

ORIGINAL RESEARCH ARTICLE

TITLE: KNOWLEDGE REGARDING RABIES PREVENTION AMONG ASHA IN A TRIBAL BLOCK OF ODISHA

Giri Mamata Rani¹, Dash Manoj Kumar^{2*}, Kar Krishna³

¹ Assoc. Prof, Community Medicine, PRM MCH, Baripada, Mayurbhanj

² Asst. Prof, Community Medicine, PRM MCH, Baripada, Mayurbhanj

³ Prof. & HOD, Community Medicine, PRM MCH, Baripada, Mayurbhanj

Abstract

Background: Rabies is a communicable disease which is 100% fatal as well as preventable. ASHAs are the grass root level persons coming in contact with the family directly. So they can guide the family in a proper way after any animal bite cases to avoid the myths and save the life.

Objective: To assess the knowledge regarding rabies prevention among the ASHA.

Materials & Methods: It was a cross sectional study conducted in a tribal block K C Pur (Krushna Chandra Pur), which is the field practice area of Rural Health Training Centre (RHTC) of PRM MCH, Baripada in Mayurbhanj district of Odisha. The study subjects included all the ASHAs who were present in their sector meeting on the day of data collection. A predesigned, pretested questionnaire was prepared in Odia language to collect the information. The collected data was analyzed with SPSS v11.0.

Observation & Discussion: A total of 89 ASHAs were present and participated in the study. Majority 72 (80.9%) had given the opinion that only dog bite transmits the disease rabies, but 10 (11.2%) had given the correct answer of animals transmitting the disease. 77 (86.5 %) knew that rabies could be prevented after animal bite with appropriate wound management. The disease is 100% fatal was known to only 52 (58.4%) of ASHAs.

Conclusion: The knowledge regarding various aspects of rabies prevention among the ASHAs was not satisfactory.

Keywords: Knowledge, Rabies, ASHA

Title: Knowledge regarding Rabies prevention among ASHA in a Tribal Block of Odisha

Introduction

Rabies is a communicable disease which is 100% fatal as well as preventable. Despite tremendous progress in the field of preventive medicine, it is still a widespread and uncontrolled disease of human beings. Estimated annual human mortality in India due to rabies is about 30000¹. The stray dogs mainly transmit rabies in India. Other animals like jackal, mongoose, foxes, cats and monkeys are also involved in disease transmission². Because of wrong beliefs & practices, number of deaths are more even though vaccines are available to prevent death due to rabies³. ASHAs are the grass root level persons coming in contact with the family directly. So they can guide the family in a proper way after any animal bite cases to avoid the myths and save the life. With this background the present study was undertaken with the objective to assess the knowledge regarding rabies prevention among the ASHA.

***Corresponding Author:** Dr Manoj Kumar Dash, Assistant Professor, Community Medicine, PRM MCH, Baripada, Mayurbhanj, Odisha Email: drmkdash@gmail.com, Mobile: +91 9937993306

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Material & Methods:

It was a cross sectional study conducted in a tribal block K C Pur (Krushna Chandra Pur), which is the field practice area of Rural Health Training Centre (RHTC) of PRM MCH, Baripada in Mayurbhanj district of Odisha. In K C Pur block there were 96 ASHAs. The study subjects included were all the ASHAs who were present in their sector meeting on the day of data collection. Permission was taken from the MO I/C of RHTC. A predesigned, pretested questionnaire was prepared in Odia language to collect the information. The data was collected on the day of the sector meeting which was held on the last Saturday of the month of May, 2018. The objective of the study was explained to all the ASHAs present & verbal consent was taken. The collected data was analyzed with SPSS v11.0.

Observation & Discussion:

A total of 89 ASHAs were present and participated in the study. Out of 89 ASHAs, 75 (84.3 %) had heard the disease name i.e Rabies. Only 18 (20.2%) had given the correct answer about the causative agent being a virus. Majority 72 (80.9%) had given the opinion that only dog bite transmits the disease rabies, but 10 (11.2%) had given the correct answer of animals transmitting the disease⁴. Regarding wound washing, 66(74.2%) answered that it was necessary to wash the wound. Out of the total 67 (75.3%) knew about the timing of wound washing (when and how to wash). Wound washing with soap was known to 45 (50.6%) of ASHAs⁵. Nearly 37 % of the ASHAs were aware of applying povidone iodine ointment to the wound. The rest 63% (56) thought that either Karela leaf extract or Haldi (turmeric) or other local medications were needed to be applied on the bite wound^{6,7,8}. 77 (86.5 %) knew that rabies could be prevented after animal bite with appropriate wound management. Nearly 81 (91.0%) of ASHAs were aware about the need of vaccines in the treatment of rabies. The knowledge regarding the immediate starting of vaccination was correctly answered by 81 (91.0%) ASHAs. The vaccination being available in government hospitals 'free of cost' was known to 81 (91.0%) of study subjects⁹. The disease is 100% fatal was known to only 52 (58.4%) of ASHAs¹⁰. On being asked whether the disease can be transmitted from person-to-person the answer was equivocal with half answering 'yes' and the other half 'no'.

Conclusion:

The knowledge regarding various aspects of rabies prevention among the ASHAs was not satisfactory. Very few of the ASHAs knew the correct answer of various aspects of rabies, even though the first aid management of dog bites is in their induction training module. Their knowledge can be enhanced through proper training and sensitization.

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Table: Knowledge regarding various aspects of rabies

Sl. No.	Question	Response	Number (%)
01.	Heard of Rabies	Yes	75 (84.3%)
		No	14 (15.6%)
02.	Cause of Rabies	Correct	18 (20.2 %)
		Incorrect	71 (79.8 %)
03.	Type of animal bite	Correct	84 (94.4%)
		Incorrect	05 (05.6%)
04.	Wound washing	Correct	66 (74.2%)
		Incorrect	23 (25.8%)
05.	How early	Correct	67 (75.3%)
		Incorrect	22 (24.7%)
06.	How long	Correct	05 (05.6%)
		Incorrect	84 (94.4%)
07.	Use of soap	Correct	45 (50.6%)
		Incorrect	44 (49.4%)
08.	Local application on bite wound	Correct	33 (37.1%)
		Incorrect	56 (62.9%)
09.	Is rabies preventable	Correct	77 (86.5%)
		Incorrect	12 (13.5%)
10.	Methods of prevention	Correct	81 (91.0%)
		Incorrect	08 (09.0%)
11.	How early vaccine is to be given	Correct	81 (91.0%)
		Incorrect	08 (09.0%)
12.	Where to treat	Correct	81 (91.0%)
		Incorrect	08 (09.0%)
13.	Government hospitals giving free Vaccination	Correct	80 (89.9%)
		Incorrect	09 (10.1%)
14.	Untreated rabies results in	Correct	52 (58.4%)
		Incorrect	37 (41.6%)
15.	Is rabies transmittable	Correct	44 (49.4%)
		Incorrect	45 (50.6%)