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ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Support - Nil.

Review Stage at time of this submission - Preliminary searches.

Conflicts of interest - None declared.

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Amendments - This protocol was registered with the International Platform of Registered Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Protocols (INPLASY) on 14 November 2024 and was last updated on 14 November 2024.

INTRODUCTION

Review question / Objective The primary objective of the study is to understand the present status of knowledge, skills, and attitudes of physiotherapists in effective disaster health management. The secondary objective of the study is to further list the recommendations that will be made on the areas that need to be given attention in students learning disaster health management capacities.

Background The field of disaster health management has gained significant attention in recent years, as the frequency and severity of natural and man-made disasters have increased worldwide. Disaster management efforts aim to reduce or avoid the potential losses from hazards, assure prompt and appropriate assistance to victims of disaster, and achieve rapid and effective

recovery. Less economically developed countries are prone to a higher proportion of disasters and attendant deaths due to their inability to plan for and react effectively to the many disasters that face them, their lack of infrastructure and emergency services, the high population densities of unplanned settlements, and their low economic capacities to withstand the impacts. A considerable gap exists between what is known and what is done in practice.

As integral members of the healthcare workforce, physiotherapists assume a pivotal role in managing disaster-related injuries and facilitating rehabilitation. Yet the factors shaping their capacity to respond to and manage disasters effectively remain underexplored. On an individual, organisational, and global level, physical therapists and our rehabilitation colleagues are now emerging as a core part of the humanitarian response and are involved in the entire spectrum of the disaster

continuum, from disaster risk reduction to the immediate response and throughout the process of rehabilitation and rebuilding. Understanding the factors affecting disaster health management for physiotherapists can enhance their preparedness and effectiveness in the rehabilitation and recovery phases of disaster response, helping individuals regain mobility and function after traumatic events. This paper seeks to investigate the diverse knowledge, skills and attitude factors influencing the disaster health management capabilities of physiotherapists, with the aim of informing strategies for training, preparedness, and response.

Rationale Studies have revealed that the threat to disasters in the Indian and global scene has escalated within the past ten years. These calamities cause a steep rise in the number of people requiring rehabilitation in addition to sharp rises in mortality rates. As natural and man-made disasters have become more frequent and intense in the recent past across the world. There have been, on average, more severe calls for physiotherapists to have certain knowledge, abilities, and philosophy for health emergency intervention. Nevertheless, few studies focus on physiotherapists' current disaster health management activities.

METHODS

Strategy of data synthesis The literature review covered the current available articles up to 2023 from 2010 focusing on knowledge, skills, and attitudes of physiotherapists in disaster health management. An extensive systematic search approach with regard to the peer-reviewed online databases like PubMed, Scopus, and PEDro was developed using MeSH keywords including "Disaster Health Management" AND "Knowledge" AND "Skills" AND "Attitude" AND "Physiotherapist" AND "Rehabilitation" (All Fields).

Eligibility criteria Full-text articles published in English that describe the knowledge, skills, and attitudes of physiotherapists in disaster health management were included post-screening of the abstracts. First, both titles and abstracts will be checked for relevance; then the full text of the articles in the research question was evaluated as relevant and of good quality and was included as per PRISMA guidelines.

Source of evidence screening and selection The selection of studies occurred in two phases. Initially, two independent reviewers screened the titles and abstract records. Full-text articles were

obtained for eligible records. In the second phase, two independent reviewers screened full-text articles. If there was a disagreement on whether the record should be included at any stage, a third reviewer was involved.

Data management The review team extracted the data in the Microsoft® Excel program and charted the data under the following author(s), year of publication, country location, title, methodology, and important results or key findings. The overview of articles included in this review highlights the importance of knowledge, skills, and attitudes factors for disaster health management for physiotherapists.

Reporting results / Analysis of the evidence The total articles extracted were 51 articles and restricted to English only. Two independent reviewers identified 51 articles related to the research question. After removal of duplicates, 29 articles remained, and based on the selection criteria, irrelevant articles (that were not relevant for physiotherapists or were not related to disaster management) were excluded from this scoping review. In the final qualitative synthesis, only six (n = 14) articles were included.

Presentation of the results Emergency readiness and curricular variation make physiotherapists often ill-prepared for disaster health management. Lack of adequate trauma and triage skills leading to reluctance for having such skills developed because of inadequate motivation for disaster training, which is believed not to be very essential in daily practice.

Language restriction English.

Country(ies) involved India.

Other relevant information Improved, structured disaster drills for physiotherapists, like disaster preparedness and trauma scenarios, could improve preparation. This study posited that integration of disaster management in physiotherapist's routine education and promoting proactive disposition through simulations would enhance disaster preparedness and response and thereby enhance improved patient's outcomes in disaster health management

Keywords Disaster Health Management, Knowledge, Skills, Attitude, Physiotherapist, Rehabilitation.

Dissemination plans Introduction and review of literature: 1 5 days , result writing: 5 days; and discussion: 5 days.

Contributions of each author

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