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**Knowledge of beauticians and workers in selected beauty salons regarding prevention, identification and immediate management of allergic reactions in the Biyagama Medical Officer of Health area**

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**Background:** Beauticians work with cosmetics which contain various chemicals that can cause allergic reactions. They should be aware of prevention, identification, and immediate management of allergies to ensure the safety of users.

**Objective:** To describe knowledge regarding prevention, identification, and immediate management of allergic reactions among beauticians and workers in selected beauty salons in the Biyagama Medical Officer of Health (MOH) area.

**Method:** A descriptive cross sectional study was conducted among 130 beauticians and workers in the study setting using an interviewer-administered questionnaire. Questionnaire consisted of three parts; knowledge on prevention, identification and immediate management of allergic reactions. The range of score was 0 to 70. Score  $\geq 75\%$  for the questionnaire was considered as good level of knowledge, 50-75% as moderate knowledge, and  $< 50\%$  as poor knowledge. Data analysis was carried out using SPSS version 26.0. Independent-sample-t-tests and ANOVA were used to assess the associated factors for knowledge.

**Results:** Response rate was 82% (n=107). No one had a good knowledge. Only 47.7% (n=51) were having moderate level of overall knowledge on prevention, identification and immediate management of allergic reactions. Proportions with good knowledge on prevention, identification and immediate management of allergic reactions were 0.9%, 3.7% and 0% respectively. Higher knowledge was significantly associated with female gender (T=2.77, df=105, p=0.007), higher level of education (T=-2.90, df =105, p= 0.005), less working hours per day (T=2.04, df =105, p= 0.044), having professional qualifications (T=4.99, df =105, p<0.001), training on beauty culture/skin care (T=2.58, df=105, p=0.011), bridal dressing (T= 2.71, df =10, p=0.008) and first aid for allergies (T= 6.06, df =105, p<0.001).

**Conclusion:** The majority of participants had good knowledge on prevention but knowledge on identification and immediate management of allergic reactions was poor and overall knowledge was poor.