

Violence Against Doctors on Duty in Sialkot

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Abstract

Objective: To get data about violence against doctors on duty in Sialkot.

Material and Method: It was a cross sectional study. Convenience sampling technique was adopted. Study duration was 2 months and 15 days from 1st June to 15th August 2023. Sample size was 200. Study centre was Sialkot medical college, Sialkot.. A questionnaire was served to 200 doctors on duty both in government as well as private hospitals of Sialkot. Data was collected. Statistical analysis was carried out by using SPSS 25.

Results: 200 physicians answered. According to these Responses, 39 (19.5%) and 62 (31%), respectively, from private and public hospitals experienced violence. A few doctors experienced violence more than once. Six doctors from private institutions and thirty (15%) from government hospitals reported having experienced physical violence. There was more abuse and violence in private hospitals. Compared to private hospitals, coworkers provided more assistance in government institutions. In private hospitals, security guards have rescued more times than in public ones. Only 14 (35.9%) doctors working in private practice notified the police, compared to 32 (51.6%) doctors employed by the government.

Conclusion: Doctors on duty are facing all types of violence. Physical violence is more in government hospitals. Abusing violence is more in private hospitals.

Keywords: Violence. Bullying. Verbal abuse. Physical violence

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Introduction

Inflicting damage to the physique, mind or property of someone is called violence. There are many ways to classify violence. One way is, it may be homicidal, assault, robbery and rape.¹ Homicide means to kill someone by using force². To attack someone with an intention of inflicting force and causing hurt is called assault.³ Everyone is exposed to violence regardless the age including children, adolescence and aged. Females are more exposed to face violence especially sexual one.⁴ Violate means to cross the normal limits.

Violence may also means not paying heed to the rights of some one. These rights belong either to physique or honour of a person.⁵ Among different types of violence, physical violence leaves more effects although use of force against property, verbal violence and psychological violence also leave bad impacts upon human life.⁶

Violence against doctors has become a global issue. Throughout the world doctors are facing both verbal as well as physical form of violence. The World Medical Association has declared it a global emergency which not only effects doctors but also badly impacts the health care system in providing the suitable health care services.⁷ Violence against doctors on duty is maximum in Morocco (70%) Thailand (54%). In Asian countries it is increasing up to 25%.⁸ In Pakistan verbal violence is more (72.5%) as compared to physical violence(16.5%).⁹ This study aims to gather current information on violence against doctors in various Sialkot health facilities.

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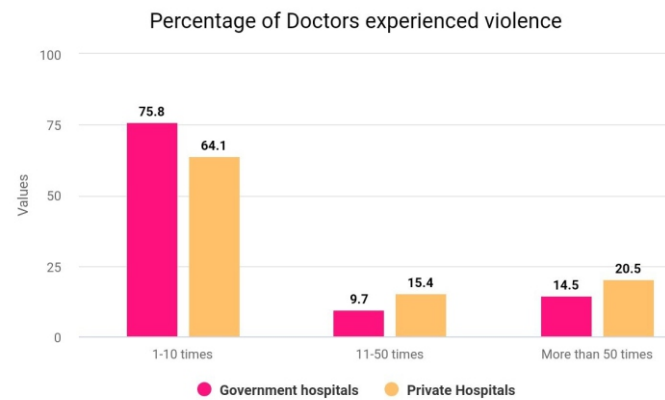
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Material and Method

It was a cross sectional study. Study centre was Sialkot medical college, Sialkot. To collect the data convenience sampling technique was used. Any doctor who gave consent to participate in the study was selected irrespective of age, sex, experience and job place. Sample size was 200 doctors. Study duration was 2 months and 15 days. The questionnaire was presented on 1st June 2023. All responses were recollected till 15th of August 2023. A prior informed consent was taken from each sample.

A questionnaire was formulated. 200 doctors (100 from government hospitals and 100 from private hospitals in Sialkot) were offered the questionnaire and requested to fill and return. Only on job doctors were included in the study. Data collected was analysed by using SPSS 25.

Frequencies and percentages were calculated. Tables were made to present data.

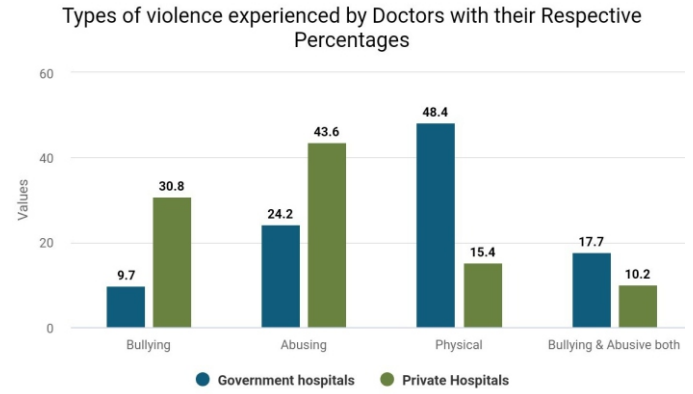


Results

Following results were obtained

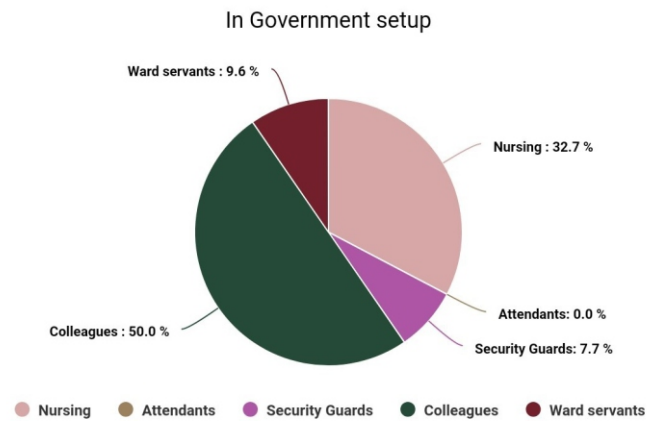
Showing working experience of respectable doctors below :

62 doctors from government sector and 39 from private sector claimed that they faced incidence of violence. According to these statistics, the percentage of Doctors



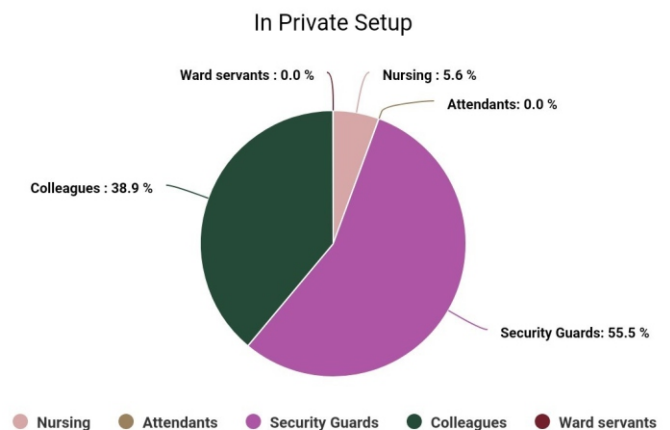
who experienced violence one time or multiple is shown below in graphical form.

Types of violence faced by Doctors in Government and



Private Setup with their Respective Percentages is shown below.

Among 100 government doctors who responded, 62 faced violence incidences, out of which only 52 were



helped by people having different working status in hospital. Graphical representation of statistics shown.

Table 1: Frequency of help provided, information to police, action taken and arrest of culprits

	Government	Private
Hospital staff helped	32	26
Police informed	32	14
Helped by police	11	9
Action Taken	9	4
Culprit arrested	6	2

Among 100 Private institute Doctors who responded, 39 experienced violence incidences, out of which 36 were helped by people having different working status in hospital. Graphical representation of statistics shown.

In how many cases hospital staff and police helped. How many times police was informed, action taken and culprits arrested is shown in table no 5.

Bruises and abrasions were mainly seen among physical violence victims.

Discussion

According to results obtained through statistical analysis 200 doctors on job responded both from private as well as government hospitals. 47 doctors faced violence incidences from 1 to 10 times during their job in government hospitals. While 25 doctors said that they faced violence from 1 to 10 times in private hospitals. 6 doctors from government as well as private hospitals faced violence from 11 to 50 times. 9 doctors from government hospitals faced violence more than 50 times. While in private hospitals 8 doctors said they faced it more than 50 times. 68 % and 39 % doctors from government and private hospitals faced violence during their duty.

Type of violence faced in government hospitals maximum was physical one. 30 doctors from government hospitals claimed that they became victim of physical torture and only 6 doctors from private hospitals said faced physical torture. In a study carried out in Karachi, Physical violence was only 16.5 %.¹⁰ Another study carried out in India has almost same results of 18.5% physical violence faced by health care worker in emergency department.¹¹ Abusing language was maximum in private hospitals. 17 doctors said they faced abusing language while 15 doctors from government hospitals faced abusing language. The least violence in government hospitals was bullying. A study carried out in Saudi

Arabia indicated that oral violence was maximally seen i.e., 60.7 % and physical violence was only 8.3%¹². A study collectively performed in Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates has resulted in that physical violence was seen in 20.9% and oral abusing was 75.6%¹³. A study was carried out in Bangladesh, showed that physical violence was only 15.4% and other forms of violence constituted 84.6%¹⁴. 17% physical violence was reported in a research brought out in India but verbal violence was 67%¹⁵. In Egypt 58.2% oral violence against health workers was reported¹⁶. In Bahrain hospital verbal abuse was maximum i.e., 78% ,physical violence was 11% and sexual abuse was reported to be 3% in health care workers.¹⁷ In Saudi Arabia 26 articles related to violence against health workers were selected to review. Among those 72% reports were about verbal violence and 18% were about physical violence¹⁸. In Malaysia, verbal violence against doctors was 70.6%, bullying was 29.4% and physical assault was 11%.¹⁹

With respect to help in government hospitals colleagues helped the doctors maximally. 26 doctors were helped by their colleagues in government and 14 in private hospitals. In government hospitals 17 doctors were helped by nursing staff while in private only 2 doctors were helped by nursing staff. In private hospitals security guards maximally helped the doctors. 20 doctors claimed the help of security guards in private hospitals but only 4 doctors claimed the same in government hospitals.

Information provision to the police was more in government hospitals 32 as compared to 14 only in private hospitals. Police helped 11 doctors in government and 9 doctors in private hospitals. Only 6 culprits were arrested in government and 2 in private hospitals were arrested. In a study only 8.5% reported the violence every time. Report to the police was only 9.5%.²⁰ In another study carried out in Pakistan, only 59.5% cases were reported. But they were reported mainly to the colleagues only.²¹

Conclusion

Although medical profession was deemed once a very noble and honourable profession yet it is losing its dignity. Incidences of violence against doctors are being taken place in the whole world. This study indicates more physical violence is being seen in government hospitals than private hospitals. Very few cases are reported to police. Very low percentage of culprits is being punished.

Conflict of Interest:

None

Funding source:

None

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