



TRANSFORMING TOXICOLOGY LANDSCAPE FOR SAFER AND SUSTAINABLE TOMORROW

## POSTER PRESENTATIONS

### [ID-P#004] Parental knowledge, attitudes and practices regarding safe handling and disposal of alcohol-based hand sanitizers and surface disinfectants in urban Sri Lanka

Kavinda Dayasiri<sup>a</sup>, Hashan Pathiraja<sup>a</sup>, Ekn De Soyza<sup>b</sup>, V Thadchanamoorthy<sup>c</sup> and Sjs Dassanayaka<sup>d</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya; <sup>b</sup>North Colombo Teaching Hospital, Ragama; <sup>c</sup>Faculty of Healthcare Sciences, Eastern University of Sri Lanka; <sup>d</sup>Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya

**Objectives:** Hand sanitizers were increasingly used in most households during the COVID-19 pandemic. This study aimed to assess knowledge and practices regarding safe handling and disposal of alcohol-based hand sanitizers and surface disinfectants in urban Sri Lanka.

**Methods:** An observational cross-sectional study was performed including parents of children admitted to North Colombo Teaching Hospital for a period of one year from August 2021. Data were collected regarding parental knowledge about safe handling and disposal of hand sanitizers, and their health hazards by paediatric post-graduate trainees. All data were analysed using SPSS 17.0. Chi-square test was used to find the association of overall knowledge and attitude scores with potential socio-demographic determining factors.

**Results:** One hundred and fifty-three parents were recruited. The majority of mothers (126, 82.4%) and fathers (133, 86.9%) had received education at least up to secondary school. Approximately 113(73.9%) parents believed that pre-school children were the most vulnerable for accidental ingestion of sanitizers and 40 parents (26.1%) did not believe that sanitizer solutions can be accidentally inhaled by toddlers. Only 132 parents (86.2%) knew how to disinfect their home premises safely and 29 parents (18.9%) didn't know how to store cleaning products safely. Overall, lower knowledge scores correlated with lower maternal education ( $p < 0.05$ ) and lower socio-economic status ( $p < 0.05$ ). The gender ( $p = 0.06$ ) and age of the parent (>35 years versus <35 years) ( $p = 0.21$ ) did not show a significant association. Attitude scores positively correlated with parental education ( $p < 0.002$ ) and socio-economic status ( $p < 0.03$ ). The gender ( $p = 0.12$ ) and age of the parent (>35 years versus <35 years) ( $p = 0.07$ ) did not show a significant association.

**Conclusion:** Overall knowledge and attitude scores in parents were associated with education level of parents and the level of socio-economic status. Gender and parental age did not show a significant association.