Research on the Integration of Infection Control and Health Education within Healthcare Institutions

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Keywords: Medical institutions; Infectious disease prevention and control; Health education; Integration

Abstract: Medical institutions constitute a core component of the public health system, and the effective integration of infectious disease prevention and control with health education within these institutions is crucial for overall public health. The trend of infectious diseases spreading within medical institutions is influenced by global threats of infectious diseases, particularly the emergence of new infectious diseases in recent years. Outbreaks of diseases such as SARS, H1N1, COVID-19, pose new challenges to the internal infectious disease prevention and control within medical institutions. Therefore, investigating internal prevention and control measures within medical institutions, strengthening health education, and promoting their integration hold significant importance, which is the focus of this study.

1. Introduction

In the face of infectious disease outbreaks, medical institutions not only need to respond swiftly and accurately but also need to integrate with health education. Through effective educational measures, awareness of protection can be reinforced among patients, healthcare professionals, and the public, thereby reducing the risk of infectious disease transmission. However, there are currently challenges such as information silos, dispersed resources, and insufficient collaboration between infectious disease prevention and control and health education. In-depth research is needed to identify effective pathways for integration.

This study explores strategies for infectious disease prevention and control within medical institutions to formulate more scientific and feasible response plans, thereby enhancing the level of infectious disease prevention and control within medical institutions. Based on the existing shortcomings in health education, the research examines how to achieve comprehensive integration of health education within medical institutions, making it more closely aligned with practical needs and more effective. By thoroughly examining the current status of infectious disease prevention and control and health education within medical institutions, the study proposes methods and strategies for integration, providing practical recommendations for the coordinated development of infectious disease prevention and control and health education within medical institutions.

The aim of this research is to establish a more comprehensive infectious disease prevention and control and health education system within medical institutions, ultimately elevating the overall

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healthcare standards and contributing to the development of public health initiatives in society.

2. Internal Transmission Disease Health Education Data Analysis in Medical Institutions

2.1 Purpose

This study aims to explore the significance and role of health education in the prevention of infectious diseases. A control group comprising 783 patients who did not receive infectious disease prevention measures at the CDC (Centers for Disease Control) in 2016 was compared with an experimental group of 802 patients who received corresponding infectious disease health education measures at the CDC in 2017. The comparison focused on the probability of infectious disease occurrence and the awareness rate of infectious diseases between the two groups. The results showed that, compared to the control group, the experimental group had a significantly lower probability of infectious disease occurrence and a significantly higher awareness rate of infectious diseases after implementing corresponding infectious disease prevention health education. Statistical analysis using SPSS revealed a significant difference (P<0.05). The implementation of infectious disease health education at the CDC is crucial, not only for reducing the probability of infectious diseases but also for increasing public awareness, understanding preventive measures, and ultimately improving the quality of life[1].

2.2 Data and Methods

General information, such as geography, environment, and demographics, was compared between the two time periods, showing no significant differences (P<0.05), ensuring comparability.

Methods: During the experimental group's time period, various methods of health education for preventing infectious diseases were implemented. Health education was integrated with the harm to the physical and mental health of society members posed by infectious diseases, influencing material and spiritual civilization formation. Emphasis was placed on publicizing infectious diseases, highlighting relevant laws, and enhancing the sense of responsibility for infectious disease prevention and control. Propagation of knowledge related to the causes, influencing factors, transmission, clinical manifestations, and treatment of infectious diseases was carried out. Public education included clear information on the most common manifestations of infectious diseases, where to seek medical attention, and preventive measures. The principle of early detection and treatment of infectious diseases was emphasized. When educating communities, efforts were made to dispel misconceptions and reduce discrimination against infectious disease patients[2].

Various methods for infectious disease prevention and control were employed, such as oral education (speeches, reports, lectures, follow-ups), written education (bulletins, magazines, notice boards, pictures, images, advertisements), and comprehensive education (exhibitions, promotions, microfilms). The combination of oral, written, and visual methods provided a wide-reaching and impactful educational approach, ensuring that the public easily grasped disease prevention and control methods.

Local governments must prioritize health education for infectious disease prevention and take the lead. Technical guidance in health education should be strengthened, with planned and targeted health education adjusted based on regional variations. The core of the work is to enable the public to understand and master knowledge related to infectious disease prevention and control. Health education should be conducted through various channels, methods, and tools. Daily life should also incorporate health education on infectious diseases, tailored to different departments and communities. Guidance on the behavior of high-risk populations should be provided to reduce the probability of infectious disease occurrence[3].
2.3 Data Processing

Data were organized and analyzed using statistical software SPSS 13.0. The results showed that, compared to the control group, the experimental group had a significantly lower probability of infectious disease occurrence and a significantly higher awareness rate of infectious diseases after implementing corresponding infectious disease prevention health education. The differences were statistically significant (P<0.05). Detailed results for the control and experimental groups are provided in Table 1.

Table 1: Comparison of Results between Two Groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Number of Cases</th>
<th>Disease Incidence Rate</th>
<th>Infectious Disease Awareness Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Control Group</td>
<td>783</td>
<td>141 (18.0%)</td>
<td>432 (55.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experimental Group</td>
<td>802</td>
<td>23 (2.8%)</td>
<td>787 (98.1%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: P<0.05

Table 2: Comparison of Patient Satisfaction in Two Groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Number of Cases</th>
<th>Very Satisfied</th>
<th>Basically Satisfied</th>
<th>Not Satisfied</th>
<th>Satisfaction Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Observation Group</td>
<td>783</td>
<td>700 (89.00%)</td>
<td>68 (8.00%)</td>
<td>15 (3.00%)</td>
<td>768 (97.00%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control Group</td>
<td>802</td>
<td>500 (62.00%)</td>
<td>137 (17.00%)</td>
<td>165 (21.00%)</td>
<td>537 (79.00%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The patient satisfaction with care in the observation group is 97.00%, while in the control group, it is 79.00%. Through specific observations and comparisons, it is evident that there is a statistically significant difference between the two groups (p<0.05), as shown in Table 2.[4]

2.4 Basic Conclusions

Conducting health education in the prevention and control of infectious diseases has both economic and social benefits. Through health education, the public can gain an understanding of relevant knowledge about infectious diseases and learn methods to enhance the body's immune system, thereby improving the effectiveness of prevention and control.

In the field of infectious disease prevention and control, health education generates significant economic and social benefits. It substantially reduces the economic burden on society, with the primary content of infectious disease prevention work being health education, targeting diseases such as polio and measles. Through literature review, it has been found that over the past two decades, health education in infectious disease prevention and control has resulted in a reduction of 190 million cases and 1.31 million fewer deaths due to infectious diseases. This has directly decreased hospital expenses related to infectious diseases [5], ensuring the health and safety of the Chinese people and enhancing their overall quality of life.

Health education in infectious disease prevention and control encourages active participation from all members of society. At the leadership level, obtaining government support in various aspects (personnel, financial resources, materials, and efforts) is crucial. Smooth progress in this
work requires cooperation and support from various departments. Furthermore, it can raise the self-protection awareness of the general public, involving all segments of society in the effort, thus holding profound significance.

3. Internal Control of Infectious Diseases in Medical Institutions

3.1 Problem Definition and Analysis

Within medical institutions, certain pathogens are emitted into the air through the respiratory tract of patients, forming aerosols. This allows for rapid transmission of viruses or bacteria in relatively enclosed medical environments. Examples include SARS-CoV-2, or COVID-19, which spreads through droplets and aerosols. Contact between patients and healthcare personnel, other patients, and surfaces of equipment within medical institutions can serve as pathways for transmission. Inadequate disinfection of medical instruments, improper hand hygiene, and other factors increase the risk of contact transmission. Respiratory diseases such as influenza spread through droplets released when patients cough or sneeze. In areas with dense populations and inadequate protective measures within medical institutions, droplet transmission becomes particularly prominent[6].

Healthcare professionals, when handling patients, may be exposed to sources of infection if proper personal protective measures are not taken. This may include improper donning and doffing of protective clothing, mask-wearing, and hand hygiene. Improper disposal of medical waste can lead to the spread of infectious diseases within medical institutions. Abandoned medical supplies and infectious waste, if not handled properly, can become sources of infection. Environmental cleanliness in medical institutions is crucial for infectious disease prevention and control. Poor hygiene conditions can lead to a longer persistence of bacteria and viruses on surfaces, increasing the risk of transmission. The density and mobility of patients within medical institutions increase the likelihood of infectious disease transmission. Especially in areas such as emergency rooms and intensive care units, frequent contact between patients can easily form a chain of transmission. Improper use and incomplete disinfection of medical instruments during medical procedures may serve as transmission pathways.

The existence of these issues makes the internal control of infectious diseases within medical institutions complex and urgent. Addressing these problems requires interventions from multiple aspects, including source control, facility management, and healthcare personnel training, to enhance the level of infectious disease prevention and control within medical institutions [7].

3.2 Prevention and Detection

3.2.1 Healthcare Personnel Training

Comprehensive training programs for healthcare personnel should be developed, covering basic knowledge of infectious diseases, modes of transmission, and protective measures. Regular simulation drills should be conducted to enhance healthcare professionals' emergency response capabilities. Emphasis should be on prevention, with intensified training on personal protective measures, including proper mask-wearing and the use of protective clothing.

3.2.2 Patient Education

Patient education manuals should be developed to disseminate knowledge about infectious diseases and raise awareness of preventive measures. Information on preventing diseases should be communicated to patients through bulletin boards, informational videos, and other means within
medical institutions. Effective doctor-patient communication should address patient concerns about infectious diseases and encourage active participation in preventive measures [8].

3.2.3 Standard Operating Procedures for Prevention

Hospitals need to establish standard operating procedures for infectious disease prevention, ensuring that healthcare personnel consistently implement protective measures in their daily work. This includes enforcing standard practices in high-risk areas such as wards and operating rooms to minimize the risk of disease transmission. Optimizing the airflow system in medical institutions using efficient filters can reduce the concentration of pathogens in the air. Regular plans for cleaning and disinfecting medical equipment and the environment should be implemented to reduce the likelihood of cross-infection. Room layouts should be optimized, with clear distinctions between infectious and non-infectious areas to lower the risk of transmission.

3.2.4 Detection

To enhance early detection, advanced testing technologies such as PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) and nucleic acid testing should be introduced. Regular updates and maintenance of testing equipment within medical institutions are essential to ensure their proper functioning. Establishing an internal infectious disease monitoring system is crucial for real-time monitoring of patient temperature, symptoms, and other information to quickly identify anomalies. Developing monitoring and warning mechanisms and establishing information-sharing platforms with relevant health departments facilitate interdepartmental communication. Promoting the use of rapid testing technologies, such as antigen testing and rapid nucleic acid testing, enhances the ability to screen for infectious diseases quickly. Specialized testing points within medical institutions facilitate rapid testing for both patients and healthcare professionals.

3.3 Response and Governance

3.3.1 Multi-level Response Mechanism

Hospitals need to establish a multi-level response mechanism, including criteria for determining infectious cases, isolation measures, information reporting, resource allocation, etc. This ensures a rapid and organized response during infectious disease outbreaks. Specific responsibilities for various categories of personnel, including healthcare professionals, administrative staff, and logistical support personnel, should be delineated to form a clear work division system. Establishing a leadership group responsible for command and coordination ensures orderly responses at all levels.

3.3.2 Emergency Response Drills

Regular emergency response drills, including simulations of infectious disease outbreaks, should be conducted to validate the feasibility and coordination of emergency response plans. After each drill, evaluations should be conducted, and experiences and lessons learned should be summarized to continuously improve and update emergency response plans.

3.3.3 Healthcare Personnel Training and Infection Control

Tailored training courses for healthcare personnel should cover characteristics of different infectious diseases, transmission routes, and protective measures. The importance of personal protection, including correct mask-wearing, proper use of protective clothing, and hand hygiene,
should be emphasized. Ensure healthcare personnel have an adequate supply of personal protective equipment, including masks, gloves, and goggles. Regular inspection and updating of protective equipment are necessary to ensure their integrity and enhance the protective effects. Establish an infection control expert team responsible for guiding healthcare professionals in infection control and providing professional technical support. In the event of an infectious disease outbreak, promptly activate the expert team to diagnose cases and provide treatment guidance[9].

3.3.4 Medical Waste Management

Clear classification and disposal systems for medical waste should be established, distinguishing infectious waste from general waste to reduce the environmental pollution risk. Provide professional waste collection containers and facilities to enable convenient and safe waste classification storage for healthcare professionals. Set up temporary storage points for centralized processing of infectious waste to reduce the risk of cross-infection. Regular inspections of medical waste disposal facilities should be conducted to ensure compliance with environmental regulations and infection control standards. Establish maintenance and updating plans for waste disposal facilities to ensure their normal operation.

Through the development of emergency response plans, raising awareness of infectious disease prevention among healthcare professionals, and strengthening medical waste management, medical institutions can more effectively respond to and govern infectious diseases, reducing the risk of disease transmission[10].

4. Health Education Integration Issues

4.1 Overview of Health Education

Health education is a systematic and planned educational activity aimed at improving the health levels of individuals and communities. It involves imparting health knowledge and cultivating healthy behaviors to prevent diseases and promote physical and mental well-being.

The goals of health education include transmitting knowledge about health and diseases to individuals, enhancing understanding of health, fostering positive health behaviors, and improving self-management skills. Education helps individuals gain awareness of infectious and chronic diseases, prompting effective preventive measures to reduce the occurrence and spread of diseases. It cultivates healthy lifestyles, including balanced diets, moderate exercise, and regular sleep, reducing the risk of illness and improving the quality of life. Health education enables healthcare professionals to deepen their understanding of health knowledge, enhancing the overall health awareness within medical institutions and improving the delivery of healthcare services[11].

Through health education, medical institutions can convey knowledge about diseases, treatments, and recovery to patients, increasing patients' awareness of their own conditions and enhancing their self-management capabilities. Internally, health education is effective in raising awareness among healthcare professionals and patients about the prevention of infectious diseases, reinforcing individual protection and hygiene habits, thereby reducing the risk of disease transmission. Health education also facilitates better communication between healthcare professionals and patients, addressing patient concerns, increasing patient satisfaction with healthcare services, and promoting positive doctor-patient relationships. Health education is not only directed towards patients but is also of paramount importance for healthcare professionals. Continuous health education and training enable healthcare professionals to constantly improve their knowledge and skills, staying abreast of the latest medical developments. Health education contributes to creating a conducive medical environment by fostering a shared understanding of health values and behavioral norms,
reducing the risk of infectious diseases within medical institutions and enhancing the quality of healthcare services. In medical institutions, the implementation of health education is not only a gesture of care and protection for patients but also an active effort in building and promoting health within the entire healthcare system.

4.2 Existing Issues in Health Education

Currently, many health education efforts still rely on traditional methods such as lectures and pamphlets, resulting in a singular approach to information dissemination that may not meet the diverse needs of different groups. This singularity may impede a deep understanding of certain information, especially among individuals of different cultures, educational backgrounds, and age groups. Health education often lacks personalized elements, making it challenging to customize content based on individual health conditions, habits, and needs. The lack of interactivity limits the effectiveness of education. Given significant individual differences, a lack of personalization may lead to reduced effectiveness in information transmission and absorption, impacting the practical application of health knowledge. In medical institutions, healthcare professionals often face time constraints, making it challenging to dedicate sufficient time to health education, resulting in insufficient depth and breadth of education. Limited time and resources may simplify health education content, making it difficult to cover comprehensive health knowledge and affecting educational effectiveness[12].

Traditional health education often neglects the realities of multiculturalism and multilingualism, making it difficult for some groups to understand and accept health information due to language barriers or cultural differences. Cultural and language barriers can result in inaccurate information transmission, hindering effective prevention and health promotion goals. Traditional health education heavily relies on printed materials and face-to-face methods, limiting the diversity and flexibility of educational tools. Depending on traditional methods might render health education unable to adapt promptly to new health education tools and platforms arising from technological advancements.

4.2.1 Methods of Health Education

Currently, there are various methods for the prevention and control of infectious diseases, including oral lectures, written explanations, visual education combining images and electronic methods, and comprehensive education. Among them, oral education is a widespread and efficient method that is flexible and can be conducted and adjusted anytime, anywhere, based on the patients’ acceptance. It maximizes its impact to the fullest extent. Visual education, such as promotional posters, pictures, and photography, provides a more realistic and attractive form, leaving a deeper impression on the patients. However, regardless of the method used for health education, adherence to the principles of specificity and adaptability is crucial to ensure the maximum impact of health education. Additionally, during the implementation of health education, actively publicizing the country’s regulations on caring for the public is essential. This involves connecting the importance of infectious diseases with the construction of social civilization, effectively enhancing people's sense of social responsibility[13].

4.2.2 Principles of Health Education

Scientificity: Health education must adhere to truthfulness, be rooted in science, avoid arbitrary exaggeration or reduction, and prevent one-sidedness. Health education should be conducted objectively.

Massiveness: Health education needs to be targeted, tailored to individual needs, and based on
the degree of patients' medical and psychological requirements. It should be purposeful, targeted, and presented in an accessible and understandable manner. Additionally, health education should persist throughout the entire process from admission to discharge, ensuring that patients have continuous understanding of various aspects of the disease and clinical precautions. Then, a comparison can be made between the two groups of patients regarding their understanding and mastery of relevant knowledge about their own diseases[14].

5. Interaction between Internal Infectious Disease Control and Health Education in Medical Institutions

5.1 Promoting Role of Health Education in Infectious Disease Control

Health education conveys knowledge about infectious diseases, enabling individuals to understand pathogen transmission pathways and prevention measures, thus enhancing self-awareness for protection. Individuals can proactively adopt protective measures in daily life, such as wearing masks and practicing regular handwashing, reducing the risk of infection. Health education aids in cultivating individuals' sensitivity to potential infectious disease symptoms, making them more likely to identify abnormal symptoms in themselves or others and report them promptly to medical institutions. Early detection and reporting help medical institutions take swift action, isolating patients, tracing contacts, and effectively containing the spread of the infectious chain. Health education fosters a comprehensive understanding of the importance and safety of vaccines, encouraging individuals to willingly undergo vaccination and improve their immunity. Mass vaccination effectively slows down the spread of infectious diseases, forming an immune barrier crucial for disease prevention.

Health education is not only directed at patients but should also include healthcare professionals. Education enables healthcare professionals to gain a comprehensive understanding of the characteristics and control measures of infectious diseases, enhancing their sensitivity to hygiene. Healthcare professionals strictly adhere to hygiene protocols at work, effectively preventing cross-infections and protecting their own and patients' health. Health education helps healthcare professionals understand the importance of proper medical waste management, increasing compliance with standardized operating procedures and reducing environmental pollution from medical waste. Proper management of medical waste prevents the spread of infectious diseases through waste and reduces the risk of infection. Health education contributes to healthcare professionals and patients jointly maintaining a clean and hygienic medical environment. By promoting the importance of cleanliness and hygiene, a clean environment helps reduce the survival time of pathogens, effectively lowering the risk of disease transmission. Through strengthening individual health awareness and building a culture of hygiene within medical institutions, health education profoundly and comprehensively promotes infectious disease control, effectively reducing the risk of disease occurrence and transmission[15].

5.2 Demands for Health Education from Infectious Disease Control

Infectious disease control involves complex knowledge about pathogen characteristics, transmission pathways, protective measures, etc. Simplifying the transmission of this information requires clear and concise methods, considering potential information overload and the varying comprehension abilities of different recipients. Addressing the complexity of information dissemination in health education, especially regarding infectious diseases, is a pressing issue.

The presence of diverse cultural, educational, and linguistic groups in society requires tailored health education to account for differences in needs and acceptance levels. Infectious disease
control needs to consider the diversity of different groups to precisely convey information[16]. With societal changes and globalization, the emergence of new infectious diseases brings uncertainties in disease control. Health education needs to be regularly updated to adapt to the characteristics of emerging infectious diseases, enhancing society's ability to respond to unknown diseases. The healthcare system should introduce various educational methods, including online courses, mobile applications, social media, etc., to accommodate different learning habits and preferences, improving the effectiveness of information transmission. Diversifying educational methods provides flexibility in addressing the complexity of information dissemination, increasing the coverage of health education. Tailoring educational plans based on the characteristics of different groups, including cultural traits, language habits, etc., ensures that information aligns more closely with the actual needs of recipients. Differentiated educational plans enhance the acceptance of health education among various groups, facilitating the penetration of information into different layers of society. There is even a need to establish a mechanism for updating health education information, regularly disseminating information about emerging infectious diseases through epidemic reports, expert lectures, etc., to ensure the public remains vigilant about infectious diseases. Through a flexible information update mechanism, society can better cope with the uncertainties of emerging infectious diseases, improving the overall ability to respond to disease control [17].

5.3 Health Education as an Important Measure to Control Pollution Sources

As the source of infection is the root cause of the spread and expansion of infectious diseases, identifying and controlling infected individuals in the early stages is a crucial strategy for reducing and controlling infectious diseases. Historically, administrative interventions were emphasized, such as military guarding, water and food delivery, and isolating patients during the prevalence of cholera. While these measures had some effect, they did not address the root cause. The effectiveness largely depends on public understanding of infectious diseases, awareness of health organizations, infectious disease health reports, and reporting systems. Through health education, disseminating common knowledge about infectious diseases to the general public enhances their ability to identify and report outbreaks promptly. It facilitates early detection, isolation, treatment, and prevention of the spread of infectious diseases.

Managing the source of infection, cutting off transmission channels, and protecting susceptible populations are fundamental aspects of preventing infectious diseases. Effective health education plays a critical role in achieving these goals and requires a comprehensive understanding of the importance and implementation of these strategies.

5.4 Health Education as a Key Strategy to Restrict the Spread of Infectious Diseases

Health education enables communities in epidemic areas to understand measures for preventing infectious diseases, improving poor hygiene habits at their roots. Combining fundamental hygiene practices with targeted strategies such as vaccination, environmental cleanup, and disinfection is essential. Strict measures are implemented to prevent the appearance of second-generation patients in the food service industry, a significant site for the spread of intestinal infectious diseases[18].

Clean water sources are crucial for preventing the spread of diseases, particularly for intestinal infectious diseases. Improving water quality and sanitation through health education is essential, especially in rural areas where the impact of traditional, economic, and cultural factors makes it challenging to implement changes. Enhancing hygiene consciousness among the local population and implementing measures to improve water quality and sanitation are vital for addressing this issue[19].
5.5 Health Education as a Vital Measure to Protect Susceptible Populations

Conducting professional health education to raise public awareness of hygiene is a cost-effective approach. Through proper and correct health education, the general public, especially vulnerable groups, can abandon poor personal hygiene habits, acquire disease prevention knowledge, and enhance their ability to lead a healthy life. Health education is particularly crucial for vaccination efforts. Only through widespread health education can the general public, including patients and their families, understand the importance of vaccination and actively cooperate with healthcare personnel in vaccination programs. The success of the hepatitis B vaccine in the 1990s demonstrates the pivotal role of health education in improving vaccination rates and preventing the spread of infectious diseases. Therefore, health education plays a vital role in social projects aimed at preventing infectious diseases. Strategies for enhancing nonspecific and specific immune responses in populations, such as promoting good hygiene habits, a regular lifestyle, proper nutrition, and physical activity, can be effectively implemented through health education[20].

6. Conclusion

In this paper, through the comparative experimental analysis of the health education data of transmitted diseases in medical institutions, we conclude that the probability of infectious diseases is significantly reduced after the corresponding implementation of infectious disease prevention health education. By establishing diverse educational methods, creating differentiated educational plans, and implementing flexible information update mechanisms, health education's effectiveness in infectious disease control can be strengthened, increasing society's awareness and prevention capabilities against infectious diseases. Therefore, the findings of this paper have guiding significance and socioeconomic benefits for the integration of infection control and health education in medical institutions.

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