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"Knowledge, Attitude and Practices regarding Palliative care among Interns and Postgraduate students in a medical college "

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Knowledge, Attitude and Practices regarding Palliative care among Interns and Postgraduate students in a medical college

Introduction

Palliative care can be defined as a holistic approach to improve the quality of life of patients and their families suffering from a terminal illness. Health care workers are present at both the beginning and the end of life and they play a major role in caring for dying patients. Interns and postgraduates are the nearest to our country's future physicians, hence teaching them about palliative care will make them become more caring and committed to their patients. This research would provide information on the existing state of knowledge regarding palliative care among the future doctor of the country. It also reveals their views toward palliative care and their practices of treating terminally ill patients. With this background, the current was conducted to assess the knowledge, attitude and knowledge regarding palliative care among interns and postgraduate students.

Methodology

In this cross-sectional study, 440 interns and postgraduate students working in the hospitals affiliated to Kasturba Medical College, Mangalore were included. The sample size was calculated assuming 50 % of medical interns and postgraduates' students have adequate knowledge regarding palliative care. The sample size was calculated with 10% relative precision, 95% confidence interval and 10% non-response error. Applying the population proportion to size sampling strategy, a total of 198 medical interns + 242 postgraduates will be included in the study.

The data will be collected using pre-tested semi-structured questionnaire consisting of the following sections: Section A: Participant information, Section B: Knowledge regarding palliative care - PCKT Questionnaire, Section C: Attitude towards palliative care, Section D: Practice of palliative care, Section E: Perception regarding inclusion of Palliative care in medical curriculum.

Institutional ethics committee clearance was obtained before the commencement of the study. An online Google survey form was created, the link of which is being sent to all the eligible study participants via Social Media. The instructions as to how the forms are supposed to be filled is mentioned wherever required. The form, once submitted, will then be processed for further analysis. Only the completed forms will be considered for final analysis.

Results: Study in progress

Keywords: Knowledge, Attitude, Practice, Palliative care, Postgraduates