

Knowledge and Practices of Hand Washing and Glove Utilization Among the Health Care Providers of Shenen Gibe Hospital, South West Ethiopia

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Abstract: Background Nosocomial or Hospital Acquired infections-Is an infection that is neither present nor incubating at the time the patient came to the health care facility(hospital). Nosocomial refers to the association between care and the subsequent onset of infection. To prevent this infection open hand washing and glove utilization practice is simple and an important method. Objectives: To investigate the knowledge and practice of hand washing and glove utilization among the health care workers of Shenen Gibe Hospital. Method: Across-sectional study design was used to investigate the knowledge and practice of hand washing and glove utilization among the health care provider of Shenen Gibe Hospital. A structured self-administered pre-tested questionnaire was used for all 47 health professionals by Universal sampling techniques. Results: All the 47 staffs have responded to the questionnaire and the distribution of the staff was: 7(14.8%) physicians, 3(6.4%) were BSc Nurses, 21(44.8%) was clinical nurse, 8(17%) were mid wifery nurse, 5(10.6%) labtech. and the rest were anesthetist 3(6.4%). From this 15 (31.9%) were males and 32(68.1%) were females. From 47 respondents, 39(82.97%) and 32(68.08%) of them have adequate knowledge and practice of hand washing and glove utilization respectively. From the total of 47 respondents, 24(51%) of them have complied with the recommended procedures of hand washing and glove utilization, while 23(49%) of them did not comply. Conclusion and Recommendation: Majority of the study subjects have adequate knowledge and practice about hand washing and glove utilization. Most of the respondents were complied with the recommended procedures of hand washing and glove utilization. Regular practice of hand washing and glove utilization requires regular supplies like soap, water, dry & clean to well and acceptable glove depending on the type of procedure to perform at all time. Therefore oromia health bureau should facilitate these facilities in the hospital wards. The hospital authorities are urged to post the general guidelines for the staff a teach hand washing sites.

Keywords: Nosocomial Infections, Hand Washing, Glove Utilization, Shenen Gibe Hospital

1. Back Ground

Nosocomial or hospital acquired infections is infection that is neither present nor incubating at the time the patient came to the health care facility (Hospital). Nosocomial refers to the association between care and the subsequent onset of infection and nosocomial infections are a significant problem throughout the world and are increasing (1,2). Ever since workers who are identified the problem of infection acquired

in Hospital, at tempts have been made to eradicate or at least reduce rates of acquisition. Hospital acquired infection, also known as nosocomial infection, is defined as an infection for which there is no evidence of its presence or incubation at the time of admission or any infection acquired within 72 hours of admission to Hospital (3,4,5). World Health Organization published a guide to prevent HIV transmission in health

facilities. All documents uniformly state that the basic principle of the UP (Universal Precaution) is to assume that all blood and body fluids are potentially infectious, regardless of whether they originate from a patient or healthcare workers, their blood borne infection status and their known HIV antibody status. Therefore, precautions should be applied in the care of all patients (6). Study revealed that at any time over 1.4 million patients worldwide will have infectious complications acquired in the hospital. This study, most likely do not reflect the current situation because at that time the HIV/AIDS epidemic was just beginning. Moreover, the study did not include any countries of Africa where nosocomial infection rates are much higher (7). "Universal Precautions" are designed to prevent health care staff being exposed to blood and body fluids by applying the basic principle of infection control through hand washing, utilization of appropriate protective barriers, such as gloves, mask, gown and safe handling of needles (7).

Nosocomial or hospitalized acquired infections are infections appearing in a patient in a hospital or other health care facility in whom the infection was not present or incubating at the time of admission. Such infection manifest within 72 hours or more after admission (8). Over all national prevalence rates have been described as ranging between 3.5 and 9.9% and Hospital surfaces and nursing staff are the most prevalent sources of NIs (Nosocomial Infections) (9). Hospital associated infection which has a worldwide distribution remains a major cause of deaths among hospitalized patients (10). The spread of antibiotic resistance genes may be causally related to the overuse of antibiotics in human health care and in animal feeds, increased use of invasive devices and procedures, a greater number of susceptible hosts, and lapses in infection control practices leading to increased transmission of resistant organisms.

The resistance gene sequences are integrated by recombination into several classes of naturally occurring gene expression cassettes and disseminated within the microbial population by horizontal gene transfer mechanisms: transformation, conjugation or transduction (11). Infection in health care facilities is a major public health problem in most developing countries like Ethiopia. Currently the overall incidence of health care associated infection has been increased and burden of these infections is staggering. Thus, it is important to identify the level of health care workers knowledge, attitude and practice in study area and identifying gaps for better intervention (12). Despite the knowledge that contaminated hands play an important role in the transmission of health care associated pathogens, and that hand hygiene (HH) reduces the transmission of these organisms, health care worker's adherence with HH is poor (13). Most nosocomial infections are thought to be transmitted by the hands of health care workers and Implementation of multifaceted interventional behavioral hand hygiene program with continuous monitoring and performance feedback, increasing the supplies necessary for HW and institutional support are important for improving the compliance of hand hygiene guidelines (14). Proper glove

utilization and appropriate hand washing practice has paramount importance to reduce and prevent hospital acquired infection. This can be achieved when health care worker have adequate knowledge and practice and compliance with hand washing and glove utilization. In Shenen Gibe hospital there has no formal research conducted on this subject matter, and therefore it is necessary to conduct a baseline study to determine the compliance of hand washing practice and glove utilization with the standard, so that compliance with the standard was recommended. The purpose of this study was to investigate the knowledge and practice of hand washing and glove utilization among the health care workers of Shenen Gibe Hospital, South West Ethiopia.

2. Methods and Materials

2.1. Study Area and Period

The study was conducted from February 13, 2014 in Shenen Gibe Hospital located in South West Ethiopia, Jimma Zone of Oromia Regional State at Jimma Town. The Hospital was established in 2012. The Hospital provides service to both inpatient and outpatients. It has 50 inpatient beds with different departments including Medical, Surgical, Pediatrics wards, Obstetrics and Gynecology. The general staff composition of the hospital was 47 Health care professionals, in which 1 Emergency Surgeon, 6 Medical Doctors, 24 Nursing staff and 16 other health personnel. The Nursing staff varies from B.Sc. holder to the clinical Nurse. There were 3 professional Nurse or B.Sc., 21 registered Clinical Nurse, 8 Midwifery Nurse. In addition to this there were 5 laboratory technician and 3 Anesthetists.

2.2. Study Design

The study design was a descriptive cross sectional study to assess the knowledge and practice of hand washing and glove utilization among health care providers of Shenen Gibe hospital. The source populations for this study were health care providers of Shenen Gibe hospital. The study populations for this study were health care providers who are willing to participate in the study at Shenen Gibe Hospital. Voluntary, health care professionals who were available during data collection were included. Study population who were not available during data collection and involuntary participants were excluded from the present study.

2.3. Study Population

The source populations for this study were health care providers of Shenen Gibe Hospital. The study populations for this study were health care providers who are willing to participate in the study at Shenen Gibe Hospital.

2.4. Sample Size

The sample size was determined by using a single population proportional formula considering by the following

assumptions: No enough staffs regarding this study sampling need. Therefore, Purposive sample taken.

2.5. Sampling Techniques and Procedure

As the number of the study population is not large enough to require sampling, all health care providers of Shenen Gibe hospital were included in the study. Therefore, Universal sampling method was used. As a result all the 47 health care providers of the Hospital had responded to the questionnaires.

2.6. Instruments and Measurements

Pre tested and structured self-administered questionnaire was used. Translation of instrument is made from English language to local Oromifa Language and back to English language by different experts who are familiar on the field of area and blind to the original version of the questionnaire (English version) in order to facilitate responses to underline questions and keep the original meaning of the instrument. The instrument contains three parts: Socio demographic status of the responses (08 items), practice on hand washing and utilization of glove (12 items), knowledge on hand washing and utilization of glove (11 items), and general reasons health workers wore gloves and its limitation (5 items). The principal investigator conducted the data collection personally. A structured questionnaire developed was pre-tested ten days before launching the final data collection on 5% of the study population in Jimma University Specialized Teaching Hospital and required changes was made. There liability of the data collected was maintained to maximum possible. To ensure there liability and validity of data the principal investigator put the maximum effort. In this regard experts on the subject matter were contacted and the questionnaire reviewed to obtain the desired variables. The data collected was kept in a lockable cabinet not accessible to anyone other than the principal investigator. In addition the respondents were not allowed to take home the questionnaires so that no references made so that their actual knowledge at the time of the study was analyzed (avoid bias). In addition, each participant was told and strictly followed by the principal investigator to respond to the questions by his/her own, without consulting anyone else, and that all the questions provided in the tool will be answered.

2.7. Data Collection Procedure

A structured questionnaire developed was pre-tested ten days before launching the final data collection on 5% of the study population in Jimma University Specialized Teaching Hospital and required changes was made. There liability of the data collected was maintained to maximum possible. To ensure there liability and validity of data the principal investigator put the maximum effort. In this regard experts on the subject matter were contacted and the questionnaire reviewed to obtain the desired variables. The data collected

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2.8. Study Variable

2.8.1. Dependent Variable

- Knowledge, Practice, Hand-Washing, Glove Utilization

2.8.2. Independent Variable

- Age, Sex, Socioeconomic status, religion place of living, Ethnicity and Marital status

2.9. Data Processing, Analysis and Presentation

After the completion of the data collection process the required data was categorized and recorded. The data was compiled and the variables calculated and analyzed using manual hand scientific calculators. After analysis the results was presented in tables, figures or graphic forms.

2.10. Operational Definition

Knowledge is defined as having adequate understanding about the topic to which the person responds as evidenced by earning scores of 75% or more in the questions provided regarding knowledge.

- Knowledgeable: Earning Score of 75% and above on the Knowledge questions.
- Not knowledgeable: Earning score less than 75% on the knowledge questions.
- Practice of hand-washing and glove utilization. Practice is defined as an act of performing a given procedure (s) according to a set standard.
- Good practice: Earning score of 75% and more on the practice questions.
- Poor practice: earnings core less than 75% on the practice questions.

2.11. Data Quality Control

To ensure the quality of data, formerly the instruments were pre tested. The pretest was conducted in 5% of the participants at randomly selected study area away from the study areas. Training was given for the data collectors and supervisors before the actual data collection. Every day after data collection, instruments were reviewed and checked for completeness, accuracy and clarity by the supervisors and principal investigator.

2.12. Ethical Consideration

Prior to the commencement of the study it was ethically cleared by The Research and Publication Office of Jimma University and Shenen Gibe Hospital Administration. In

addition, the respondents were explained about the study and were request for their willingness to fill the questionnaires. The names of the respondents were not included in the questionnaire and in the results. All the filled tools were kept i n strict confidentiality in a lockable cabinet.

3. Result

This study was across-sectional study conducted among health care providers of Shenen Gibie Hospital on knowledge and practice of hand washing and glove utilization. The findings of the study were presented in this section.

3.1. Demographics of the Study Population

All the 47 staffs have responded to the questionnaire and the distribution of the staff was: 7(14.8%) physicians, 3(6.4%) were B.Sc nurses, 21(44.8%) was clinical nurses, 8(17%) were midwifery nurse, 5(10.6%) lab tech. and the rest were anesthetist3(6.4%).The gender distribution of the respondents showed that 15(31.9%) were males and 32(68.1%) were females. This is shown in Table1 and Figure1.

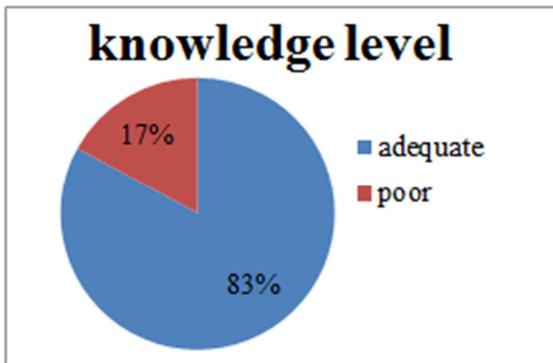


Figure 1. Distribution of knowledge status of Shenen Gibe Hospital staff on hand washing and glove utilization, 2014.

Table 1. Frequency distribution of study population by occupation and sex in Shenen Gibe Hospital ,2014.

Category of staff	Male		Female		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Physicians(Emergency Surgeon & medicaldoctor)	5	10.6	2	4.25	7	14.85
Nurse(BSC)	2	4.25	1	2.15	3	6.4
Clinical Nurse	2	4.25	19	40.4	21	44.8
Midwifery nurse+	2	4.25	6	12.8	8	17
LabTech.	3	6.4	2	4.25	5	10.65
Anesthetist	1	2.15	2	4.25	3	6.4
Total	15	31.92	32	68.1	47	100

The service year of the respondents was calculated and 32(68.06%) served 0-5 years, 11(23.42%) of the m have served 6–10 years, and 4(8.52%) of them have served from 11–15 years. The statically analysis whether years of service affects the practice of hand washing and glove utilization revealedthere is no association between years of service and the practice of hand washing and glove utilization. It means

according to this study the practice of hand washing and glove utilization is independent of the years of service.

Table 2. Socio demographic distributions of respondents in Shenen Gibe Hospital,2014.

Category	Male		Female		Total		
	No	%	No	%	No	%	
Age	20-29	10	21.27	23	48.94	33	70.21
	30-39	4	8.51	9	19.15	13	27.66
	40-49	1	2.13	-	-	1	2.13
	Oromo	14	29.78	17	36.17	31	65.95
Ethnicity	Amhara	1	2.13	9	19.15	10	21.28
	Tigre	-	-	1	2.13	1	2.13
	Others	-	-	5	10.64	5	10.64
	Orthodox	2	4.26	17	36.17	19	40.43
Religion	Muslim	6	12.76	8	17.07	14	29.83
	Protestant	6	12.76	6	12.76	12	25.52
	Others	1	2.13	1	2.13	2	4.24
	Single	6	12.26	16	34.04	22	46.3
Maritalstatus	Married	8	17.03	14	29.78	22	46.3
	Divorced	1	2.13	2	4.26	3	6.39
	0-5years	10	21.27	22	46.79	32	68.06
Yearofservice	6-10years	3	6.39	8	17.03	11	23.42
	11-15years	2	4.26	2	4.26	4	8.52

3.2. Knowledge Versus Practice of Hand Washing and Glove Utilization

The knowledge of the respondents was assessed and categorized as poor and adequate. Based on this the knowledge status of all staff is shown in Figure1.

3.3. Knowledge Versus Practice of Hand Washing and Glove Utilization

The knowledge of the respondents was assessed and categorized as poor and adequate. Based on this the knowledge status of all staff is shown in Figure2.

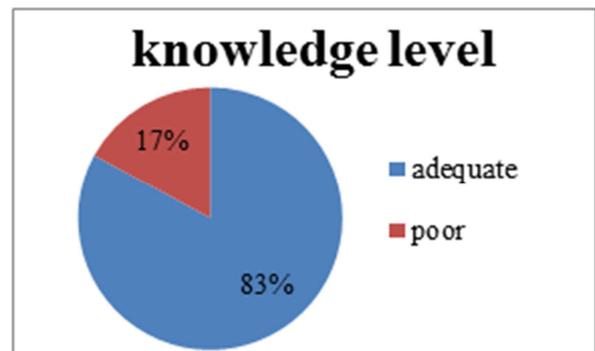


Figure 2. Distribution of knowledge status of Shenen Gibe Hospital staff on hand washing and glove utilization, 2014.

From 47 respondents, 32(68.08%) of them have adequate practice of hand washing and glove utilization; and 15(31.92%)of them have inadequate practice of hand washing and gloveutilization. This reveals that the majority of the study subjects practice hand washing and glove utilization adequately. As summarized in Table 3,39(82.97%) have adequate knowledge of hand washing and glove

utilization and 8(17.03%) have inadequate knowledge of hand washing and glove utilization. From all study subjects, 29(61.70%) have both adequate knowledge and adequate practice of hand washing and glove utilization; whereas 10(21.27%) have adequate knowledge but poor practice of hand washing and glove utilization, while 3(6.38%) have in

adequate knowledge but have adequate practice of hand washing and glove utilization. The rest of the study subjects 5(10.63%) have inadequate knowledge and inadequate practice of hand washing and glove utilization. This study shows that the majority have adequate knowledge and adequate practices of hand washing and glove utilization.

Table 3. Frequency distribution of knowledge of hand washing and glove utilization vs. practices of the study subjects in Shenen Gibe hospital, 2014.

Knowledge of hand washing and glove utilization	Practice of hand washing & glove utilization				Total	
	Adequate		Poor		No	%
	No	%	No	%		
Adequate	29	61.70	10	21.27	39	82.97
Poor	3	6.38	5	10.63	8	17.03
Total	32	68.08	15	31.92	47	100

3.4. Hand Washing and Glove Utilization Practice Versus Previous Training

This study showed that 17 (36.17%) of the respondents had taken training related to hand washing and glove utilization, from these, 14(29.79%) adequately practice hand washing and glove utilization and the rest 3(6.38%) had practiced hand washing and glove utilization inadequately. On the other hand, 30(63.83%) of the respondents did not take any training or pre-training to hand washing and glove

utilization and from these 18(38.3%) were found to have adequate practice of hand washing and glove utilization while 12 (25.53%) have in adequate hand washing and glove utilization. Table 4 summarizes this. The statistical analysis of these study showed that those who didn't taken pre-training had adequate knowledge and practice of hand washing and glove utilization than those who had taken pre-training on hand washing and glove utilization.

Table 4. Frequency distribution of hand washing and glove utilization practice and training of the participants on the subject in Shenen Gibe Hospital, 2014.

Respondents	Adequate Hand washing & Glove Utilization Practice				Poor Hand Washing & Glove Utilization Practice				Total	
	Training		No Training		Training		No Training		No	%
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%		
Physician	2	4.26	4	8.52	-	-	1	2.13	7	14.85
Professional Nurse	1	2.13	1	2.13	-	-	1	2.13	3	6.4
Clinical Nurse	8	17	7	14.85	2	4.26	4	8.52	21	44.8
Midwifery	2	4.26	2	4.26	1	2.13	3	6.38	8	17
LabTech	1	2.13	3	6.38	-	-	1	2.13	5	10.65
Anesthetist	-	-	1	2.13	-	-	2	4.26	3	6.39
Total	14	29.79	18	38.3	3	6.39	12	25.53	47	100

3.5. Compliance with the Recommended Practices of Hand Washing and Glove Utilization

From the total of 47 respondents, 24(51%) of the m have complied with the recommended procedures of hand washing and glove utilization, while 23(49%) of the m did not comply with the recommended procedures of hand washing and glove utilization; these study showed that most of the study subjects did comply with the recommended procedures of hand washing and glove utilization.

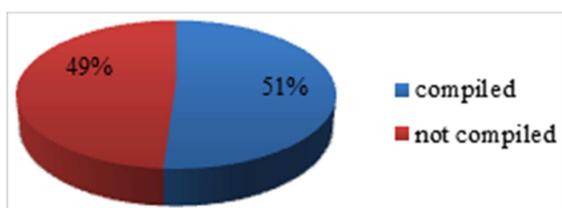


Figure 3. Compliance of Shenen Gibe Hospital health care providers with their recommended practices of hand washing and glove utilization, 2014.

3.6. Educational Status and Compliance to the Recommended Procedures of Hand Washing and Glove Utilization

Table 5. Compliance on the recommended practices of hand washing & glove utilization among staff at Shenen Gibe Hospital, 2014.

Study Subject	Compiled		Not Complied		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Physician	4	57.1	3	42.9	7	100
Nurse(BSc)	2	66.6	1	33.4	3	100
Clinical Nurse	9	42.9	12	57.1	21	100
Midwifery	5	62.5	3	37.5	8	100
LabTech	3	60	2	40	5	100
Anesthetist	1	33.4	2	66.6	3	100
Total	24	51	23	49	47	100

Investigation of how educational status affects compliance with the recommended procedures of hand washing and glove utilization was done by comparing nurses with physicians with respect to their compliance with the recommended procedures. From 21, clinical nurses, 9(42.9%)

of them had complied and 12 (57.1%) had not complied with the recommended procedures of hand washing and glove utilization. From 7, physician, 4(57.1%) of them complied and 3(42.9%) was not complied. The details of compliance with recommended guideline for all staff is shown in Table 5.

3.6.1. Antiseptic Use

Out of the 47 respondents, 31(65.95%) uses soap for hand washing, and 26(55.32%) uses alcohol, savlon and more than one antiseptic agents where more than one answer was common. From this finding soap is more used than most frequently used antiseptic agent. Some respondents showed the unavailability of soap sometimes and only wash with water alone.

3.6.2. Hand Drying Method

The study revealed that the study population use Common towel, air, gauze and out of them 23(48.9%) use air, 19(40.4%) use common towel, 11(23.4%) gauze user where more than one answer was common. After washing the hand proper hand drying is the recommended procedure and the use of improper drying can cause the transfer of pathogens from one person to another through the hands of health providers.

4. Discussion

As detailed in the results about the knowledge of staff on glove utilization and hand hygiene was assessed and 82.9% of all staffs have adequate knowledge while the rest 17.03% have inadequate knowledge. This result was comparable but slightly higher than the study finding done at Jimma University hospital nursing staff on hand washing practice in which case 71.6% of the staff had adequate knowledge while the rest 28.4% did not have (7). This finding shows that shenen gibe hospital staff knowledge on glove utilization and hand hygiene was good though attention is required to improve the knowledge of those staff that has poor knowledge. Concerning Shenen Gibe Hospital staff on hand hygiene and glove utilization their practice is good. As the result shown about 68.08% of the staff properly practices good hand hygiene and glove utilization while the rest 31.92% were not. This result is similar to the study finding in that of a tertiary care pediatric hospital in Canada, Toronto, Jimma university nursing staff and in University of Pittsburgh Medical center which showed a hand hygiene practice rate of 61%, 43% and 57% respectively (7, 15), but higher than Turkey where only 26.9% of the health care worker showed compliance to hand washing both before and after the use of glove in specific procedure (15). This result was higher than hand washing compliance of health care workers before glove utilization in medical and cardiac surgery ICU in Virginia hospital which showed 3% and 13% respectively in each department (6). The possible reasons for such a high compliance to hand washing and glove utilization practice is that, the staff have received recent training on such topic and have adequate knowledge regarding hand washing and glove utilization. In addition lack of standard operating procedures and lack of strict rules to implement such by the department

leaders/hospital management could contribute to such low compliance health professional. When educational status and compliance was compared, compliance to the set procedures was indirectly related to educational status. The compliance of nurses was better than physicians and other health professionals. This result was similar to the study finding in tertiary care hospital in Canada where the compliance rate of nurses in the hospital was 63% which was higher than physicians in the same hospital which accounts 44%. This may be because of hand washing and glove utilization was given for nurses as a course and nurses have cloth contact with the patient as compared physicians (15).

5. Strength and Weakness of the Study

The study is interesting in which authors' explored knowledge and practices of hand washing and glove utilization among health care providers, less explored in previous studies. However, the relatively small sample size and the single center study limit the generalizability of the study findings.

5.1. Strength of the Study

- The data was collected using a structured self-administered pre-tested questionnaire
- Adequate sample size was applied according to single population proportion formula
- Data collectors were health professional

5.2. Weakness of the Study

- During this study there may be observational bias
- There were financial constraint while conducting the Study
- All respondents were interviewed but some of them observed during the study period
- Some of the respondents were volunteer during data collection

6. Conclusion

Based on the study results the following can be concluded: Majority of the study subjects have adequate knowledge about hand washing and glove utilization. Most of the study subjects have a dequate practice of about hand washing and glove utilization. Knowledge of hand washing and glove utilization has direct relation to training and practice of hand washing and glove utilization. Most of the respondents were complied with there commended procedures of hand washing and glove utilization. Educational status was indirectly related to recommended procedure of hand washing and glove utilization. Regular practice of hand washing and glove utilization requires regular supplies like soap, water, dry & clean towel and acceptable glove depending on the type of procedure to perform at all time. Therefore Oromia Health Bureau should facilitate these facilities in the hospital wards.

Author's Contributions

BS, have made substantial contributions to beginning and design, collection of data, analysis and interpretation of data and in drafting the manuscripts and correcting the comment given by the advisors.

AD involved in revising the research paper and the manuscript critically for important intellectual context and approval of the final version to be published and participated in its design and coordination. He participated in the approval and funding process, participated in the design of the study participated in its design and coordination.

JJ, involved in revising the research paper and the manuscript critically for important intellectual context and approval of the final version to be published and participated in its design and coordination.

AAG had greater contribution in reviewing the manuscript English and topography. And helped to draft the manuscript.

YYA had greater contribution in reviewing the manuscript English and topography. And helped to draft the manuscript.

BA had greater contribution in reviewing the manuscript English and topography. And helped to draft the manuscript.

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