

**AWARENESS ON HAZARDS OF HEALTH CARE
WASTE AND PREVENTIVE PRACTICES
AMONG CLEANING WORKERS OF
YANGON CITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE,
BOTATAUNG DISTRICT, YANGON**

AUNG KO OO

B.D.S

**Master of Public Health (MPH)
University of Public Health, Yangon**

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ABSTRACT

Hazards of health care waste is one the most important risk factors for municipal cleaning workers in the world. Health care waste (HCW) represents a major public health and environmental concern. A cross-sectional descriptive study was conducted to assess the awareness on hazards of health care waste and preventive practices among cleaning workers of Yangon City Development Committee, Botataung District, Yangon Region from April to August, 2022. Pre-tested structured questionnaires were used in data collection. There were 165 cleaning workers participating in this study including with age ranging from 18 to 75 years with mean age of 36.2 years. More than half (57%) of the participants were male. Regarding to the highest educational level attained, more than half of the participants were under middle school level (64.3%). The type of waste they collected was mostly general waste (93.3%). More than half (xx%) of the cleaning workers had received the training or instruction regarding preventive practices of occupational hazards, however, only (21.8%) received the training on health care waste handling. Among the workers, (62.4%) responded that they had hazards of health care waste in their job. The most common health care waste they exposed were used masks (73.9%) and used gloves (71.5%). Fifty-one workers (30.9%) had physical injury due to health care waste. Main causes of physical injury due to health care waste was broken medicine vials or ampules (82.4%). Only few respondents had infection history reporting four cases of RTI/TB and one case of COVID-19. Most of cleaning workers had poor awareness (93.5%) while no one had good awareness. Regarding preventive practices, only 7 workers (4.2%) had good practices whereas the poor level of practices was found in one third (32.7%) of workers. There were associations between highest education status of cleaning workers and their awareness levels ($p= 0.032$), work shift and awareness level ($p = 0.011$), and working hours per day of cleaning workers and their awareness levels ($p= 0.04$) and employment pattern of cleaning workers and their preventive practices level ($p= 0.02$). Training, health education program and awareness raising among the cleaning workers on hazards of health care waste should be provided.