

Original Article: 

TO ASSESS THE KNOWLEDGE & ROLE OF CIVIL REPRESENTATIVE IN PREVENTION OF RABIES – A STUDY CONDUCTED IN CUTTACK CITY, ODISHA

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ABSTRACT

Animal bites pose a major public health threat both in developed & developing nations. The civil representatives play an important role in the welfare of the society. This study is an attempt to find out their role in prevention of rabies.

Objective

1. To assess the knowledge of civil representatives in prevention of rabies in the society
2. To assess their role in prevention of rabies and suggest remedial measures

Methodology

Place of study- City of Cuttack

Duration of study-Feb –April 2016

Study subjects- 34 ward councilor

Study instruments- pre- designed & pre tested questionnaires

Study analysis- sspss.ver21

Observation and Discussion:

Out of all the 34 civil representatives only 2(5.9) could tell that rabies is a viral disease most (88.2%) could tell dog bite causes rabies, 24(70.6%) told rabies is curable, 20(58.8%) opined washing the wound with soap and water is important to prevent rabies. Only 2(5.9%) of them could correctly tell about the number of doses & 20(58.8%) could correctly, tell about the site of vaccination, 25(73.5%) told it is necessary to complete the course. Regarding the role of the civil representatives for prevention of rabies, 28 (82.3%) told that they would inform the municipality to catch the dogs, 24(70.6%) opined that they would create public awareness, 22(64.7%) told they would take the patient to the hospital for treatment of wound & vaccination, 14(41.1%) told that they would actively participate in the Animal birth control programme. Many of them 26(76.5%) told that they would inform the forest department for prevention of monkey menace.

Conclusion:

The civil representatives told that their role in prevention of rabies is to create Community awareness. To actively participate in animal birth control programme and inform the municipality to catch the dogs, and to inform the forest department for monkey menace

Recommendation :

The civil representative needs to be sensitized regarding animal bite wound management. Actively participate in ABC programme & take initiative to implement it in their area by appraising the municipality authorities.

Key Words : Civil representative, role, prevention, rabies

INTRODUCTION

Animal bites pose a major public health threat both in developed & developing nations.¹ It is estimated that in India 1.7 crore animal bite exposures leads to 20,000 deaths. 95% of 50,000

global rabies deaths are because of dog bites^{2,3}. Rabies is 100% fatal and can be prevented by timely and appropriate Anti rabies prophylaxis. Primary care of wound, proper categorizations of bites & use of rabies biologicals such RIG and

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Table 1
Knowledge of Civil Representatives about Rabies

Sl.No	Knowledge of the Civil representative	Number(n=34) %	
		Yes	No
1	Correct knowledge of causative agent		
	Viral disease	2 (5.9)	32 (94.1)
2	Knowledge of carrier of rabies		
	Dog	30 (88.2)	4 (11.8)
	Cat	8 (23.5)	26 (76.5)
	Monkey	6 (17.6)	28 (82.4)
	Rodents	11 (32.4)	23 (67.6)
	Mongoose	4 (11.8)	30 (88.2)
	DNK	4 (11.8)	30 (88.2)
3	Knowledge of transmission		
	Bite	30 (88.2)	4 (11.8)
	Scratch	4 (11.8)	30 (88.2)
	Lick	3 (8.8)	31 (91.2)
4	Knowledge of case fatality		
	100% Fatal	10 (29.4)	24 (70.6)
5	Knowledge of first AIDS		
	Wash the wound with soap and water	20 (58.8)	14 (41.2)
	Apply virucidal /antiseptic agent	18 (52.9)	16 (47.1)
6	Knowledge of vaccine		
	Number of dose	2 (5.9)	32 (94.1)
	Correct site of administration	20 (58.8)	14 (41.2)
	Necessary to complete the course	25 (73.5)	9 (26.5)
	Vaccine available free of cost	28 (82.4)	6 (17.6)
7	Knowledge about prevention of Rabies		
	Community awareness	26 (76.5)	8 (23.5)
	Control of dog population	30 (88.2)	4 (11.8)
	Vaccination of dog	16 (47.1)	18 (52.9)
	Immediate vaccination and wound management	30 (88.2)	4 (11.8)

vaccines can prevent such a dreaded disease⁴. Though Medical officers have a major role but the gross inequality in the doctors population ratio makes them unavailable to the community⁵. The civil representatives are closer to the community and play an important role in the welfare of the society, so this study is an attempt to find out their role in prevention of rabies.

OBJECTIVE

To assess the knowledge of civil representatives in prevention of rabies in the society

To assess their role in prevention of rabies and suggest remedial measures

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in the city of Cuttack during the period of Feb –April 2016. The study subjects were the civil representatives of Cuttack city. Total of 34 ward councilors who were willing to participate in the study were taken as study subjects and were interviewed. The data was collected using pre-designed & pre-tested questionnaires.

OBSERVATION AND DISCUSSION:

Out of all the 34 civil representatives only 2(5.9) could tell that rabies is a viral disease but 32 (94.1%) either could not tell anything or told that rabies is transmitted by bacteria or some organism.

TABLE 2
Role of the civil representative in prevention of rabies

Sl.No.	Role of civil representative in prevention of rabies	No	%	Yes	%
1	To take the patient to the hospital for treatment of wound & vaccination	22	64.7	12	35.3
2	To Informing the municipality to catch the dog	28	82.3	6	17.7
3	To creating awareness and for anti-rabies vaccination	2	5.9%	32	94.1
4	Animal birth control by sterilization	14	41.1%	20	58.9
5	To create public awareness regarding animal bite as a cause of rabies	24	70.6%	10	29.4
7	To prevent monkey menace they told that they will inform the forest department.	26	76.5%	8	23.5

Regarding their knowledge about the biting animal as a cause of rabies 30(88.2%) participant told that rabies is caused by dog bite. Cat bite 8(23.5%), monkey bite 6(17.6%), rodents 11(32.4%), mongoose 4(11.8%) and 4(11.8%) could not tell anything about the biting animal causing rabies.

Most of the participant 30(88.2%) told that rabies is caused by animal bite where as 4(11.8)told that rabies can also be caused by scratch of animal and only 3(8.8%) told rabies can also be caused by lick of animal.

Out of all the 34 civil representatives interviewed 10(29.4%) opined that rabies is 100% fatal disease where as 24(70.6%) were unaware of the fact and told that rabies can be cured.

Regarding their knowledge of first aid that washing the wound with soap and water is important to prevent rabies was told by 20 (58.8%) of the participants. 14(41.3%) told that wound washing was not necessary and may be washing of the wound may lead to infection. Application of some virucidal agent or antiseptic was told by only 18(52.9%) of the participant whereas 16(47.1%) told that they would apply a paste of some herbs or turmeric and chili paste on the wound. In a study conducted by A.S.Sekhon he found that there are myths and false believes associated with wound management. These include application of oils, herbs and red chilies on the wound inflicted by rabid animal and not washing the wound properly in the fear of infection.

Only 2(5.9%)of them could correctly tell about the number of doses of vaccine 32(94.1%) either could not tell anything or told one or three doses of vaccine was enough to prevent rabies. Correct site

of vaccine administration i.e on the upper arm was known to 20(58.8%) study subjects. It is necessary to complete the course of vaccination was known to 25(73.5%) of the study subjects. The vaccines were available free of cost in the government hospital was known to 28(82.4%) of the study subjects.

Community awareness regarding management of animal bite wound can prevent rabies was known to 26(76.5%) civil representatives. Control of dog population by animal birth control can prevent rabies was told by 30(88.2%) study subjects. Only 16(47.1%) told that vaccination of dog can prevent rabies. Immediate vaccination and wound management was known to 30(88.2%) civil representatives.

Most of the civil representative 28(82.3%) told that they would inform the municipality to catch the dog for prevention of rabies. 24(70.6%) opined that they would create public awareness regarding the importance of animal bite and cause of rabies and importance of first-aid in prevention of rabies. More than half of them 22(64.7%) told that they would take the patient to the hospital for treatment of wound & vaccination. To prevent rabies 14(41.1%) of the civil representative felt that they would actively participate in the Animal birth control programme by sterilization. Only 2(5.9%) told that they would create awareness for immediate anti-rabies vaccination in case of animal bite. Many of them 26 (76.5%) told that they would inform the forest department for prevention of monkey menace.

CONCLUSION

Rabies is a viral disease was known to very few of the civil representatives' .Moreover all of them did not know dog bite as a cause of rabies. That rabies can also be caused by scratch and lick of

animal was also known to very few of them. Most of them thought rabies is curable. Washing the wound with soap & water as preventive measures for rabies was known to few of them. Many of the participants believed that a paste of some herbs or turmeric and chili paste on the wound would be beneficial. Very few of them could correctly tell about the number of doses of vaccine and site of vaccination. However most of them knew it is necessary to complete the course. All of them were not aware of the fact that vaccines were available free of cost in the government hospitals. Regarding their role in prevention of rabies most of them opined to create Community Awareness regarding management of animal bite wounds. But very few of them told that they would create awareness regarding anti rabies vaccination. Many of them told that they would actively participate in animal birth control programme and they would also inform the municipality to catch the dog. Some of them also told that they would take the patient to the hospital. Many of them told that they would inform the forest department for prevention of monkey menace.

RECOMMENDATION

The civil representative should be sensitized regarding the importance of anti rabies vaccination, and they should actively participate in ABC programme & take initiative to see it is implemented in their area by appraising the municipality authorities.

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