



Knowledge and attitude, among high school and higher secondary students in a rural area of north Kerala, on HIV and its spread

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Abstract

Introduction and Rationale

School education has been described as a 'social vaccine', as they can act as the centre point for disseminating information and education on HIV/AIDS.

Objective:

To study the knowledge and attitude among high school and higher secondary students in a rural area of north Kerala on HIV and its spread.

Materials and Methods

A cross-sectional study conducted among 296 high school and higher secondary students of a private English medium school in Kannur which was selected from the school list using convenience sampling. The study was done in January 2013. A structured questionnaire concerning knowledge about HIV/AIDS, attitude towards people with HIV/AIDS and sources of information were administered (95% CI) 5.52 (2.13 - 14.29) were significantly associated

Results

The age of participants ranged from 13-18 years of whom 69% were males. All the students have heard of HIV/AIDS. Only 68% had correct knowledge about its mode of spread. Among students, 14% were not aware of mother to baby transmission and 25% believed AIDS as a familial disease. The blood should be screened, for HIV, before blood transfusions were known by 94%. The 26% were unaware about the free HIV screening test available in Government hospitals. The major sources of information about HIV/AIDS were mass media and teachers.

Conclusion

The students have good knowledge and positive attitude towards HIV positives. There should be a greater involvement of teachers and health care workers, as they play a pivotal role in imparting the knowledge and in developing the positive attitude towards HIV/AIDS. Peer education is another significant source of information, to be promoted.

Keywords: Knowledge, attitude, HIV/AIDS, school

Determination of family support of clients with tuberculosis

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Abstract

Introduction and Rationale

Tuberculosis (TB) disease is the leading cause of mortality and morbidity in most developing countries. In India, per year approximately 2.2 million people develop tuberculosis and about five lakhs people die due to tuberculosis. TB affects the physical, psychological and social health of the affected patients and their families. Having strong support system, especially among family members enhances compliance to treatment and hence effectiveness of DOTS therapy.

Objective:

1. To determine the family support of clients with tuberculosis as measured by the family support rating scale.
2. To determine the association of family support of the client with selected baseline variables.

Materials and Methods

A descriptive study was conducted at selected DOTS centers at Mangalore. A convenient sample of 60 tuberculosis clients between 20-60 years were interviewed on aspects of family support like physical support, psychological support, nutritional support, financial support and supportive guidance using the family support rating scale. The data was analyzed using SPSS 16.0 statistical software.

Results

Sixty percent of the clients had excellent family support. Only 6.67% had average family support and none had poor family support. The mean family support score was 24.27 ± 4.58 . Highest mean percentage (77.67%) was obtained in the area of psychological support. Supportive guidance had a high mean percentage score of 74.63%. Most (65%) of the clients reported that their spouses were the most supportive member. There was significant association of family support with religion ($\chi^2 = 9.2, p < 0.05$), family income ($\chi^2 = 14.8, p < 0.05$) and type of family ($\chi^2 = 23.36, p < 0.05$).

Conclusion

Family support is an important psychosocial variable to be considered in dealing with tuberculosis clients. Good family support enhances compliance to treatment regimen.

Keywords: Family support, Tuberculosis, DOTS center.

Effectiveness of a Counseling Skill training programme for Directly Observed Short course (DOTS) providers at selected DOTS centers at Mangalore

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Abstract

Introduction and Rationale

Tuberculosis is a serious public health problem in India. Tuberculosis has an impact on the overall health of the client. Directly Observed Treatment Short-course (DOTS) providers under Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP) need to communicate to the clients about the importance of complete and continuous treatment. Thus DOTS providers' training with the basic counseling skills is important.

Objective:

1. To find the effectiveness of the skill training programme in terms of gain in post tests counseling skill scores in the experimental group.
2. To determine the association of pretest test counseling skill score with selected baseline variables.

Materials and Methods

A quasi experimental repeated measures design was adopted. Out of 270 DOTS providers under RNTCP at Mangalore, 100 were selected randomly; 50 each for the control and experimental group respectively. The pretest counseling skills were assessed by the counseling checklist on day 1, followed by the skill training programme to the DOTS providers of the experimental group. The post test was conducted after the 30th, 90th, and 180th day. The data was analyzed using SPSS 16.0 statistical software.

Results

The mean post test counseling skill scores of DOTS providers on the 30th, 90th and 180th day was significantly higher in the experimental group than the control group. The Obtained F value [F (3, 97) =484.517, p<0.05] showed that the skill training programme was effective to enhance the counseling skills of DOTS providers. There was no significant association of mean pretest counseling skill scores with mean baseline variables (age, sex, religion, education etc) of the clients.

Conclusion

Counseling skill training programme was effective in enhancing basic counseling skills of DOTS providers.

Keywords: Tuberculosis, DOTS providers, Skill training Programme, Counseling.

A study to assess the effectiveness of planned teaching programme on pulmonary tuberculosis among adults at Basavanagar, in Mangalore

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Abstract

Introduction and Rationale

A study to assess the effectiveness of planned teaching programme on pulmonary tuberculosis among adults at Basavanagar, in Mangalore

Objective:

To determine the knowledge of adults regarding pulmonary tuberculosis as measured by structured interview schedule.

To determine the effectiveness of planned teaching programme in terms of gain in knowledge score

To find the association of pre test knowledge score with selected demographic variables

Materials and Methods

A quasi experimental approach with one group pretest post test design was adopted for the study. A sample of 34 adults was selected using purposive sampling technique. Pre test

knowledge was assessed using structured interview schedule and planned teaching programme was given to the adults. The post test was conducted on the 7th day.

Results

Majority of the sample (44%) had good knowledge in post test whereas in pre test only few (8%) had obtained good knowledge score. The mean post test knowledge score (19.79) was apparently higher than the mean pre test knowledge score (12.11) as the calculated 't' value ($t_{33} = 2.05$, $p < 0.05$) was greater than the table value at 0.05 level of significance, which showed that the teaching was effective. There was no association between selected demographic variables and pre test scores.

Conclusion

The results of the study showed that a well planned teaching programme helps to improve the knowledge regarding various aspects of the disease and thus aid in effective prevention of tuberculosis.

Keywords: Knowledge Planned Teaching Programme, Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

A Study To Assess The Effectiveness Of Structured Teaching Programme On Prevention Of Hepatitis B Among First Year Medical Laboratory Technician Students In A Selected College At Mangalore

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Abstract

Introduction and Rationale

Hepatitis B is an infection of the liver caused by the Hepatitis B virus. Knowledge regarding the Hepatitis B virus and safety precautions is needed to minimize the health care settings acquired infections among health personnel.

Objective:

Assess the level of knowledge of first year medical laboratory technician students regarding prevention of Hepatitis B.

Evaluate the effectiveness of structured teaching programme on prevention of Hepatitis B, as measured by gain in post-test score.

Find the association of pre-test knowledge score with selected demographic variables.

Materials and Methods

Pre-experimental one –group, pre-test, post –test design was used. 40 samples were selected by simple random sampling. Data was collected by a structured knowledge questionnaire. Paired 't' test used to find the effectiveness of Structured Teaching Programme and chi-square was used to find the association.

Results

Assessments of the knowledge level

Majority of the samples (70%) had moderate knowledge.

Mean post-test knowledge score (29.45%) were significantly higher than mean pre-test knowledge score (17.93%). Paired 't' test revealed a significant improvement in knowledge level after giving structured teaching programme at 0.05 levels..

There were no association found between the pre-test knowledge scores and selected demographic variables.

There were no association found between the post-test knowledge scores and selected demographic variables.

Conclusion

The majority of the 1st year MLT students having inadequate knowledge on prevention of Hepatitis B. The present study encourage the 1st year MLT students to practice universal precaution methods while performing laboratory investigation of patients.

Keywords:

Effectiveness, structured teaching programme, 1st year MLT students, Hepatitis B.

A Study On Acid Base Disturbances In Leptospirosis Patients

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Abstract

Introduction and Rationale

The traditional evaluation of acid-base status relies on the Henderson-Hasselbalch equation. In 1983, an alternative approach was proposed by P. Stewart. According to the Stewart equation, $Na^+ + K^+ - Cl^- - Alb - PO_4^{3-} - PCO_2$

Objective:

To study the acid-base disorders in patients admitted in ICU with leptospirosis. To estimate the parameters of ABG analysis (pH, PO₂, Pco₂, HCO₃⁻, BE, SaO₂, S.Na⁺, S.K⁺, S.Cl⁻, S.PO₄³⁻ & anion gap) and S.Albumin.

To find out the type of acid base disturbances .

Comparison of conventional and Stewart method.

Materials and Methods

ABG and S.Albumin results were collected from the clinical records. By using Henderson Hasselbalch equation, we could not find out complex acid base disorders. So we combined the Stewart approach with this..

Results

Majority of the patients with leptospirosis had a mixed disorder of metabolic acidosis + metabolic alkalosis + respiratory alkalosis.

Cause of metabolic disorders can be explained using Stewart's method.

Stewart's method also revealed occult acid base disorder

Conclusion

Stewart's method give importance to Na⁺, K⁺, Cl⁻, Alb & PO₄³⁻ and explain the role of these in the genesis of metabolic abnormalities. So cause of the metabolic abnormalities can be explained using Stewart's method and that is very useful for the planning of management.

Keywords:

Henderson-Hasselbalch equation, leptospirosis

Clinical Profile Of Patients With Leptospirosis In A Tertiary Care Centre In North Kerala

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Abstract

Introduction and Rationale

Leptospirosis is an emerging zoonosis of global importance and is a threat to the health care delivery system in the monsoon and post monsoon periods. Previous studies shows that the complications and mortality is on the rise; yet the studies on prognostication of the disease were few. This imparts the need for further studies to predict the prognosis and tailor treatment.

Objective:

To study the epidemiological and clinical profile of patients presenting with Leptospirosis to the tertiary care centre

To identify the predictive factors for prognosis of patients with Leptospirosis

Materials and Methods

A hospital based observational study including all the patients admitted with a diagnosis of Leptospirosis in Academy of Medical Sciences, Pariyaram. Diagnosis were made by the help of modified Faine's criteria. 93 patients

were included in the study

Results

Males to female ratio was 2:1. Mean age of affection was among the productive age group with no predictability for outcome. Addictions to alcohol or smoking was identified as a risk for poor outcome. Hemogram showed leucocytosis with neutrophilia, monocytosis and lymphocytopenia in most. Severe Thrombocytopenia was found to have a prediction for poor prognosis. Acute Kidney Injury was the most encountered complication followed by myocarditis and ARDS. Patients with early antibiotic therapy from community centers had a better outcome. The total case fatality rate was 22%.

Conclusion

The present study from North Kerala showed that history of addictions to alcohol or smoking carries a significant risk in development of complications and in mortality. Patients with addictions should be monitored more closely and aggressively treated for preventing complications. Identification of leucocytosis with neutrophilia, lymphocytopenia and Monocytosis may help us to suspect the illness early during the monsoon or post monsoon period. Thrombocytopenia if severe (< 50,000 cells/cmm) should be managed in hospital under close supervision as this carries a poor predictive value for outcome.

Keywords: Leptospirosis, fever, addictions, alcoholism.

The burden of common childhood illnesses in peri-urban households: The multiple effects of multiple exposures to environmental conditions

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Abstract

Introduction and Rationale

Multiple exposures to environmental contaminants are hazardous for under-five children attributable to acute diarrhea and acute respiratory tract infections (ARI) according to the 'Multiple Exposures-Multiple Effects' Framework from WHO. This causal link has a considerable public health importance.

Objective:

To find out the effect of environmental threats on the occurrence of acute diarrhea and ARI among under five children in the peri-urban households of Yangon Region.

Materials and Methods

A cross-sectional analytical study was conducted in North Dagon Township during September, 2012. Mothers/caretakers of 620 under-five children were

interviewed using structured questionnaire. Data were analyzed by SPSS version 17.0.

Results

47% (294/620) of respondents were over 35 years of age. Around 48% (297/620) had high school level and above education. They reported 3.9% (24/620) of acute diarrhea and 48.4% (300/620) of ARI in index children within past two weeks prior to the survey. The combined attack rate of acute diarrhea and ARI was 3.1% (19/620). The dual burden of common childhood illnesses was significantly associated with those children looked after by caretakers (14/407, 3.4%, $p=0.003$), mothers younger than 24 years of age (8/95, 8.4%, $p=0.008$), low education of mothers (10/147, 6.8%, $p=0.006$), only one room in the house (11/199, 5.5%, $p=0.003$), inadequate cross-ventilation (18/386, 4.7%, $p=0.0005$), smoke-producing cooking fuel (12/242, 5%, $p=0.036$), smoke around the house (4/73, 5.5%, $p=0.031$), infrequent use of purified drinking water (16/175, 9.1%, $p=0.0005$), no hand-washing facilities (6/108, 5.6%, $p=0.0005$), insanitary latrine (8/100, 8%, $p=0.019$), and unsafe garbage disposal (13/141, 9.2%, $p=0.0005$).

Conclusion

Thus, integrated community-based strategies to improve indoor and outdoor environmental conditions, water, sanitation, and hygiene are likely to reduce the dual burden of acute diarrhea and ARI in under-five children. Knowledge translation and innovative risk communication approaches by community engagement may be the solution for vulnerable sites.

Keywords: acute diarrhea, acute respiratory infection, under-five children, environmental contaminants

An exploratory study on factors influencing mass drug administration compliance (MDA) for elimination of lymphatic filariasis among people in selected areas under urban and rural PHC at Mangalore.

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Abstract

Introduction and Rationale

Lymphatic filariasis is an important public health problem in India. The study was conducted to enhance participation and acceptance of the community members in MDA programme.

Objective:

To determine the coverage rate, compliance rate and the factors influencing MDA compliance.

To compare the compliance rate of mass drug administration between the urban and rural area.

To find the association of mean MDA compliance with selected demographic variables

Materials and Methods

A descriptive survey approach was used for the study. The coverage and compliance rate was determined by using a

checklist and factors influencing MDA compliance was determined by using structured interview schedule to 150 samples from the people who had ingested the tablets using purposive sampling technique.

Results

The coverage rate of MDA was 84.98% in the urban and 88.84% in the rural area. The compliance rate was 73.25% in the urban area and 71.52% in the rural area. The mean percentage (80%) was highest in the area of 'provider's characteristics' in the urban area and 'attitude' and 'motivational factors' (60%) in the rural area. In the urban area majority (53%) of the people had average level of compliance and in the rural area majority (63%) of people had good level of compliance towards MDA programme. There was significant association of mean MDA compliance with occupation ($\chi^2=5.61, p<0.05$) in the urban area.

Conclusion

There is a need to strengthen the programme in terms of creating awareness in the community with efficient supervision, intersectoral coordination, teaching and training of health workers.

Keywords: Filariasis, Mass drug administration, Compliance, Coverage

Effectiveness of planned teaching programme on knowledge of children (10-13 years) regarding 5fs of disease transmission (food, finger, fluid, faeces, flies) in a selected orphanage at Mangalore

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Abstract

Introduction and Rationale

Children are more prone to get diseases by faeces, finger, fluid, food and flies. These can cause diseases like diarrhoea, cholera, common cold and typhoid because of poor hygienic, poor sanitation, and poor knowledge.

Objective:

To assess the knowledge of children on 5F's of disease transmission as measured by structured knowledge questionnaire.

To find the effectiveness of PTP as measured by gain in the knowledge score.

To find the association of the mean post-test knowledge score with selected demographic variables.

Materials and Methods

An evaluative approach with one group pre-test post-test

design was used for the study. Purposive sampling technique was used to draw 40 orphan children. Data was collected by administering a structured knowledge questionnaire. After collecting data, planned teaching programme was administered to the subjects and on 7th day post-test was conducted using the same questionnaire.

Results

The analysis of the pre test knowledge revealed that 50% of the orphanage children had poor knowledge, and none of them had very good knowledge. The post-test analysis showed there is a significantly increase in the knowledge score. In the post-test, majority (72.5%) had very good knowledge and none of them had inadequate knowledge on 5Fs of disease transmission. No significant association was found between the demographic variables and knowledge score ($\chi^2_{(1)}=3.84, p<0.05$).

Conclusion

The findings of the study proved that planned teaching programme is an effective measure to improve the knowledge of the orphanage children. Education to the orphanage children will help them to prevent or to reduce the symptoms of infectious diseases.

Keywords: Effectiveness; orphanage children; planned teaching programme; 5Fs of disease transmission.

Masculinity and its Relationship with Reproductive Health of Women: A Case Study of Varanasi District in Uttar Pradesh

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Abstract

Introduction and Rationale

Reproductive health is an important component of general health and it is prerequisite for social, economic and human development. In many countries traditional male gender roles deprive males from discussing sexual matters with partners, condone risky sexual behaviour, and ultimately contribute to poor reproductive health among both men and women.

Objective:

The objectives are to explore constructs of masculinity, to examine the awareness and prevalence of reproductive tract infection/sexual transmitted infection (RTI/STI) among married women, and to examine the linkages between masculinity and reproductive health of women.

Materials and Methods

The study was conducted among 402 currently married couples in the rural areas of Varanasi district of Uttar Pradesh in 2012. Quantitative and qualitative methods were used for data collection. A modified Gender Equitable Men

Scale (GEMS) was used to measure masculinity. Bi-variate and multivariate techniques were used for analysis.

Results

The study finds six major constructs such as being responsible towards his family, being breadwinner, being physically and mentally fit, having sexual prowess and ability to produce child, to be a man of word and being seen as a man of honour, among married men to develop masculine attitudes. Thirteen percent of men are in favour of conservative gender role attitudes. Only 18 percent are aware of RTI/STI, and one fifth of women suffered from any symptom of RTI/STI including vaginal discharge in the last 12 months. Masculinity did not show significant effect with the prevalence of RTI/STI. Instead, women's agencies (access to economic resources and domestic violence), type of family, religion and occupation are determinants for the prevalence of RTI/STI among women in rural settings. Women with high access to economic resources and living in extended family are less likely to report any symptom of RTI/STI. However, women suffering from any form of domestic violence during last 12 months, belonging to Muslim religion, with high mass media exposure and who are working are more likely to report any symptom of RTI/STI.

Conclusion

Awareness of RTI/STI among women is poor. Social factors are playing significant role for the high prevalence of RTI/STI. Programmes raising awareness of RTI/STI among couples in rural settings are urgently needed. Intervention to address violence should be designed to operate at individual, couple and family level. Programmes promoting women autonomy also required.

Keywords: Masculinity, GEM scale, Reproductive tract infection/sexual tract infection (RTI/STI)

Impact of HCV infection on pregnant females: A case control study

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Abstract

Introduction and Rationale

Hepatitis C is a major Public health problem and affects upto 3% of the world population. The sero prevalence of anti-HCV antibody in pregnancy in Indian population is 1.03%. With rising incidence of HCV in our country significant no of pregnant women are affected with HCV and there is little research regarding the impact of HCV on Pregnancy outcome. Previous Studies have focused on perinatal transmission of HCV infection but effect on HCV infection on pregnancy complications and neonatal health have not been studied.

Objective:

To assess the prevalence, Risk factors and Pregnancy outcome in HCV positive pregnant women.

Materials and Methods

A case control study was conducted in Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology of a tertiary level health care

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facility from 1st January 2010 to 31st December 2012. All the HCV positive Pregnant females formed the case group and equal number of pregnant females negative for HCV formed the control group. 40 in each group formed the study population. All the relevant information was collected on a self-structured questionnaire. Data was compiled using SPSS 20.0 version and p value of <0.05 was considered to be significant.

Results

Out of all the pregnant females, 1412 females met the inclusion and exclusion criteria were included in the study. All were subjected to anti-HCV testing using ELISA, out of which 40 were positive (these formed the case group). The prevalence was calculated to be 2.8%. 40 controls were randomly selected after matching. Among the risk factors studied, previous surgery and blood transfusion significantly associated with HCV positivity. Outcome of pregnancy was similar in both the groups. The complications arising during pregnancy (Pregnancy induced Hypertension, Antepartum haemorrhage etc.) were significantly higher among the case group.

Conclusion

Prevalence of HCV is on the rise. Surgical procedures and blood transfusion are the major modes of transmission identified by the present study. Mass screening and awareness campaigns can help us in reducing the prevalence of HCV.

Keywords: Prevalence, Pregnant females, Neonates, Pregnancy outcome, Hepatitis C virus (HCV).

Reproductive Health Deeds and Needs: A Multi Systematic Perspective of Health Challenges among Adolescent women in Jharkhand

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Abstract

Introduction and Rationale

Reproductive morbidity is an important public health issue nowadays. One of the components of the RCH package is the management of RTIs. The prevention and control of RTIS/STIs had not been earlier a priority to government. But now due to the commonality of intervention strategies, the government focuses more and more at RTIs and STIs.

Objective:

The present paper tries to examine the influences of socio-economic, demographic and contextual factors on the prevalence and treatment-seeking behaviour for RTI/STI and preferred place for treatment, either from public or private health services in Jharkhand.

Materials and Methods

To carry out the present study recent round of District Level Household and Facility Survey- 3 data have been used. The study employed Bi-variate, multivariate logistic regression and multinomial analysis to meet the above stated study

objectives.

Results

The prevalence of RTIs in Jharkhand is quite high than the national average but less than one-third of adolescent women sought treatment for any RTI/STI problem. Interesting fact is that 67 percent of women prefer private health facility for the treatment of RTI/STI, whereas, less than one-fifth of women prefer government health facility for the same. The major concentration of tribal population is in the six districts of Ranchi, Lohardaga, Gumla, West Singhbhum, Dumka and Pakur where more than 40 percent of tribal population of Jharkhand resides have higher prevalence of RTI/STI as compared to other district.

Conclusion

Preventive strategies with regard to reproductive morbidity and promotion of health care seeking behaviour among the women will help in reducing the magnitude of the problem. The basic components of RTIs/STIs services must exist in the public health care system and providers need to be more active.

Keywords: Reproductive morbidity, RTI, STI, Adolescent, logistic regression
