

**A STUDY ON KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE AND SKILLS ON PERSONAL PROTECTIVE
EQUIPMENTS AMONG NURSES WORKING AT THE THIKA LEVEL 5 HOSPITAL
LABOUR WARD**

BY

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ABSTRACT

Proper utilization of personal protective equipments has a positive impact on the safety of services provided by healthcare workers to patients. Personal protective equipments are meant to create a barrier between the wearer and disease causing micro-organisms.

The main objective of carrying out this study was to determine the knowledge, attitude and skills on personal protective equipment among nurses working at Thika level 5 hospital labor ward. This was achieved by conducting a descriptive cross-sectional study. Semi-structured self administered questionnaires were used to collect data from 46 nurses working in the labor ward. Random sampling method was used to select them. Data was analyzed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) and presented in form of tables, pie chart and bar graphs.

The study results showed that majority of the respondents 25(54.3%) had adequate knowledge of the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to don before carrying out a vaginal delivery. Regarding wearing of gloves with other PPE, 44(95.7%) reported to put on other needed PPEs before putting on gloves. This shows that majority of the respondents had adequate knowledge concerning PPE use. Majority of the respondents 27(58%) rated staff adherence to PPE as very good. Fourteen percent (30.4) rated it as excellent while none rated it as poor.

Regarding comfort of PPE, majority 25(54.3%) of the respondents said they were comfortable when using them and nearly all of the respondent 45(97.8%) reported to put on goggles when carrying out a vaginal delivery, 33(71.7%) reported to change face masks after every procedure.

Qualitative data showed that lack of knowledge, ignorance, negative attitude, lack of monitoring, supervision and lack of PPE policies, were some of the factors that hindered compliance to proper PPE use in the department.

Recommendations from this study were that labor ward management to provide adequate supplies of PPE's such as boots, aprons, masks and caps; for effective utilization by all of the staff, initiate a continuous education on proper PPE use and infection prevention and control to all staff in the department. . Labor ward management need to develop a PPE policy and ensure it is adhered to by all personnel working in the department.