

ABSTRACT: POSTER PRESENTATION

## Assessment of leprosy training program for Medical Officer in Eastern Province

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**Introduction:** Leprosy is a neglected tropical infectious disease and is completely curable if identified early and treated. Also, will cause no long-term neurological consequences. Annually 200,000 people diagnosed with leprosy worldwide. New cases notified in Sri Lanka is between 1500 – 2000/year over the last five years. In 2022, 55 new cases were diagnosed till now and 35 of them were from Batticaloa district. Training program to improve the knowledge of Medical Officers (MOO) and increase case detection was conducted in March 2022.

**Objective:** To assess the knowledge gained at a Leprosy training program.

**Methodology:** Assessment was done among fifty-one MOO participated from various hospitals from all RDHS divisions in Eastern Province on 12.03.2022. Questionnaire with ten structured questions given pre and post training. Each question was given 10 points and total maximum score was 100. Statistical analysis was done using SPSS 25 and paired t test was used for pre and post-test analysis.

**Results:** Average age of MOO was 41.5 (SD 9.1) and nearly 63% (n=32) of them were males. Only five (9.8%) participants had post-graduation. Nearly 25% of MOO had leprosy training program within one-year period. Average score on pre-test of Grade I and II MOO was equal (65.9) and preliminary grade had less score (61.7), but all grade MOO scored more than 80 in post-test.

Means  $\pm$  standard deviation score of pre and post-test were  $64.6 \pm 12.2$  and  $84.7 \pm 10.1$  respectively (DF 50,  $t = 9.66$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ) which was statistically significant.

**Conclusion:** This training program has improved knowledge among the participants regarding Leprosy.

**Recommendation:** Continuous professional development will assist all grade MOO to improve knowledge.

**Keywords:** Leprosy, Pre-test, Post-test, Medical Officers

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