Awareness about Ethics Committee amongst the medical teachers in a medical college

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- Member of Indian Rheumatology Association
- Member of FERCI
Background

- No formal training about Ethics Committee is given to medical students in UG/PG curriculum.
- When Faculty position is taken up, not all would have undergone training in Research Methodology or ICH-GCP.
- Only those undertaking research activities or guiding UG/PG students would have come in contact with EC.
- Majority of them would be unaware, hence this study.
Aims & Objectives

- To study the awareness about the composition and functioning of EC amongst the medical teachers in a medical college.
- i.e. How well informed are the faculty members about the IEC?
Methodology

- The study was done as per ICMR guidelines.
- Institutional Ethics Committee approval was taken.
- The medical teachers who consented to participate were enrolled in the study.
- It was a questionnaire based study.
- A prevalidated questionnaire was given to fill up and return immediately.
The questionnaire consisted of questions specific to IEC Nair and some questions related to the composition and functioning of Ethics committees in general.

The questionnaires which were returned later on were excluded from analysis.

The collected data was analysed as follows.
Results

• 214 out of 250 faculty members consented for the study.
• But questionnaires returned later on were excluded from analysis (34).
• Hence, only 180 were actually analysed.
• 40 faculty have undergone ICH-GCP training of which 27 belonged to clinical branches and 13 to non-clinical branches.
No. of Individual Question Correct responses
The overall scores were as follows

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Numbers</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>V.poor</td>
<td>0 – 3</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>12.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>4 – 6</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>42.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average</td>
<td>7 – 9</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>28.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>10 – 12</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>16.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Faculty Distribution

- Clinical: 92 (51%)
- Non-clinical: 88 (49%)
Mean Scores according to Designation

- Lecturer: 5.59
- Associate Professor: 6.63
- Professor: 8.11
• Between group 1 and group 2, \( p=0.008 \) (95% CI = -2.28 to 0.28) statistically significant
• Between group 1 and group 3, \( p=0.001 \) (95% CI = -1.25 to 3.61) statistically significant
• Between group 2 and group 3, \( p=0.078 \) (95% CI = -2.40 to 0.10) statistically not significant
No. of years and Mean Scores

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of years</th>
<th>Mean Scores</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;5 years</td>
<td>5.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-10 years</td>
<td>7.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;10 years</td>
<td>6.76</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Pearson’s Coefficient 0.153 (p=0.043) i.e statistically significant about EC in general and 0.136(p=0.071) i.e. statistically not significant about Nair EC.
No. of years and Percentages of Scores

- 0 to 3 years: 9%, 10%, 17%
- 4 to 6 years: 49%, 43%, 38%
- 7 to 9 years: 17%, 45%, 5%
- 10 to 12 years: 8%, 30%, 14%

- >10 yrs: Red
- 5-10 yrs: Yellow
- <5 yrs: Blue
Distribution of PG Teachers

- PG Teacher: 106 (59%)
- Non PG T: 74 (41%)

P = 0.01
Willingness to serve as EC Member

- Yes: 99 (55%)
- No: 81 (45%)
Conclusions

- 90/180 i.e. 50% were well informed about the composition of EC in general.
- 101/180 i.e. 56% were aware about the functioning of Nair EC.
- Only 48/180 (26%) were aware that Chairperson is not from the Institution.
- The most common wrong answer was “Dean” is the Chairperson of EC.
- Only 30 faculty (30/180 i.e. 16.4%) knew the name of the Chairperson correctly.
- There was no significant difference in knowledge about EC in clinical and non-clinical branches.
- The awareness about EC was significantly higher amongst the PG teachers.
Recommendations

- Faculty of a medical college should undergo training about Research Methodology and ICH-GCP.
- Basic knowledge about the Composition and functioning of EC should be imparted to all the medical teachers.
- Ethics and Research Methodology Orientation Program should be included as a part of UG/PG Curriculum.
Limitations

- Attitudes and practices of faculty were not asked.
- Researchers and EC members from other institutes may not be interested in this data.
- This data is unique to our institution and cannot be generalised.
Acknowledgements

- All the Teaching Faculty of Nair Hospital
- EC Members and EC for permitting to conduct this study
- Dr. G. D. Velhal for helping in the Statistical Analysis of the data.
Thank you!