

National Health Workforce Summit

Wednesday, 14 June 2023 - Thursday, 15 June 2023

Jazeera Palace Hotel



NHWS | 2023
National Health Workforce Summit

Book of Abstracts

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Assessment of Pharmacists Health Workforce in Banadir region, Somalia

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Purpose: Pharmacists are recognized as the cornerstone health workforce for the success health sector programs. The aim of this study was to assess pharmacists' qualification, determine level of experience and to assess their sociodemographic status so that it would help in critical evaluation of the national pharmacy workforce and effective planning of the future health workforce.

Method: A descriptive cross-sectional study was carried out among pharmacists within the districts in Banadir region, Somalia from January to March, 2023. A self-administered questionnaire was used to collect relevant information.

Results: In the present study, only 18% (76/410) reported to be qualified pharmacists and to our surprise there were drug sellers who have no health qualification, no formal education and also with below undergraduate level. 90%(370/410) were males and females were 10%(40/410). In this study, majority 81%(334) of drug sellers in Banadir region have bachelor degree and 8% (32) have secondary certificate. Majority of the pharmacists graduated with B. Laboratory (n=106) followed by B. Pharmacy (n=76) and B. public health (n=56). This shows that 81% (334) of pharmacists in Banadir region are not qualified pharmacy graduates. Majority of the pharmacists had a working experience of <5 years (n=193), followed by 5-10 years (n=138) and > 10 years (n=79). 83% of pharmacies in Banadir region are community based while 17% were hospital based which are mostly located inside private hospitals.

Conclusion: From this study it can be concluded that there is high density of pharmacist at community level in Banadir and it also highlights there is lack of sufficient education, training, un-registered pharmacist and lack of policies or legislation governing license, medications or drug selling in Somalia.

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Assessment of Dental Health Workforce across Somalia

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Abstract

Purpose: Dentists play a critical role in reducing the incidence of oral diseases such as tooth decay and gum disease. In addition, dentists may work with other healthcare professionals such as doctors, nurses, and pharmacists to coordinate patient care and ensure that oral health issues are properly addressed as part of a patient's overall health care. Dental health is an essential component of overall health and well-being, yet it is often neglected or inaccessible in low-resource settings.

Methods: A descriptive cross-sectional study was carried out among 132 dental workforce in Somalia. A purposive sampling method was used. A self-administrated questionnaire was used to collect data on socio-demographic, education, training/experience, and practice settings.

Results: The results showed that the majority of the dentists (70%) were male and 69% were between the age range of 20-29 years. With regard to level of education, 14% had finished a master's degree whereas 85% had a bachelor's degree in dental surgery, out of which 91% practiced general dentistry, while the remaining worked as specialists (orthodontists, periodontists, and paediatric) Only 10% of the participants had more than ten years of experience, whereas 60% had less than five year experience. All of them worked in private clinics, out of which 36% worked in Puntland, compared to 32.5% in Mogadishu, central Somalia, and 26.5% in Somaliland.

Conclusions: The study concluded that the dental health workforce across Somalia is insufficient, under-qualified, and underserved. There is an urgent need to improve the quality and quantity of dental education and training, as well as the working conditions and incentives for the dentists.

Key words: Descriptive study, Dental health Workforce, Somalia.

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Radiographers Workforce Current Challenges and Patient Radiation Protection in Mogadishu, Somalia

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Abstract:

Objectives: Imaging plays a central role in modern healthcare, with almost all patient pathways reliant on an effective and efficient service to improve patient experience and outcomes.

Diagnostic investigations using radiation have become a critical feature of medical practice in recent times, and the possibility of doctors' underestimation of over-exposure risks to patients from diagnostic radiation is a matter of concern. Of increasing importance given the sustained and significant increases in radiology activity driven by shortage radiology diagnostic centers and a large number of patients together with lack of training /experience and education of the health care workers derives 7-day working without proper radiation protection among radiographers and patients. Therefore, this study aimed to evaluate Radiographers Workforce Challenges and their knowledge of radiation exposure and Patient Radiation Protection in selected diagnostic radiology centers in Mogadishu, Somalia.

Methods: Research data are collected via face to face interviews with a prepared questionnaire performed between Jun and Dec 2022 in Mogadishu, Somalia. A total of 40 clinical radiology technicians and 5 Radiologists working in 3 state and 7 private hospitals in Mogadishu volunteered to be part of this study.

Results: Participants lacked enough subject knowledge and understanding of the negative impacts of ionizing radiation. Additionally, In addition, radiation protection equipment during radiological examinations were not adequately used by clinical radiology technicians. Our findings suggest that, in order to make radiological examinations safer for hospital personnel and patients alike, the technician education curriculum must be updated and improved both before and during radiological examinations.

Conclusions: Our study can be considered as a pilot effort reviewing and reporting the current situation in public and private hospitals in Mogadishu, Somalia. Refresher training for current practitioners and improving education curriculum for students would increase radiation protection awareness and improve practice regarding the safety protocols which are indispensable, in order to protect patients and healthcare staff against harmful effects of ionizing radiation. We would like to propose the establishment of a Somali Atomic Energy Agency (SAEA) and a national diagnostic radiology regulatory body in consultation with the Somalia Society of Radiology (SSR) in order to get the right dose of radiation taken by occupational health workers and public exposure limits using the devices monitoring ionising radiation named Dosimeters (thermoluminescent detectors TLD) which is not available in Somalia.

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Promoting Local Knowledge: A Systematic Assessment of the Contributions of Somali Scientists in Conducting Research in Somalia.

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Background:

Somalia has a rich history of scientific research, but years of political instability and conflict have interrupted its progress. Despite these challenges, Somali scientists have continued to make significant contributions to various fields of research in the country. This systematic review aimed to assess the contributions of Somali scientists in conducting research in Somalia.

Methods:

We systematically searched Ovid Medline, Embase, African Journal Online, and Science Direct from 1st January 2007 to 31st December 2022 for eligible studies conducted in Somalia without language restrictions.

Results:

Of the 100 articles retrieved, most were original studies (98%, n=98) and conducted between 2020 – 2022 during the covid-19 pandemic (n=53, 53%). Overall, 36 (36%) publications had first author from Somalia. Most corresponding author were from the USA (34%, n=34), Belgium (15%), Nigeria (10%), UK (9%), and Turkey (8%), with only 4 (4%) from Somalia. The most studied specialty was infectious disease/internal medicine (37%, n=37), public health (n=17, 17%), reproductive health (n=14, 14%), child health (n=9, 9%), and surgery (n=6, 6%). Eight papers were on COVID-19.

Conclusions:

These findings suggest that Somali scientists have made significant contributions to research, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the limited number of first and corresponding authors from Somalia underscores the need to promote and support local researchers in the country. This review provides valuable insights for researchers, policymakers, and funding agencies interested in supporting and promoting scientific research in Somalia

Keywords

Somalia, Research in health, local capacity building, helicopter research

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Improving Health Workers Performance To Better Health Service Delivery Of Public Health Facilities In Mogadishu Somalia

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ABSTRACT Background: The importance of performance management in the health workforce is regarded as ‘essential to improving efficiency, productivity and quality care’. (South Africa 2011) Performance management helps in improving the productivity and performance of health care workers thus enhancing efficiency of health interventions. Health financing in Somalia has extremely been limited due to the poor macroeconomic performance exhibited in the country (SHS, 2015). Method: The study adopted a cross-sectional study design, employing purposive sampling techniques and proportionate method for selection each respondent for each health facility. Semi-structured questionnaires and key informant interview (KII) were used to collect the data. Quantitative data were entered SPSS version 16 and analyzed well interpreted. Basic descriptive statistics was used to determine the frequency and percentage of the various factors observed in this study and qualitative data was used thematic analysis. The results were presented in tables. Result: Out of eligible 220

respondents, 145(65.6%) had received training in their field of work while 75(34.4%) had no training. 175(80.6%) respondents reported having adequate medical supplies while 42(19.4%) affirmed that they had no adequate medical supply in their health facilities. Moreover, it was also observed that 12(36.4%) of the respondents, responded that they had gone several months without receiving medical supplies, 9(27.3%) of the respondents reported that they had just gone few hours without receiving the medical supplies while 7(21.2%) and 5(15.1%) reported to have received medical supplies in the last one month and one week respectively. Conclusion: There's need for the government and other concern authorities to identify innovative ways of operationalizing activities in the health facilities in order to improve health workers performance so as to better health service delivery of public health facilities in Mogadishu Somalia.

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Knowledge, Attitude And Practices Concerning Patient Healthcare Record Confidentiality Among Healthcare Professionals

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ABSTRACT

Background: The quality of information collected by and shared among healthcare professionals depends on their capability to keep the information confidential, which could foster trust between patients and healthcare professionals, thereby leading to increased service utilisation and transparency. Data on this view in the context of Somalia are extremely limited and not well-described.

Objectives: This study aimed to explore knowledge, attitudes, and practises concerning patient healthcare record confidentiality among healthcare professionals in two hospitals in Mogadishu, Somalia.

Methods: This research was a cross-sectional survey study conducted among healthcare professionals in two hospitals in Mogadishu, Somalia. Data were collected through simple random sampling using newly and previously developed and validated structural questionnaires from related studies. **Results:** A total of 196 individuals, that were, 100 (51%) doctors and 96 (49%) nurses, participated in this study. Most of the participants were between the ages of 18 and 65 years, and the majority (85; 43.4%) had 3–6 years of working experience. A bachelor's or master's degree was the minimum level of education. The participants had satisfactory knowledge of patient healthcare record confidentiality, and 103 (52.6%) gained such knowledge from multiple sources. Over half of the study participants (124; 63.3%) agreed that confidentiality was as important as clinical care, and 113 (57.6%) strongly disagreed that disclosing and discussing the conditions of patients with friends outside the workplace were normal. By contrast, more than half of the participants (112; 57.1%) engaged in negative patient healthcare record confidentiality practices, such as discussing the conditions of patients in the presence of other patients to save time and space, and the remaining 84 (42.9%) denied engaging in such acts.

Conclusions: This study revealed that the healthcare professionals had satisfactory knowledge and attitude of patient healthcare record confidentiality, but there is a significant gap between the knowledge and practices of the healthcare professionals in terms of their responsibilities and obligations.

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Uptake of hepatitis B vaccination and associated factors among health Sciences students, Mogadishu, Somalia

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Background

Hepatitis B is a potentially fatal liver infection caused by the hepatitis B virus (HBV). It is a serious issue for global health. It considerably raises the risk of cirrhosis and liver cancer-related death and can result in chronic infection. The risk of infection is high among health sciences students due to the risk of occupational contact with fluids of infected patients and the risk of needle stick injury. The most effective way of preventing HBV infection is the vaccination of students prior to their posting to healthcare settings. There is no data available about HBV vaccination uptake among Health Sciences students in Somalia. Therefore, this study aimed to determine HBV vaccination uptake and associated factors towards HBV among health science students in Somalia.

Methods

A cross-sectional study was undertaken among health sciences students from August to October 2022. Data were gathered using Kobo Toolbox using a standardized questionnaire with questions on characteristics, knowledge attitude, and HBV prevention practices. A total of 569 students were involved in the study. Stata version 15 was utilized for the analysis. Bivariate and multivariate logistic regression analysis, as well as descriptive statistics, were performed. In order to assess the existence and significance of the relationship between the outcome and risk factors, an adjusted odds ratio with a 95% confidence interval (CI) was used. Statistical significance was considered as a P-value \leq 0.05.

Results

Of the 569 study participants, 33.4% (95%CI: 29.6–37.4) received a full dose of the HBV vaccine in this study. Participants had good HBV prevention knowledge, attitudes, and practices at 69.6%, 37.96%, and 50.6%, respectively. The lack of access and the high cost of the vaccine were the reasons for not taking the vaccine. Second-year (AOR: 0.22(0.12-0.43)). Positive attitude (AOR: 0.54(0.31-0.93)), and good practice (AOR: 6.99(3.62-13.5))

Discussion

The study indicated that few health sciences students had received the required HBV vaccination doses, academic year, attitude, and practice were significantly associated with full-dose vaccination status. The unavailability of the vaccine and the high cost of vaccination were the most common reasons for not taking the vaccine. It is recommended that students receive vaccinations before beginning clinical rotations, and give instruction on infection prevention strategies and general precautions, particularly regarding HBV infection.

Keywords; HBV, Knowledge, Attitude, Practice, Vaccination, Students

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