

**FACTORS AFFECTING PROMPT RESPONSE IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS
AMONG UNDERGRADUATES IN SRI LANKA**

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First aid knowledge and prompt response in emergencies are crucial for saving lives and reducing morbidity. Prompt responses are referred to in accidents as quick and proper life-saving care before a patient receives substantial therapy. This study explored the factors influencing prompt responses among undergraduates in Sri Lanka using logistic regression. While previous research has focused on the impact of first aid training on emergency response capabilities, this study considered additional factors such as confidence, cultural influences, and emotional conditions. Data were collected by circulating an online survey questionnaire among university undergraduates, which consisted of the main four sections (A, B, C, and D). Sections A, B, C, and D were created to give marks to their first aid knowledge, experience, confidence, and cultural factors with emotional conditions impact on prompt responding using the Likert scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent). A total of 124 undergraduates have responded to the survey from various universities in Sri Lanka, with a total of 31 male and 93 female undergraduates. Logistic regression Sigmoid function analysis examined the relationship between first aid knowledge, experiences, confidence, and cultural factors with prompt responses. Results indicated that only 19.35% of undergraduates demonstrated the ability to respond promptly in emergencies. First aid knowledge and confidence in facing the situation were found to be significantly associated with prompt responses ($\chi^2 = 18.73$, $p < 0.001$). The odds ratio of gender vs. first aid knowledge and confidence were greater than one, implying the associations. This study resulted in 54.47% of undergraduates believing that cultural factors and emotional conditions affect emergency response. The odds ratio of gender vs cultural factors with emotional conditions resulted in no association. These findings underscore the importance of considering multiple factors in assessing emergency response capabilities among undergraduates.

Keywords: Confidence, Cultural factors, First aid, Knowledge, Undergraduates