

**KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE AND PRACTICE ON
HEALTH CARE WASTE MANAGEMENT
AMONG GENERAL WORKERS AT YANGON
GENERAL HOSPITAL**

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ABSTRACT

Health care waste management in the pandemic era is crucial for all health care workers as well as, general workers, who handle the waste. The study aimed to assess the knowledge, attitude, and practice of healthcare waste management among general workers from Yangon General Hospital. A cross-sectional study was carried out among 285 general workers with a minimum duration of (6) months who were assigned to Yangon General Hospital by using semi-structured pretest questionnaires. Descriptive statistical analysis was done by Stata Mathematics Software Application Version 13. Association between background characteristics, knowledge, attitude, and practice level were calculated with Fisher's exact test with a significant level of 0.05. A total of 285 general workers aged between 18 and 60 years were involved. The highest age group was 30 to 39 years and most of the general workers had a primary level of education. Ninety-seven percent of general workers had good knowledge and practice in health care waste management although (89%) of them had poor attitudes. Moreover, (73%) had no training in healthcare waste management. Only (8%) of the respondents knew the color-coding of blood and body parts. About (30%) of general workers answered never to practice disinfection of waste before disposal. About (57%) of the general workers strongly agreed on wearing PPE can reduce infection, and about (44%) knew COVID-19 could transmit from waste. Only (15%) strongly agreed that healthcare waste management was a risk to transmit any infectious disease. Based on the study, the issue suggested that knowledge among study participants was relatively poor at COVID-19 waste disinfection and basic precautions. Almost (89%) of general workers had poor attitudes. (97%) of the respondents had a good practice. Most (91%) of general workers washed their hands after handling healthcare waste and, (23%) of the respondents used PPE in handling healthcare waste for disposal every time. Among the respondents who had working experience of more than five years had significantly associated with good practice ($p=0.001$). There was a significant association between received training and good practice ($p=0.000$). There was no significant association between the knowledge, attitude, and practice level of healthcare waste management among general workers. Because the attitude towards healthcare waste was poor among the respondents, the causal factors should be analyzed with further research. Close supervision should be continuously done on each level of health care waste management.