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Importance of awareness on Dengue in Valsad town: An aware 3 program

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ABSTRACT:

Recently the incidence of dengue increases and it urges the need of creating awareness about the disease. This will help in making population aware about the causative organism like *Aedes Aegypti* mosquitoes, contingency, prevention, its management and government help in managing the dengue fever. A survey study was conducted to know and spread awareness in people on various aspects of Dengue like causative organism, basic treatments, and contingency in Valsad town, Gujarat. A well designed questionnaire and leaflet about disease on awareness about the disease was prepared with the help of clinical pharmacist and health officer. With an initiative to door to door communication to spread awareness we received fully filled 100 forms and dispatch leaflets on the disease spreading community awareness. For analysis percentage analysis for each question was carried out. 36% of total awareness in which 20% male and 16% female participants were there. Even though it is currently striking in valsad city still people just know name but proper knowledge or awareness on disease is still not there. That gap of knowledge and awareness can be reduced by creating awareness by pharmacist on regular basis not as a responsibility but as a support to the government in developing healthcare.

KEY WORDS: Dengue, Contingency, Community awareness, *Aedes Aegeypti*.

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INTRODUCTION:

Dengue is most common flavivirus infection in humans mainly in tropical and subtropical countries.¹ Coastal areas during summer when mosquitoes are numerous it is most prevailing one. *Aedes aegypti* is the main vector for causing Dengue in humans.^{1, 2} There are generally 4 main serotypes of Dengue fever, all of which produce a similar kind of clinical symptoms. The incubation period is around 2-7 days from being bitten by an infected mosquito.^{1, 2}

Clinical features: Malaise and headache starts 2 days before the commencing of clinical features in dengue patients. it will lead to cause acute clinical symptoms like fever, backache, arthralgia, headache, pain in eye, anorexia, nausea, generalized pain which is also known as break bone fever, sclera injection. The fever may last for 7-8 days in patients. Transient rashes spreading centrifugally sparing palms and soles are also characteristics clinical observation of Dengue fever.

Diagnosis: diagnosis is very simple and easy in case of Dengue with a patients present with characteristic clinical features. Initially blood report may suggest common viral disease because of leucopenia and thrombocytopenia. Enzymatic methods like Enzyme linked immune assay and molecular methods like reverse transcriptase polymerase chain rection.^{5, 6}

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Management: As such there is no specific treatment for Dengue. The fever can be controlled by the Analgesics like Paracetamol but the severity may necessitate the use of Opiates. In Severe cases volume replacement, blood transfusion may become the sole choice for management. Still no antivirals are prove to be effective and also corticosteroids are too of no help. Non pharmacological paramaters may prove beneficial like maintain sanitation, use of mosquito nets, mosquito repellents, try to wear long sleeves clothes. Currently one such hope of fresh leaf extract of Caraya Pappaya has drawn attention in mind of general population due to its preventive action on platelets before getting destroyed.^{4,7}

METHODOLOGY:

A well designed questionnaire and leaflet on awareness about disease in local language was prepared with the help of clinical pharmacist and medical practitioner. Valsad city is selected for the study is because the cases of Dengue are rising here day by day and as it is dense forest area here in surrounding too. The age group is selected to be between 15 years onwards so even students can also share their perceptions. At the end of study fully filled 100 forms were received and dispatch leaflets on awareness by door to door spreading community awareness with an initiative to person to person communication. The questionnaire is assessed by two pharmacists before initiating the study. For assessment of data percentage analysis for each question was carried out.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

From the survey conducted in valsad town the following result is obtained. The basic demographic details of the participants were mentioned in Table number.¹

Almost all age that can share their views or respond to the questions are covered and youth and aged are well maintained for study the response. The Awareness on dengue assessed from the response on the questions answers by the participants was categorized on basis of gender and occupation to get rid of idea about the awareness at various levels.

The important parameters to assess was the perception and awareness on the available treatment of the dengue and importance or role of Ayurvedic medicinal options in management of dengue as home based remedy usually suggested and used by the general population first so to know the predominance of home based remedy in care of dengue.

Table 1. Demographic details of the participants.

Participants	Parameter	Percentage
Gender	Male	59
	Female	41
Age	15-25	31
	26-35	17
	36-45	21
	More than 45	31
Education	Graduate	55
	H.S.C	21
	S.S.C	19
	Uneducated	05
Occupation	Service	35
	Student	40
	Housewife	18
	Retired	10

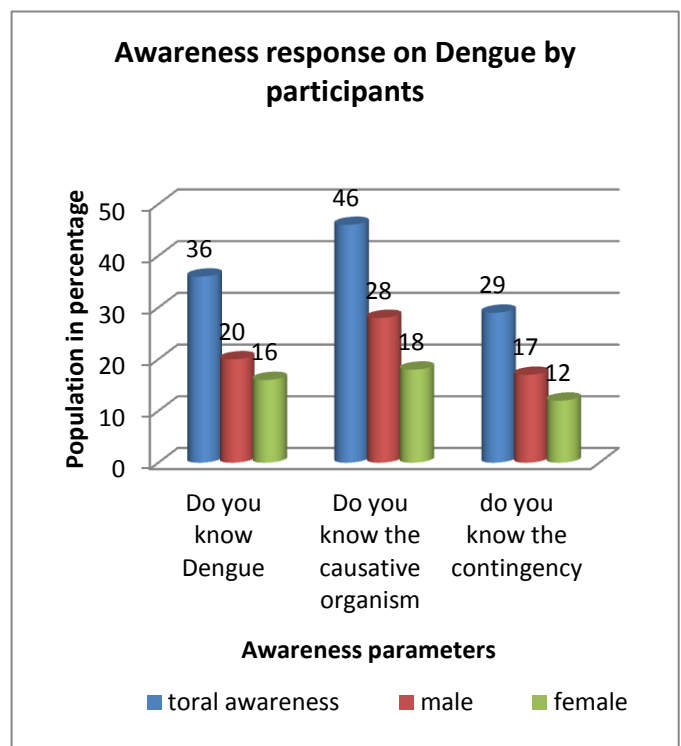


Figure1: Awareness response by the participants on Dengue

The curiosity in participants about the willingness to know and willingness to help in spreading the disease awareness to other for betterment of healthcare awareness was also assessed. The following result is obtained.

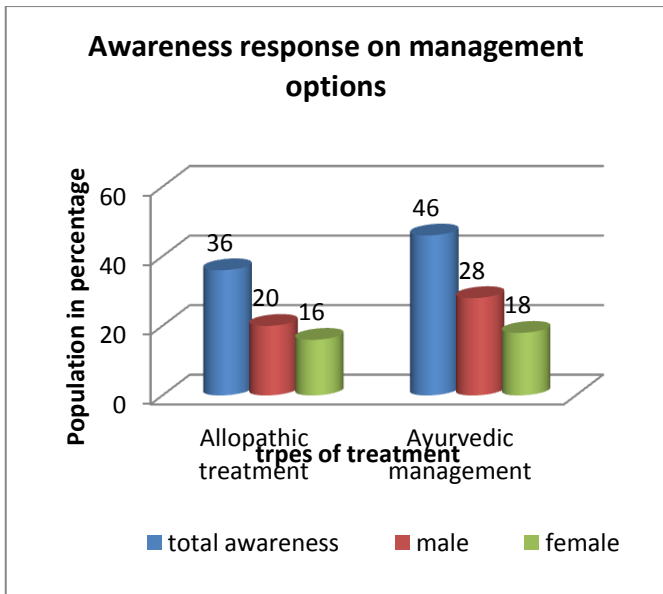


Figure2. Awareness Response of participants on management options of dengue.

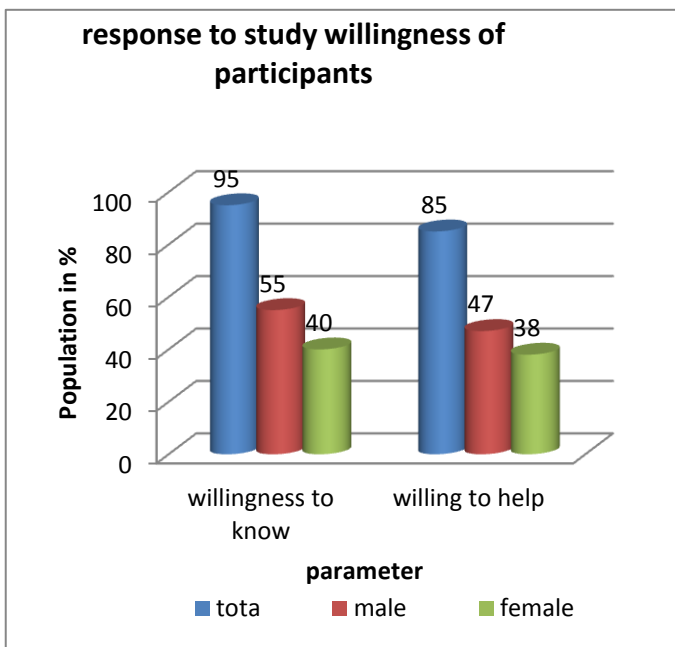


Figure3. Response of participants on willingness to involve in awareness

Conclusion: 36% participants were aware from which 20% male and 16% female participants were completely aware about the dengue and its symptoms and available treatment options. Even though it is currently striking in valsad city still people just know name but proper knowledge or awareness on disease is still not there. That gap of knowledge and awareness can be reduced by creating awareness by pharmacist on regular basis not as a responsibility but as a support to the government in developing healthcare.

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