

ABSTRACT

A cross-sectional study of knowledge and perception towards Ebola disease among nursing students was conducted in University of Nursing, Yangon in October 2014. A total of 170, first year and second year (Bridge) course students from University of Nursing, Yangon were sampled by simple random sampling method and surveyed by using self-administered questionnaire with the general objectives of studying of the knowledge and perception towards Ebola disease among the study population. Exactly 170 of the students are 2 male and 168 female students respectively. The respondents have been working as nurses in various levels of hospitals and health centers before their university student's life. 92.4% (95% CI: 88-96%) of them had been present another degree (Diploma in ICU, ENT) or graduation (B.A or B.Sc). In this study, the minimum service years in government employee life of the respondent were 3 years and the maximum was 26 years. 0 to 5 service years are 35.9% and > 5 service years are 64.1%. Most of the respondents had been working clinical (hospitals) sites (92.9%) and then 10.6% (95% CI: 6-15%) among respondents have been experienced about infection control training regarding emerging disease like Ebola. In this study, they all knew the general information about Ebola disease and got via TV, radio, internet news and friends. Regarding questionnaires about knowledge scores were assessed and described, minimum knowledge scores are 7 while maximum one is 40 upon 42 given marks, 54.7% respondents had good knowledge about Ebola disease and poor knowledge was found in 45.3% of the respondents. Regarding perception scores, minimum perception scores are 32 while maximum one is 48 upon 48 given marks, 55.3% had good perception and 44.7% had poor perception towards Ebola disease. Quantitative data was analyzed by using SPSS version 22.0 to perform Chi-square test, independent sample t test and ANOVA for analysis of bivariates. The level of knowledge and perception were not associated with the students' age group and current posting. The academic year was associated with the knowledge level ($p < 0.001$) and then was also associated with perception level ($p = 0.033$). Then, the total years of services were associated with knowledge level of Ebola disease ($p = 0.040$) and the knowledge level was associated with perception level ($p = 0.019$) OR=2.082 (95%CI = 1.125 to 3.855). It was concluded that the respondents had good knowledge and perception if they were high education level. Although, the respondents had had good experience on infection control training and another degree or graduation, the perception gap was still present among them. According to this study, most of the respondents were needed

to be adequate knowledge and perceptions regarding epidemiology of Ebola disease, understanding disease threats and safe fulfillment in disease control activities about Ebola disease.