A Study to Assess the Knowledge regarding Prevention of Dengue Fever among General Public in Selected Rural Areas at Thanjavur district, Tamilnadu

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Abstract: Dengue has become a serious health problem worldwide. Current research also aims to provide better surveillance to limit the effect of dengue epidemics. The objectives of the study were to assess the level of knowledge regarding prevention of dengue fever among general public and to associate the level of knowledge with selected demographic variables. An Exploratory survey research design with 200 samples selected by convenient sampling technique from rural areas of Thanjavur district, Tamil Nadu were selected for study. The result shows that the knowledge level on prevention of dengue fever is 65 (32.5%) had Inadequate knowledge, 119 (59.5) had Adequate knowledge. The mean and standard deviation values of knowledge on prevention of dengue fever is 18.6 and 8.52 respectively. The association between the level of knowledge regarding prevention of dengue fever with the demographic variables of samples like age, gender, occupation, family income, religion shows non significance. Demographic variables like Education level and Source of information shows significance.

Keywords: Dengue Fever, Prevention of dengue fever, general public, Knowledge, Prevention of dengue fever, demographic variables.

1. Introduction

Dengue fever is a self limiting disease and represents the majority of cases of dengue infection. A prevalence of aedes aegypti and aedes albopictes together with the circulation of particular area tends to be associated with outbreaks of dengue hemorrhagic fever/ shock syndrome. It is a vector borne disease; the virus causes dengue is a single stranded RNA virus which leads to an epidemic in the world. The first major outbreak was 1991 in India1. Over 40 percent of population in the world is at risk to have dengue infection. Every year, it is 390 million infections occurs around the world and 500,000 cases develops into severe cases, around 25000 deaths are annually due to dengue haemorrhagic fever2. In recent decades dengue fever has grown grossly, most of the cases are self-managed or mild but actual numbers of cases are not reported. Since there is no specific treatment for dengue, it is important to prevent the spread of disease. At present, the major task is to prevent dengue virus is to combat the vectors like mosquito3. But vector control methods can be successful with community participation. Hence it becomes important to assess the community’s knowledge regarding the disease, its mode of transmission and breeding sites. Knowledge study act as educational diagnosis of population. So study of this kind will not only help in assessing the level of awareness and relation to dengue disease as well as also help Government and policy makers to formulate strategies to fill the gap in level of awareness and implementation of control programme acceptable to risk population4.

Objectives

- To assess the level of knowledge regarding prevention of dengue fever among general public.
- To associate the level of knowledge with selected demographic variables.

Assumptions:
The people have some knowledge regarding the prevention of dengue fever.

Helping the nursing personal to formulate health education regarding the importance of prevention on dengue fever in health care settings.

2. Methodology

Research Design
An Exploratory survey research design was used.

Research Settings
Rural areas of Thanjavur district, Tamil Nadu were selected as research setting.

Sample and sample size:
The sample consist of 200 general population from selected rural areas.

Sampling Technique
200 people were selected by convenient sampling technique.

Description of the Instrument
The tool used for the data collection, structured questionnaire was used to assess the knowledge regarding prevention of dengue fever. The questionnaire was translated to local language for the understanding of general public. The knowledge questionnaire contains 25 multiple choice questions with three options, each correct option carries “one” mark, wrong answer carries “zero” marks each.
3. Results

The result of the study was divided into 2 sections. 
Section A: To assess the level of knowledge regarding prevention of dengue fever. 
Section B: To Associate the level of knowledge regarding prevention of dengue fever with selected demographic variables.

Section A:

Table 1: Shows the level of knowledge on prevention of dengue fever, N=200

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prevention of dengue fever</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inadequate Knowledge</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>32.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderately Knowledge</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>59.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adequate Knowledge</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>8.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1: Bar Diagram represents the Level of knowledge on prevention of dengue fever among general public

(Table 1, Fig 1) describes that the knowledge level on prevention of dengue fever is 65 (32.5%) had Inadequate knowledge, 119 (59.5) had Moderately Adequate knowledge and 16 (8.0 %) had adequate knowledge.

Table 2: Mean and Standard deviation of knowledge and practice on prevention of dengue fever, N = 200

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prevention of Dengue fever</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Standard Deviation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>18.6</td>
<td>8.52</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The above table depicts the mean and standard deviation values of knowledge on prevention of dengue fever is 18.6 and 8.52 respectively.

Section B:

The association between the level of knowledge regarding prevention of dengue fever with the demographic variables of samples like age, gender, occupation, family income, religion shows non significance. Demographic variables like Education level and Source of information shows significance.

4. Conclusion

The study concludes that the general public have some moderate level of knowledge on prevention of dengue fever. Most of the members gain knowledge through mass media which plays a major role in providing education among the public. Since there is a small lag in knowledge where the nurses has to give importance to provide education by means the general public will understand easily.

References