Awareness of first aid techniques used in emergency situations among first year students of Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH), Rajarata University of Sri Lanka (RUSL)

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Background

First aid is the assistance given to any person suffering a sudden illness or injury with care to preserve life, prevent the condition from worsening and to promote recovery.

Objectives

To assess the awareness of first aid techniques among first year students of the Faculty of SSH, RUSL.

Methods

A descriptive cross sectional study among 352 First year students selected by simple random sampling. Self-administered questionnaire was given and analyzed results by spss.

Results

244 participants (69.32%) were females.

Mean first aid knowledge score of the sample tested was 12.46 in a scale from 0 – 25, where a higher score represents a better knowledge. 74% females had poor knowledge, and 69% males had poor knowledge (P>0.05). 87 % students from rural areas had poor knowledge and 45% students from urban areas had poor knowledge (P<0.01). Students with well educated parents had better knowledge (35%) compared to students with low educated parents (14%) (P<0.01).

Conclusion

Overall first aid knowledge was poor. Rural lived and less educated parents were significantly associated with poor first aid awarness and not the gender. Awareness programmes recommended.

Keywords

First aid knowledge , first year students