

ABSTRACT

AIM:

1. To understand the Knowledge, Attitude and Practices (KAP) related to Trematode Granuloma amongst residents in the rural areas of Kaveri river bed.
2. To study ,
 - Awareness regarding Trematode Granuloma.
 - Attitude and Health Care seeking behavior of the people.

Secondary Objective:

To increase awareness and educate people regarding the preventive aspect of the disease.

METHOD:

A descriptive cross sectional study was conducted from April 2012 to June 2013. Door-to-door survey in the central districts of Tanjore, Dimisal, Kottaipattinam, Thondi, Nagapattinam, Sivgangai, Manalmelkudi, Trichy and Puddukottai was conducted. These are the main areas where the disease is concentrated.

Survey questionnaire was prepared and administered to the people in their local language. The questionnaire contained 22 questions.

RESULTS:

The mean age group of the respondents was 43.5 years. Majority of them were males.

From our results we find that the people have a fair knowledge about the eye condition. Most people correctly perceived that the disease is more prevalent in children of age group 6-15 years with a predisposition of affecting males as compared to females. They have a good knowledge about the symptoms of the disease. Very correctly most respondents pointed out that the infected pond water is the source of infection. However not many were aware about the mode of transmission. People also believe that the condition is more prevalent in summer season due to unknown reasons.

The attitude of the residents towards the disease is also positive. They feel it is a serious eye problem. Nearly all the respondents agreed that the condition causes defective vision. Many of them are willing to go to an ophthalmologist for treatment if they or their children incurred to the disease. Majority of the people are aware that treatment for the eye disease is possible but they were not aware of the treatment facilities available close to them.

However the positive attitude of the people did not translate into their practices. Children still continue to take bath in the infected ponds in spite of

having knowledge about the mode of spread of the disease from those ponds. The main reason for the poor practices can be attributed to the fact that there is no other source of water in many villages for taking bath. Though many people were ready to consult a doctor if the disease affected them, few people said that lack of money and time was a reason for not taking treatment from a doctor.

CONCLUSION:

It is apparent that most people had a fair knowledge of the disease condition and a positive attitude, but very few people engaged in positive preventive practices. People still allow their children to take bath in the pond in spite of having good knowledge that the disease spreads by taking bath in the pond water. The fair knowledge and average positive attitude about trematode induced uveitis did not translate into high levels of preventive practices.

KEYWORDS:

Knowledge, Attitude and Practices; Trematode Granuloma; Kaveri River;
Granulomatous uveitis; *Procerovum varium*.