



## **TITLE: A Survey of Workplace Violence Against Emergency Physicians in Indian Hospitals**

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### **ABSTRACT (285 words)**

Workplace violence in health-sector has become an alarming phenomenon worldwide in recent years. Although violence against emergency physicians is common in India, the issue is under researched and little evidence exists.

The cross-sectional, questionnaire-based study aimed to explore the prevalence and magnitude of violent episodes among emergency physicians in public & private hospitals in India, to identify the types, sources & consequences of such violence and the measures present in workplace to deal with similar workplace violence, where the questionnaire was e-mailed to 2059 randomly selected emergency physicians all over India. Collected data was analyzed and tabulated by statistician using the SPSS v11.

The majority of the respondents (68.3%) faced some form of violence in their workplace in past 12 months, 15.8% physical and 52.5% psychological. Males significantly experienced higher exposure to physical violence, whereas females were more prone to psychological violence. Respondents from public sector were more likely to experience violent incidences than those from private sector (OR: 2.65; 95% CI 1.03-6.84). Most common mode of violence was verbal abuse (93.4%); commonest perpetrators (93.4%) being relatives of patients. Consequences for the physicians were considerable. Majority (75.1%) of the respondents were not satisfied of handling of violent incidents. Non-reporting of violence was a concern, main reason being useless (43.2%). Only 28.3% indicated receiving some form of training to tackle workplace violence, whereas 12.4% indicated absence of any form of measures in their workplace to deal with violence. Majority indicated need for improved security measures (86.8%), public awareness (80.4%) and restricted public access (70.2%) to prevent further incidences.

To conclude, emergency physicians are at high risk of violent incidents in Indian hospitals. Appropriate preventive measures are needed to protect them and provide safer hospital workplace environment.

### **BIOGRAPHY (184 words)**

Dr Bodhisatwa Choudhuri completed MBBS from RG Kar medical College & Hospital in Kolkata, India, followed by MD in Internal Medicine and Emergency Medicine training from George Washington University, USA. He finished MRCEM from Royal College of Emergency Medicine, UK and SCE in Acute Medicine from Royal College of Physicians, UK. He followed it up with super-specialty training in Rheumatology from University of South Wales, Cardiff, UK and Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, USA.

He is presently working as Consultant & In-charge of Critical Care department in ILS Hospital, Howrah, West Bengal, India. He is also Secretary of Society of Emergency Medicine, India, West Bengal Chapter. He is an American Heart Association Certified Instructor of ACLS, BLS and PALS courses and has completed ATLS course from American College of Surgeons & FCCS course from Society of Critical Care Medicine, USA.

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Dr Choudhuri keeps himself updated in modern advances in medicine by regularly partaking in various national & international conferences & seminars as delegate & faculty. He is also actively involved in various academic trainings in the field of Emergency Medicine & Critical Care.

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