

Readiness of Hospitals Towards Disaster Challenges and Emergency Incidents – A Case of Muhimbili Orthopedic Institute

The aim of this study was to investigate readiness of hospitals to respond to disaster challenges and their strategies of hospital emergency incident system particularly at Muhimbili Orthopedic Institute. The study was conducted at Muhimbili Orthopedic Institute; the study used questionnaires, focus group discussion and in-depth interview to collect data from 80 respondents involving nurses, doctors and directors, human resource officers, and laboratory technologists. The study conducted pretest of the data collection tools before the actual research to ensure trustworthiness of the data. The study found that MOI is not ready to control disaster challenges and emergency incidents due to of lack of enough facility operations, lack of enough resources and emergency planning process in one way or the other hinders MOI in dealing with disasters and emergency incidents 68%, the 66% of the respondents revealed that there is limitation focused on delay of respond at MOI, 57% of the respondents revealed that disaster management team is not working properly, 79% of the respondents agreed that there is lack of authorities support and high cost of handling disaster and emergency team, 78% of the respondents agreed that there is lack of enough qualified managers in different levels and poor communication and coordination in crisis team, 79% of the respondents propose for establishment of Hospital Incident Command System at MOI. The study suggests appropriate important measures to prepare hospitals to respond to disaster challenges and emergency incidents and thus includes; the hospital should have disaster plans that re understood by all staff, the hospital should have enough equipment and supplies such as ICU facilities; the hospital should improve communication through strengthening cooperation and having contingency communication models; the hospital should improve safety and securing by improving the outbreak control measures such as systems of fire alarms.

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