

**WORKPLACE VIOLENCE AMONG NURSES IN
YANGON GENERAL HOSPITAL**

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M.B.,B.S

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ABSTRACT

Nowadays, workplace violence among nurses is a notifiable issue and has captured much attention in recent years. Among all types of healthcare workers, nursing professionals are at the highest risk of violence in their workplace since they have to deal with patients and their families directly and frequently. Certain predisposing factors such as lack of strict legislation, poor actions for violent incidents, scarce human resources and unsafe working environment constitute significantly to WPV. In order to develop workplace security at public hospitals in Myanmar, this study aimed to assess the magnitude and related factors of both physical and non-physical workplace violence among nurses at Yangon General Hospital (YGH). A cross-sectional study was carried out among 192 nurses including sisters, staff nurses and trained nurses with minimum one-year working service in YGH using self-administered questionnaire. Descriptive statistics and Pearson's chi-square test were used to find the occurrence and related factors of workplace violence. Concerning the results, the prevalence of any types of violence was 29.2%. In details, verbal abuse was the most frequent type (27.1%), followed by bullying/ mobbing (7.8%) and physical violence (1.6%). Sexual harassment had not been identified in this study. Surgical and Medical wards were the places where the most incidents had occurred. Majority of attackers were patient's relatives (62.7%) for verbal abuse and staff members (64.3%) for bullying/ mobbing. In accordance with reporting the incidents to senior level, the rate was very low for verbal abuse (13.5%) and no reporting for bullying/mobbing in this study. As per reasons for not reporting, more than 50% answered that it was not important and about 30% did not know to whom for reporting in verbal abuse. Feeling ashamed and did not know to whom to report were the most frequent answers for bullying/ mobbing. Most of the respondents mentioned that effective hospital management must be established to reduce the occurrence of workplace violence. Significant association was found between verbal abuse and being staff nurse ($p=0.02$), conducting night duty ($p=0.01$) and conducting shift work ($p < 0.001$). As for bullying/mobbing, it was associated with increased number of staff in the same work setting ($p=0.02$). Hence, it could be concluded that awareness raising regarding the importance of workplace violence and strictly following hospital guidelines were needed for safety of health professionals in the hospital setting.