

PP 33: Knowledge on first aid among non-medical undergraduates of University of Peradeniya

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Introduction: Knowledge on first aid is paramount in modern day's world. University students are one of the best group of advocates to spreading knowledge and implementing correct first aid practices in the society.

Objectives: To assess the level and adequacy of knowledge among first year undergraduates of University of Peradeniya, to determine whether the knowledge differs by the faculty of study and to determine the sources from which students gained their knowledge on first aid.

Methods: A descriptive cross-sectional study was carried out among 239 randomly selected first year undergraduates from 8 faculties in the University of Peradeniya, excluding the Faculty of Medicine. A self-administered questionnaire was used to collect data. The adequacy of knowledge was assessed according to the marks obtained for the questionnaire.

Results: Of the participants, 71.4% had adequate knowledge on first aid. There was a significant association between adequacy of knowledge between students and the type of faculty they belong. The adequacy of knowledge in students from faculties related to biology stream was significantly higher than the students from other faculties. ($p=0.018$) The commonest source of obtaining knowledge on first aid was family and friends.

Conclusions: Knowledge on first aid among students from faculties that are not related biology is not adequate. Implementing workshops and training programs on first aid, tailor made to each faculty is recommended to improve the knowledge on first aid.

Keywords: First aid, knowledge, medical undergraduates