommended in collaboration and coordination with Mandalay City Development Committee.