



TRANSFORMING TOXICOLOGY LANDSCAPE FOR SAFER AND SUSTAINABLE TOMORROW

## POSTER PRESENTATIONS

### [ID-P#144] Empowering Healthcare Workers in Snakebite Management: A study to determine the impact of the SnakeBite Life Support Workshop

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**Background:** Community engagement remains the weakest link in combating neglected tropical diseases. Healthcare workers (HCWs) play a pivotal role in information dissemination and treatment delivery. Despite limited focus on their knowledge, self-efficacy and advocacy skills in this area, interventions are sparse. We aimed to evaluate the impact of the SnakeBite Life Support (SBLs) workshop on the above aspects of HCWs.

**Methods:** HCWs with experience in snakebite management who participated in the clinical skill training workshop SBLs were invited to participate in the study. We administered questionnaires incorporating knowledge and skill assessments, adapted General Self-efficacy (GSE) scale and advocacy skills pre- and post-the workshop amongst those who consented. We compared their pre-test and post-test scores to evaluate the immediate impact of the workshop.

**Results:** A total of 41 HCWs participated in the study with a mean experience of 2.5 years in managing snake bite cases. A majority (95.1%) of them had managed less than 100 snakebites in their careers. There was an improvement in the proportion of participants answering post-test questions correctly, especially with regards to performance of whole blood clotting test (65.9% vs 51.2%,  $p = 0.020$ ) and premedication for anti-snake venom administration (73.2% vs 46.3%,  $p < 0.001$ ). A significant number (87.8%) of participants did not find the need to administer polyvalent ASV in cases of envenomation following Hump-nosed pit viper bites as compared to 34.1% prior to the course. The mean adapted GSE score increased significantly after the workshop (27.2 vs 33.8,  $p < 0.001$ ). Participants also reported high advocacy skills immediately after the workshop. 87.8% participants felt significantly equipped to educate peers and the community, and 75.6% felt confident about advocating for professional needs of HCWs dealing with snake bites.