Pamleila Mugendi AND PAUL KATUSE
DISASTER PREPAREDNESS IN A SUPER SPECIALTY HOSPITAL

EAST AFRICA MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPLIED RESEARCH CONFERENCE
INTRODUCTION

Despite considerable effort and expenditure on public healthcare education, levels of disaster preparedness in hospitals remain low. By integrating and expanding on hazard analysis of potential disasters within the community healthcare workers prepare themselves on effective response mechanisms.

This paper looks at the levels of disaster awareness and the healthcare workers role in such events of disaster preparedness.

At least one incident of mass casualty incident reported in India per week in (2012)
Objectives

The paper aim to study the basic concepts of disaster management and principles of disaster planning, objectives and purpose of a disaster plan, the role and responsibilities of the staff and the basic facilities required to meet the challenges of disaster and emergency response.

To develop hospital disaster plan and modalities for response action
Methodology

Cross sectional prospective study through a self administered open and close ended questionnaire.

Data collected from randomly selected sample, with 70 respondents.

Analysis of data done through Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS)
Findings

All members of staff that were interviewed were aware of the various forms of external disasters that are likely to occur within the community.

What form of external disaster do you think is most likely to happen in our community?
Findings

64% HAD READ THE MASS CASUALTY/ DISASTER MANAGEMENT PLAN

Have you read the disaster/ emergency preparedness manual

SURPRISINGLY 40% DID NOT UNDERSTAND THEIR ROLE DURING MASS CASUALTY SITUATIONS

Did you understand your role during an emergency?
Discussion

This findings concur with Paton,(2013), that the understanding levels of disaster preparedness remain low within many healthcare providers.

Moe and Pathranarakul (2006), suggested that there is lack of encouragement for participation of healthcare workers in the event of disaster contributed by lack of information management or database system.
Conclusion & Recommendation

This paper highlights the importance of having proactive and reactive strategies for natural disaster management.

It is recommended that the hospital develop standard operating procedure on the training and conducting table top drills for the members of hospital staff on the disaster preparedness and their in emergency response.

