

Title: PERCEPTIONS OF OWNERS OF EATERIES ON COMMUNITY DOGS- A STUDY CONDUCTED IN THE CITY OF CUTTACK, ODISHA

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Keywords Perception, eateries owners, Community dogs

Abstract It is estimated that in India 1.7 crore animal bite exposure occurs annually. In India a person is bitten by animal every 2 seconds and someone dies from rabies every 30 minutes. India has a dog population of 28 million out of which the stray dog population is about 80%. Ninety six percent of human rabies in developing country is due to dog bite.

Original Article

Perceptions of owners of eateries on Community Dogs- A study Conducted in the City of Cuttack, Odisha.

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ABSTRACT
Introduction:

It is estimated that in India 1.7 crore animal-bite exposure occurs annually. In India a person is bitten by animal every 2 seconds and someone dies from rabies every 30 minutes. India has a dog population of 28 million out of which the stray dog population is around 80%. Ninety six percent of human rabies in developing country is due to dog bite. In countries like India a lot of open eateries are there, around which dog-gathering is a common problem. The lack of community awareness about rabies prevention by stray dog sterilisation and vaccination is a major issue that thwarts efforts to prevent human death due to rabies. This study highlights some of the perceptions of owners of eateries on Community Dogs.

Objectives:

1. To know the perceptions of owners of eateries on community dogs.
2. To assess their attitude on vaccination against Rabies in dogs.

Methodology:

- Type of study:- cross sectional study
- Duration of study:- 1st Feb.2013 to 30th April 2013(3 months)
- Place of study:- within 1 km radius of S.C.B. Medical College & Hospital, Cuttack.
- Study subjects:- owners of the eateries
- Sample size:- 72 different eateries were selected randomly
- Study Instruments:- predesigned pretested schedule.

Observations:

Out of the total 72 study subjects, 65(90.3%) were male and 7(9.7%) were female & 60(83.3%) were literate and 12(16.7%) were illiterate. 62 (86.1%) of the subjects had knowledge about rabies & 29(40.3%) had the idea that rabies can be prevented by vaccinating the animals but 43(59.7%) did not know that rabies can be prevented by vaccinating dogs. Only 9(12.5%) had knowledge regarding availability of ARV for dogs in Govt. veterinary hospitals. 68(94.4%) of the study subjects had the knowledge on the availability of ARV for PEP at Govt. Hospitals. Although 29(40.3%) knew that rabies can be prevented by vaccinating animals, but only 25(34.7%) of the owners are willing to call the veterinarians for vaccinating the dogs around their eateries. Majority(65.3%) are not willing to do so because out of 47 eateries owners 17(36.2%) feel that vaccinating those dogs are not their responsibility, 9(19.1%) told that it is the responsibility of the municipality, 16(34.1%) think that they are stray dogs & 5(10.6%) were confident that those dogs were not attacking people

Conclusion:

Community awareness regarding prevention of rabies is very much essential. NGO participation and community involvement should be sought for implementation of ABC (Animal Birth Control) Program.

Key Words : Perception, eateries owners, Community Dogs.

INTRODUCTION

It is estimated that in India 1.7 crore animal bite exposure leads to 20,000 deaths. 95% of the 50,000 global death are because of dog bites¹. Rabies is 100% fatal disease which can be prevented by timely & appropriate anti rabies prophylaxis. In India a person is bitten by animal every 2 seconds and someone dies from rabies every 30 minutes². India has a dog population of 28 million out of which the stray dog population is around 80%³. Ninety six percent of human rabies in developing countries are due to dog bite³. In countries like India a lot of open eateries are there around which dog-gathering is a common problem. The lack of community awareness and involvement about rabies prevention is a major issue

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that thwarts efforts to prevent human death due to rabies. This study will throw some light on the perception of owners of eateries on Community Dogs.

OBJECTIVES

1. To know the perceptions of owners of eateries on community dogs.
2. To assess their knowledge regarding rabies prevention.

METHODOLOGY

A cross-sectional study was conducted by the Department of Community Medicine, S.C.B Medical College & Hospital, Cuttack, Odisha during the period of 1st April 2013 to 30th April 2013. The eateries located within 1km radius of S.C.B Medical College were taken into consideration. Out of the

eateries owners who were willing to participate in the study 72 different eateries owners were selected randomly & interview was conducted after taking informed consent. The data was collected in a pre-designed pre-tested schedule and analysed in the department of Community Medicine.

OBSERVATIONS

Out of the total 72 study subjects, 65(90.3%) were male and 7(9.7%) were female. Among them 60(83.3%) were literate and 12(16.7%) were illiterate. The average no. of dogs gathering around the eateries were 10 to 15 in a day. On an average the owners had seen one or two dog bite cases since they are continuing as owner. Among the 72 eateries, 16(22.2%) were catering Tiffin, 11(15.3%) were meal, 25(34.7%) were both Tiffin and meal and 20(27.8%) were catering bread and tea. According to the types of food prepared in the eatery, 42(58.3%) were of vegetarian type and 30(41.7%) were of mixed (both veg & non-veg). In most of the eateries the dogs were gathered at night (43%) followed by noon (20.8%), morning (16.7%), evening (6.9%) and in around in 12.5% the dogs were generally present throughout the day.

Out of the total 72 owners of the eateries interviewed, 62 (86.1%) of the subjects had knowledge about rabies & 29(40.3%) had the idea that rabies can be prevented by vaccinating the animals but 43(59.7%) did not know that rabies can be prevented by vaccinating dogs. Only 9(12.5%) had knowledge regarding availability of ARV for dogs in Govt. veterinary hospitals. 68(94.4%) of the study subjects had the knowledge on the availability of ARV for PEP at Govt. Hospitals. Although 29(40.3%) knew that rabies can be prevented by vaccinating animals but only 25(34.7%) of the owners are willing to call the veterinarians for vaccinating the dogs around their eateries. 47(65.3%) of the eatery owners were not willing to vaccinate the dogs and the reasons for the same are as follows.

Out of 47 eateries owners 17(36.2%) feel that vaccinating those dogs are not their responsibility, 9(19.1%) told that it is the responsibility of the municipality, 16(34.1%) think that they are stray dogs & 5(10.6%) were confident that those dogs were not attacking people

CONCLUSION

Out of the total 72 study subjects, 65(90.3%) were male and 7(9.7%) were female. The average number of dogs gathered around the eateries was 10 to 15 in a day. On an average the owners had seen one or two dog bite cases since they are continuing as owner. Out

Table 1
Reasons for not willing to call the veterinarian for vaccinating the dogs around the eatery.

Sl. No.	Reason	Number	Percentage (%)
1.	Vaccinating Community Dog is not their Responsibility	17	36.20%
2.	Responsibility of the Municipality	9	19.10%
3.	They are Stray Dogs	16	34.10%
4.	The Dogs are not attacking People	5	10.60%
5.	Total	47	100%

of the total 72 owners of the eateries interviewed 62 (86.1%) of the subjects had knowledge about rabies & 29(40.3%) had the idea that rabies can be prevented by vaccinating the animals. The stray dog thrive on the food thrown by the eateries, still majority (65.3%) are not willing to do so because out of 47 eateries owners, 17(36.2%) feel that vaccinating those dogs are not their responsibility, 9(19.1%) told that it is the responsibility of the municipality, 16(34.1%) think that they are stray dogs & 5(10.6%) were confident that those dogs were not attacking people. Only 9(12.5%) had knowledge regarding availability of ARV for dogs in Govt. veterinary hospitals.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Rabies prevention not only depends on appropriate PEP but also on control of the reservoir of infection. Stray dog vaccination and control of their breeding are important components of ABC program. However community participation is essential for the success of any program. The present study highlights the fact that community awareness regarding vaccination of animals against Rabies is very low. Similarly indifferent attitude of the eatery owners towards vaccination and stray dog population control is another hindering factor. The stray dog population mainly thrives on the left over food from the road side eateries. In this context the owners of these eateries should have community responsibility in assisting the personnel involved in ABC Program for better coverage. Steps should therefore be taken for awareness generation among the community regarding the program. IEC activity regarding the availability of vaccines for stray dog in Govt. Veterinary hospital & that vaccinating the dogs is the responsibility of every citizen. It is the need of the hour.

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