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Violence Against Doctors: A Qualitative Study On This Rising Predicament

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Violence Against Doctors: A Qualitative Study on this Rising Predicament

Introduction: One can witness the wearing off of the old trust and faith between doctors and patients. Increasing incidences of violence against doctors have been making headlines of newspapers for over the past few decades. Evidence suggests that doctors are at a very high risk of physical violence, threats, verbal abuse and cyber bullying at work. Indian Medical Association has reported that 75% of doctors deal with verbal abuse or physical violence and it is one of the most common causes of anxiety in 43% of the doctors. Reasons are most likely to be lack of communication, understaffed and over loaded medical professionals, poor training in emergency care and management, poor grievance redressal on part of the doctors etc. The Health Services Personnel and Clinical establishments bill has been passed in India which can be considered as one of the first steps towards resolving the matter at hand. It is high time we figure out different ways of working together in harmony and bringing about systemic changes in health care delivery system for avoiding such untoward incidents and ensuring round the clock quality services for those in need.

Objectives: The objectives of the study were to identify the probable causes for the increase in violence against doctors and to explore solutions to improve the current scenario.

Setting and design: This study was conducted in Kasturba Medical College, Mangalore. This is a descriptive qualitative study including two steps i.e. Free listing and Pile sorting.

Materials and methodology: The study used non-random, convenience sampling. The study involved a one to one interview with 2 interns and 2 tutors posted in Community Medicine Department of Kasturba Medical College, Mangalore.

Statistical Analysis: Visual Anthropac 4.98.1 software was used.

Results: After conducting free listing a total of 28 causes were identified and 19 solutions were suggested a smith's salience score of 0.15 was taken as the limit and 14 cause and 12 solutions were then sorted where they were grouped into 3-6 and 3-5 groups respectively. The cause with the highest salience score of 0.25 was not giving importance to autonomy and the solution with the highest salience score of 0.25 was better triage system in emergency cases.

Conclusion: Violence against doctors is one of the major problems being faced today. By using the free listing and pile sorting method not giving importance to autonomy, favourism and discrimination among patients were identified as some of the main causes for violence against doctors while better triage system in emergency cases and strict laws for violence against doctors were suggested as effective solutions for the above problem

.Key words: Violence against doctors, Qualitative study