

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 moderately Adequate knowledge and 16 (8.0 %) 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: Assess, knowledge, prevention of dengue fever, general public

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 in 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 occur around the world and 500,000 cases develop into severe cases, around 25,000 deaths are annually due to dengue hemorrhagic 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 by combatting the vectors like mosquitoes³. 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 acts as an educational diagnosis of the population. So a 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 programmes acceptable to the risk population.⁴

Objectives

- To assess the level of knowledge regarding prevention of dengue fever among the 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 personnel to formulate health education regarding the importance of prevention of 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 the research setting.

Sample and sample size:

The sample consists 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 the 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

Prevention of dengue fever	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Inadequate Knowledge	65	32.5
Moderately Knowledge	119	59.5
Adequate Knowledge	16	8.0

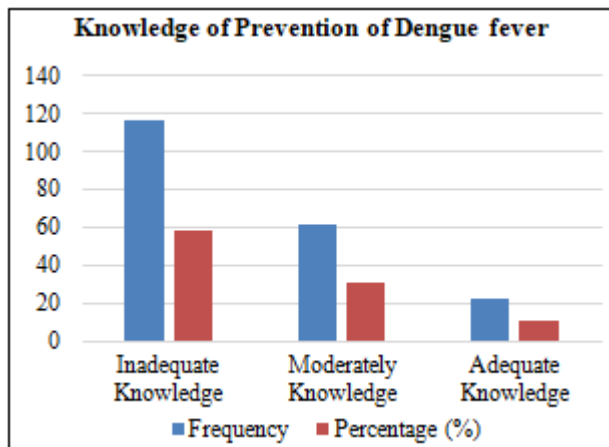


Figure 1: Bar Diagram represents the Level of knowledge on prevention of dengue fever among general public

(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

	Mean	Standard Deviation
Prevention of Dengue fever	18.6	8.52

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

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