

**Title:** EFFECTIVENESS OF CHILD TO CHILD METHOD OF EDUCATION REGARDING RABIES AND ITS PREVENTION

**Author:** Shwetha<sup>1</sup>, Vinay M<sup>2</sup>, Harish BR<sup>3</sup>

1. Assistant Professor

2. Professor and Head

Bhagat Phool Singh Government Medical College for Women Khanpur Kalan  
Sonapat, Haryana

**Keywords** Knowledge, Rabies, Prevention, Child to Child, Method of Education

**Abstract** To assess the effectiveness of increase in knowledge regarding rabies and its prevention by child to child method of education

**Objective:** To assess the effectiveness of increase in knowledge regarding rabies and its prevention by child to child method of education

**Study setting:** Rural field practice area of Mandya Institute of Medical Sciences (MIMS), Mandya

**Study period:** June to September 2015 Type of study: Interventional study Study participants: High school students Sample size: 220

**Results:** Of the 200 study subjects, 58% were females and 42% were males, pre and post intervention score out of total score of 20 was  $8.2 \pm 2.1$  and  $18 \pm 1.5$  respectively. There was significant increase in the knowledge about rabies and its prevention after intervention.

Original Article: **EFFECTIVENESS OF CHILD TO CHILD METHOD OF EDUCATION REGARDING RABIES AND ITS PREVENTION**Shwetha<sup>1</sup>, Vinay M<sup>2</sup>, Harish BR<sup>3</sup>**ABSTRACT:****Objective:** To assess the effectiveness of increase in knowledge regarding rabies and its prevention by child to child method of education**Study setting:** Rural field practice area of Mandya Institute of Medical Sciences (MIMS), Mandya**Study period:** June to September 2015**Type of study:** Interventional study**Study participants:** High school students**Sample size:** 220**Results:** Of the 200 study subjects, 58% were females and 42% were males, pre and post intervention score out of total score of 20 was  $8.2 \pm 2.1$  and  $18 \pm 1.5$  respectively. There was significant increase in the knowledge about rabies and its prevention after intervention.**Key words:** Knowledge, Rabies, Prevention, Child to Child, Method of Education**INTRODUCTION :**

Rabies is a zoonotic disease of worldwide importance. Globally, 2 persons die every hour due to rabies. 40% of people who are bitten by suspect rabid animals are children under the age of 15 years<sup>1</sup>. Rabies causes encephalitis and is invariably fatal. Rabid dog bite is the commonest source of human infection. Rabies poses a potential threat to more than 330 crore people in the world.<sup>2</sup>

An estimated 55,000 human rabies deaths occur every year globally, of which an estimated 20,000 human rabies deaths occur annually in India, which constitutes 36% of the rabies deaths in the world<sup>3</sup>.

Many people, especially in rural India do not know that animal bites and scratches can lead to the deadly disease of rabies. Awareness regarding 'how rabies spreads' and 'what to do when exposed to animal' is very important to prevent rabies, especially in rural school children<sup>4,5</sup>.

Children can act as agents to spread awareness regarding rabies and its prevention in the community. Giving lectures to school children may not be very effective as it is difficult to hold the interest of the children for long especially when they are in large groups<sup>6</sup>.

Child to Child method of education ensures that the child's interest is kept alive as this method is in small groups and the knowledge is being imparted by one of their own classmates<sup>7</sup>.

There are no studies done to assess the effectiveness of child to child health education regarding rabies and its prevention. This study was conducted to determine the effectiveness of child to child education with regard to rabies and its prevention

**Materials and Methods**

The present study was undertaken in the rural field practice area of MIMS, Mandya. Permission from the block education officer was taken for conducting the study. Schools were listed and one of the schools was randomly selected.

20 students who are good at academics and communication were selected with the help of the teachers from the selected school. The selected 20 students were assessed regarding their knowledge of rabies and its prevention using a structured and pretested questionnaire

These students were educated about rabies and its prevention with the lecture method with the help of charts, video clips and by lecture method. The same questionnaire was administered after the education session, to validate their knowledge regarding rabies and its prevention. These 20 students were then the 'trained students'.

200 students from the same high school were selected and assessed regarding rabies and its prevention using the structured questionnaire.

10 students were allotted to each trained student. These students were educated by the trained students with the help of charts, video clips and lecture methods.

After the education process by trained students, these 200 students were assessed regarding rabies and its prevention using the same structured questionnaire.

The responses, of the 200 students, in the questionnaire before the child to child education were compared to the responses in the questionnaire after the child to child education sessions.

<sup>1</sup> Assistant Professor, Department of Community Medicine, Dr.B.R.AMC & H, <sup>2</sup> Associate professor, Department of Community Medicine, MIMS, Mandya<sup>3</sup> Professor and Head, Department of Community Medicine, MIMS, Mandya, **Corresponding author:** Dr Shwetha, Email:shwetha.hariba@gmail.com, Assistant Professor, Department of Community Medicine, Dr.B.R.AMC & H

**Statistical analysis:** Paired t-test was applied to determine whether child to child method of education is effective for spreading the knowledge regarding rabies and its prevention.

**Results and Discussion:**

A total of 220 students participated in the study. 58% were females and 42% were males. The average scoring of pre intervention was  $8.2 \pm 2.1$  out of total score of 20 and the post education intervention scoring was  $18 \pm 1.5$ .

**Table 1:**

**Awareness of study participants regarding rabies and its transmission**

Awareness	Before Education (%)	After education (%)	P Value
Causative agent	56 (28%)	163 (81.5%)	
Ways of transmission	Bite-66 (33%)	Bite-181 (90.5%)	
	Scratch-20 (10%)	Scratch-56 (28%)	
	Lick-0%		
Animals which can transmit rabies	Dog-130 (65%)	200 (100%)	<0.05
	Cat-36 (18%)	135 (65.5%)	
	Monkeys-10 (5%)	100 (50%)	
	Sheep/goat-0	75 (37.5%)	
	Cow/buffalo-0	70 (35%)	
Symptoms of rabies	4 (2%)	126 (63%)	
Fatality	12 (6%)	200 (100%)	

Before educational intervention knowledge regarding the causative agent and rabies was caused by animal bite was known to less than 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of students. More than half of the students knew that rabies was caused by dogs, less than 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of students knew it was caused by cats, very few students knew about symptoms of rabies and fatality of rabies.

After educational intervention more than 3/4<sup>th</sup> of the students knew about causative agent, modes of transmission of rabies animals which transmit rabies, symptoms and fatality of rabies.

**Table 2:**

**Awareness of study participants about Post exposure prophylaxis**

Awareness	Before education (%)	After education (%)	P value
Washing wound only with water	79 (39.5%)	10 (5%)	<0.05
Washing wound with soap and water	43 (21.5%)	200 (100%)	>0.05

Application of antiseptic	34 (17%)	167 (83.5%)	<0.05
Application of irritants	122 (61%)	190 (95%)	<0.05
Importance of vaccination	60 (30%)	200 (100%)	>0.05
Doses of vaccine to be administered	13 (6.5%)	163 (81.5%)	<0.05
Site of administration of vaccine	60 (34.5%)	135 (6.5%)	<0.05
Administration of immunoglobulin	2 (1%)	141 (70.5%)	<0.05

Before educational intervention less than half of the students knew wound wash, less than 1/4<sup>th</sup> knew about application of antiseptic. More than 50% said irritants (turmeric powder, vegetable juice, lime etc) should be applied to the bite wound.

**Conclusion and recommendations:**

Different studies have shown that child to child method of education is effective mode of dissemination of information about different diseases.<sup>7</sup> Present study has shown significant increase in knowledge about rabies and its prevention among the study subjects. Further studies need to be conducted to know whether child to child method of education is better than the teacher to child education and to adopt most effective method of teaching to provide knowledge regarding rabies and its prevention.

**REFERENCES:**

1. WHO. Rabies Factsheet. Available at: <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs099/en/>. Accessed 17.05.2015.
2. Park K. Text Book of Preventive and Social Medicine. 22nd ed. Jabalpur: Banarsidas Bhanot Publishers; 2013:250-57
3. Sudharshan MK, Madhusudana SN, Mahendra BJ, Rao NS, AshwathNarayana DH, Rahman SA et al. Assessing the burden of human rabies in India: results of a national multicenter epidemiological survey. *Int J Infect Dis.* 2007; 11: 29-35
4. Singh U. Knowledge, Attitude, Behavior and Practice Study on Dog-Bites and Its Management in the Context of Prevention of Rabies in a Rural Community of Gujarat. *Indian Journal of Community Medicine.* 2005; 30(3):8183
5. Kakrani. VA et al. Awareness about dog bite management in rural population. *Indian journal of community health.* 2013;25(3):92-96
6. UNICEF. 'Child-to-Child' programme blends learning with playtime in Ethiopia. Available [http://www.unicef.org/education/ethiopia\\_48899.html](http://www.unicef.org/education/ethiopia_48899.html) accessed on 30.05.2105
7. G. Mishra. When Child Becomes a Teacher - The Child to Child Programme. *Indian Journal of Community Medicine.* 2006; 31: 277-78