



A cross-sectional Study on Knowledge, Attitude and Practice Regarding Dengue & Preventive Measures practiced in urban slums of central India

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Abstract

Background: Dengue is common & rapidly spreading mosquito-borne viral disease in the world. As there is no vaccine to protect against dengue, great emphasis is placed on control and preventive measures. Our aim is to create the awareness among people about dengue disease.

Objective: To determine knowledge, attitude and practice (KAP) regarding dengue fever in residents of urban slums.

Method: A cross sectional study was conducted among 100 willing families residing in randomly selected urban slums of a metro city of central India. This study was conducted between months of May-June 2018 in urban slum of the city.

Result: A total of 319 respondents were successfully inter-viewed out of which 30.72% (maximum) respondents belonged to the age group of 26-35 years. With regards to the knowledge about dengue 52.98 % respondent knew that the vector for dengue is a mosquito and 43.57% respondents knew about breeding places of mosquitoes. Maximum (57.37%) respondents were relying upon mosquito mats/coils/liquid vaporizer and 34.80 % were used mosquito spray.

Conclusion: Good dengue prevention demands the involvement of the community. Better information is needed to guide dengue prevention programs in their efforts to engage with the community.

Keywords: Dengue fever, KAP study, Dengue prevention, Mosquito control, Central India.

Introduction

Dengue is common & rapidly spreading mosquito-borne viral disease in the world. There are four antigenically distinct dengue virus serotypes (DEN-1, DEN-2, DEN-3 and DEN-4). The dengue virus is transmitted by bites of *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* mosquito.^(1,5-7)

There are two main forms of dengue disease, DF and the more severe dengue haemorrhagic fever (DHF). Infection with dengue virus can produce a broad range of clinical manifestations including asymptomatic infection, mild flu-like symptoms & more severe haemorrhagic fever. After Second World War, dengue has become a global problem

and is endemic in more than 110 countries. 2.5 billion people, living in tropics and sub-tropics regions are estimated to be at risk of acquiring dengue infections. Estimated that more than 50-100 million infections with about 500,000 cases of severe dengue are reported annually. The case fatality rate of DHF and DSS is around 5 to 7%.^(3,4) In India, major epidemics have been reported in the years 1967, 1970, 1982, 1996 and 2003.⁽⁸⁻¹⁰⁾ DF treatment entails mainly supportive therapy. In previous studies, significant independent association of male gender with DHF has been observed. A higher mortality rate was however seen in females. A shift in the age distribution of affected individuals has also been noted; children being affected less in later studies. As there is no vaccine to protect against dengue, great emphasis is placed on control and preventive measures. It is unfortunate that no major steps have been taken to promote awareness and precautionary attitude in the community with regards to dengue fever despite the ostensible burden of disease. Our aim is to create the awareness among people about dengue disease.

Objective

The study was planned with an objective to determine knowledge, attitude and practice (KAP) regarding dengue fever in residents of urban slums.

Methodology

A cross sectional study was conducted among residents of urban slums of a metro city of central India. This study was conducted between months of May-June 2018 in a randomly selected urban slum of the city. A total of 100 willing families were assessed for their knowledge, attitude and practice (KAP) regarding dengue fever. Data was collected using a pre-design interviewer administered questionnaire. The questionnaire covered the following areas (1). demographic information - age, gender, occupation, education. (2) Knowledge about Dengue-mode of spread, symptoms, breeding place. (3) Attitudes towards

Dengue. (4) Preventive practices against Dengue. (5) Source of information. Informed consent was taken from all the respondents and confidentiality was ensured throughout the study. Data analysis from the questionnaire were coded and entered into a computerized data base.

Results

A total of 319 respondents were successfully inter-viewed and data so obtained was used for the primary analysis. 30.72% (maximum) respondents belonged to the age group of 26-35 years, and 6.27 % (minimum) respondents were >55 yrs. 52.99% respondents were male and 42.01% were female and 31.35 % respondents were high school certificate . The socio-demographic details of the respondents are shown in Table1. With regards to the knowledge about dengue 52.98 % respondent knew that the vector for dengue is a mosquito. Whereas 45.77 % respondents knew that human to human spread occurs in dengue and mainly transmitted by mosquito bites. Table 2 shows the Data revealing the knowledge of cause of dengue, transmission, its symptoms and preventive measure. Regarding knowledge about breeding, 43.57% respondents knew about breeding places of mosquitoes. About the timing of the mosquito biting habits, 56.58 % respondents indicated that it is day time, while about 38.53 % respondents thought it is at night. The attitudes of the respondents were assessed using a set of questions regarding dengue. 78.99 % respondents strongly agreed and agreed that dengue is a serious illness. Only 47.02 % respondents strongly agreed and agreed that they are at risk of getting dengue. 73.04 % respondents strongly agreed and agreed that DF can be prevented. 76.49 % respondents strongly agreed and agreed about need for treatment and hospitalization for DF. 86.58 % respondents had a consensus that the government has the prime responsibility to control mosquito breeding. Regarding personal protection against mosquito bite, (80.56%) were relying upon mosquito nets, 57.37 % respondents were relying upon mosquito mats/coils/liquid vaporizer and

34.80 % were used mosquito spray (Table 3). majority of the respondents were relying upon mosquito nets followed by mats/coils/vaporizers and mosquito sprays. Regarding the source of information (Table 4) on DF, 50.16 % came to know about DF through television followed by newspaper (40.13%) followed by Friends/relatives (6.27 %).

Table 1: Socio-demographic characteristics of study population

Gender		
Males	185	57.99%
Females	134	42.01%
Total	319	100.00%
Occupation		
Government employee	18	5.64%
Non-government employee	35	10.97 %
Self employee	17	5.33%
Student	74	23.20 %
House wife	89	27.90 %
Retired	85	26.65 %
Unemployed	1	0.31 %
Total	319	100.00 %
Level of education		
Illiterate	53	23.51%
No formal education	0	0
Till class 5	40	12.54%
Till class 10	100	31.35%
Till class 12	51	15.99%
Graduate and above	75	23.5%

Table-2 Knowledge about Dengue Fever

		Frequency	%
A.What is Dengue	YES	306	95.92%
	NO	13	4.08%
B. spread of Dengue	YES	146	45.77%
	NO	173	54.23%
C. Biting time	YES	56	17.55 %
	NO	263	82.45 %
D. Breeding place	YES	139	43.57 %
	NO	180	56.43 %
E.Symptoms	YES	103	32.29 %
	NO	216	67.71%
F. Treatment	YES	133	41.69%
	NO	186	58.31%
G. Preventive measure	YES	194	60.82%
	NO	125	39.18%

Table-3 Practices to Prevent Dengue Spread

		Frequency	%
A.Use of mosquito net /coil	YES	257	80.56 %
	NO	62	19.44 %
B.Cleaning of cooler / container	YES	247	77.43 %
	NO	72	22.57 %
C.Cover tank /water container	YES	225	70.53 %
	NO	94	29.47 %
D.Use of liquid vapouriser / cream /spray	YES	183	57.37 %
	NO	136	42.63 %
E.Spraying of insecticide in the community	YES	111	34.80 %
	NO	208	65.20 %

Table-4 Source of information

Name of source	frequency	%
Television	160	50.16%
Newspaper	128	40.13%
Posters	11	3.45%
Others	20	6.27%
Total	319	100.00 %

Conclusion

Good dengue prevention demands the involvement of the community. Better information is needed to guide dengue prevention programs in their efforts to engage with the community. In urban slums there is a lack of depth of knowledge regarding dengue in the community and observation methods revealed that more efforts to be done by community members themselves to prevent the spread of Aedes mosquitoes. Fortunately, the majority of the community believes they need more information about dengue. These results will guide future research in this area and help to instruct dengue prevention programs.

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