

Combating Human Sex Trafficking Within the 21c Museum Hotel: An Education Proposal

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Abstract

Human sex trafficking has plagued the United States (US) at an alarming rate. After a thorough literature review, it's found that hotels and motels are one of the top used venues to house human sex trafficking. Due to this national issue, I developed an education proposal to implement to the 21c Museum Hotel housekeeping staff. The verbal education provides the housekeeping staff with facts regarding human trafficking, the red flags to identify a human trafficking situation and resources available to the staff. To determine education attainment, I administered a pre and post-test to the housekeeping staff. The results explain that ninety percent of the housekeeping staff were unaware that human trafficking occurred in Ohio hotel venues. By educating all hotel housekeeping staff, human trafficking could cease to exist within hotel venues

NATIONAL
HUMAN
TRAFFICKING
HOTLINE

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24 HOURS A DAY
CONFIDENTIAL
TOLL-FREE HOTLINE

Purpose

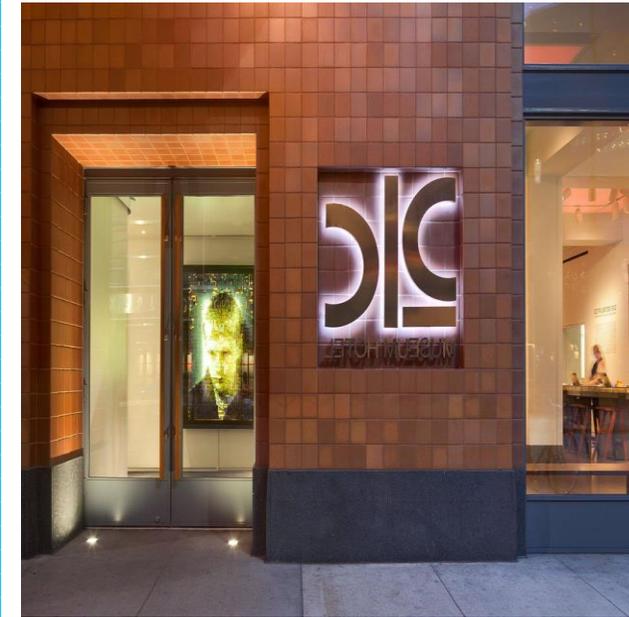
To provide education on human sex trafficking to the housekeeping staff at the 21c Museum Hotel. The housekeeping staff is consistently traveling in and out of hotel guest rooms, making them the most likely to witness the red flags indicating human trafficking. This education will give housekeepers knowledge about human sex trafficking, including the red flags to identify a human trafficking situation and the resources available if a human trafficking situation occurs within the 21c Museum Hotel.

Background

“Trafficking in human beings (THB) is a form of modern-day slavery that involves the recruitment, transportation, and the sexual or labor exploitation of vulnerable persons by force or coercion” (Paraskevas & Brookes, 2018, p. 148). In the US, the National Hotline was in contact with 51,919 human trafficking cases, 3,596 of those cases involving a hotel or motel since 2007 (Polaris, 2020). This statistic now ranks the US as one of the worst countries in the world for human trafficking (Polaris, 2020). Unbeknownst to many, victims of human trafficking are living in fear in places that many people visit often. Without implementing this education, human trafficking will continue to plague hotel venues across the world.

References

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Methods and Framework

By using a conceptual framework to guide this scholarly project, I did develop a verbal education to educate the housekeeping staff.

- Inclusion criteria is housekeeping staff only.
- No exclusion criteria to disqualify any housekeeping staff.
- Pre and post-test to determine education attainment.
- IRB approval is not a requirement for this project.
- To evaluate project outcomes, contact with the hotel management remains.

Outcomes

Eleven of the twelve housekeepers did complete education on human trafficking in hotel venues. On both the pre and post-test, the first question asks, does human trafficking occur in Ohio? The second asks, does human trafficking occur in hotels? The final question asks, can you identify one of the red flags of human trafficking?

- As shown in Figure 1, 18% of housekeepers answer correctly on question one, 9% answer correctly on question two, and 0% answer correctly on question three prior to educating the staff.
 - As shown in Figure 2, 100% of the housekeeping staff answer correctly on all three questions after educating the staff.
 - Understanding the minimal knowledge most of the housekeeping staff initially had on human trafficking in Ohio hotels.
 - Positive outcomes in relation to the housekeeping staff now understanding what human trafficking is, the red flags to identify human trafficking, and the resources available to the staff if ever needed.
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Conclusion

The primary conclusion drawn from this project is that hotel staff are uneducated on the subject of human sex trafficking in a hotel venue. Human trafficking in hotel venues is occurring unbeknownst to hotel staff or management. It is imperative for hotel management to begin educating all staff on human trafficking to be able to identify a possible human trafficking situation. Currently, only a small number of hotels are providing their staff with human trafficking education; therefore, there is a gap in research and data determining if the education has identified any trafficking victims within the hotel.

Relevance to the profession

This education is relevant to the nursing field. To know about human trafficking and resources available to help a potential trafficking victim is imperative for all nurses to have. Nurses need to use their knowledge and skills to educate the public. Implementing human trafficking education into the nursing practice as an annual education provided by the hospital or place of employment would be extremely beneficial. The results found are generalizable to other settings and populations when providing the education specific to that setting. Every place of employment should be offering human trafficking education so everyone can understand the issue at hand and how to respond appropriately.

Figure 1. Percentage of housekeepers who answered pre-test questions correctly.

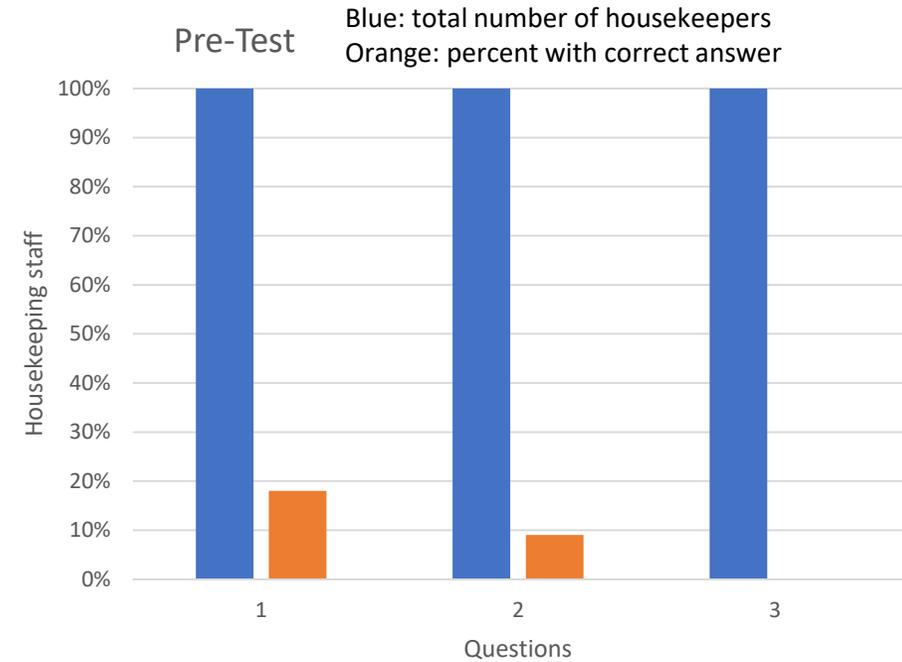


Figure 2. Percentage of housekeepers who answered post-test questions correctly.

