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Creating awareness on Ebola virus: A study to assess curiosity

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ABSTRACT:

Ebola fever is an acute viral syndrome present with fever and ensuing bleeding diathesis which is marked by high mortality in human. The natural reservoir of the disease is unknown. Very little information is known about how Ebola virus is transmitted or how it replicates in its hosts. In current time media like whatsapp have play a crucial role in spreading and creating a lots of information about Ebola virus. Therefore a survey was conducted to know and spread awareness in people on various aspects of Ebola virus like causative organism, basic treatments, and contingency and to know the curiosity amongst the participants to know and help in creating and spreading such kind of awareness in tribal areas of Valsad district, Gujarat. 100 leaflet and questionnaire on awareness on Ebola virus in local language was prepared with the help of clinical pharmacist. To assess the result percentage analysis method was used. The result stated that 42% participants were aware about the Ebola Virus. 42% were aware about causes and mode of transmission and its contingency. 75% were reported that nothing to be worry about Ebola Virus. 23% emphasize importance of media in awareness. Only 11% graduates in the study is the only reason for only 72% willing to know and spread awareness on the Ebola virus in general population. The community pharmacy can enhance the level of curiosity in people by continuous awareness program like this.

KEYWORDS: Ebola virus, Awareness, Contingency, Community pharmacy

INTRODUCTION:

Ebola fever is an acute viral syndrome present with fever and ensuing bleeding diathesis leads to high mortality in human. The cause is Ebola virus which is negatively stranded RNA and lipid enveloped belongs to viral family Filoviridae.¹⁻² the natural reservoir of the virus is unknown and so it's a least understood virus regarding its transmission and method of replication in host.²⁻³ The weather cycle like end of rainy season may play a role in ecology of Ebola virus.⁴ Because of the lethality the viral disease is classified as class-4 pathogen. Ebola Zaire, Ebola Sudan, and Ebola are the three subtypes of virus which has been identified as pathogenic for human.¹ The viral infection usually involve necrosis of liver and other organs like spleen, kidney, ovaries, lymph nodes due to replication within parenchymal cells.⁵⁻⁶ The epidemiological mode of transmission is well define even though the primary source of infection is unknown. The virus is transmitted to secondary individuals by close contacts, intimate contacts with blood and other body secretion or excretions or semen. The other sources might be the unsterilized syringes; unhygienic practice in hospital or at health centers.^{1,7} There is no clear evidence on communication spread ability during the viral incubation period with non-febrile, asymptomatic individuals.¹ transmission risk increases significantly with direct patients contact during the acute disease period.⁸

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Clinical features: The incubation period for the virus is ranges between 2-21 days.¹ Early symptoms like fever, myalgia, headache, arthralgia, and anorexia.¹ Other clinical features like nausea, abdominal pain, vomiting, hypotension, tachypnea, conjunctivitis and diarrhea with blood may also observe. Centripetal rash and cutaneous flushing are common clinical observations.¹ The untreated and managed clinical condition leads to the progressive hemorrhagic diathesis present with epistaxis, malena and hematuria type of clinical features.^{1, 6} Disseminated intravascular coagulation is the main clinical feature as vascular site is the main target for Ebola Virus.⁸

Diagnosis: Presence of two clinical features like Epistaxis, malena or hemoptysis and fever (>101° C) for no less than two weeks.⁶ Antigens detection test or antibodies detection like Ig-M or Ig-G test can be useful diagnostic tool like use of Enzyme linked Immuno assay procedure.⁹ Another important tool may be reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction which is rapid and sensitive type of test.

Preventive measures:^{1, 10}

- Use of mask and gloves and protective clothing is must.
- Regular hand wash and use of disinfectant
- Patients isolations is compulsory in case detection of patients
- Autoclaving all the contaminated materials in hospitals and health centers.
- Use of disposable syringes and preference to sterile instruments and glassware must be given.
- Proper disposal of biological hazards
- Healthcare worker must be aware about the direct contact hazards so new design of approach must be require.
- Regular general population awareness can be use via any media sources.
- Cleanness and proper hygienic environment must be maintain in the surroundings.

METHODOLOGY:

In the current time where Smartphone and internet are the best sources to create awareness but in study the awareness in population proper feedback and reliability and validity of the study questionnaire based survey method with person to person communication is the best option to create awareness in general population. With a volunteer intention to support government in creating healthy person to person communication can be the best option. 100 fully filled forms were received from the participants. The questionnaire

was prepared under the guidance of clinical pharmacist and doctor.

RESULT:

The following result after the data interpretation of data is obtained. 42% were aware about the Ebola virus. 42% were aware about symptoms and mode of transmission of the disease. 25% were responded that there is a need to worry about the Ebola Virus and India can also the country where it can occur. In the study 56% were male and 44% were female participants. In the study only 11% were graduates followed by 22% & 34% respectively for 12th and 10th standard only. 80% were between 15-45 years of the age and 20% were greater than 45 years of the age.

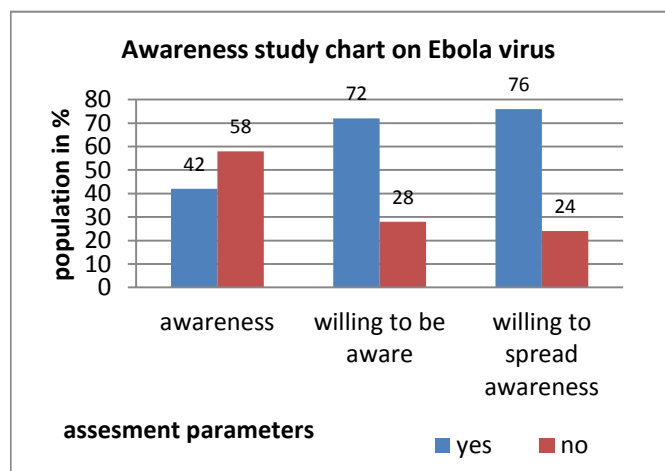


Figure1. Curiosity results on the assessment of awareness on Ebola virus

Impact of in current study the impact of media on awareness also had been assess so the following result will indicate the awareness through media.

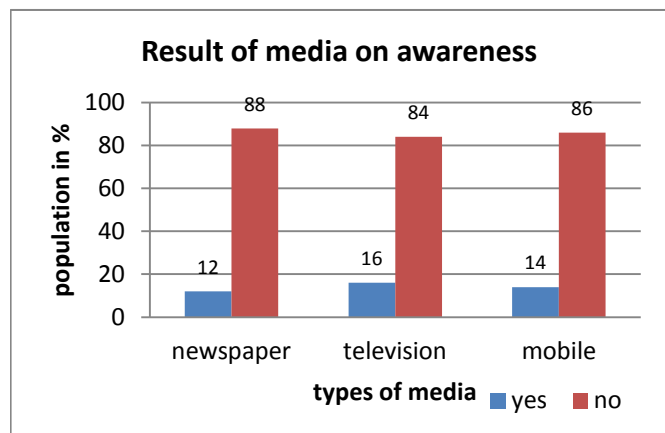


Figure2. Result of awareness impact of media on awareness.

Conclusion:

As Ebola is currently emerging disease in other countries and spreading speedily there is a much need to spread awareness in general population of our country to improve healthcare sector of the country. Therefore the improvement of healthcare through community awareness every students of pharmacy department at graduation level must work together on such awareness program and utilize their skills and knowledge for the lifting up the community healthcare. Awareness programs on Ebola virus and other newly emerging disease have to be conducted for the various community levels.

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