

Awareness about Communicable Diseases in Rural and Urban Area Students of Secondary Schools (A Survey Report)



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Abstract

Present study aims to know the role of schools in educating and awaring students regarding communicable diseases and their spread. In this regard 250 students from two govt. school of Patiala, ranging in age 12-14 years were selected. Students further categorized into rural and urban students to check the awareness level in students of different localities. In statistical part percentage of students was calculated. Results obtained showed that except spreading of diarrhea (51%) and knowledge of chickenpox (59%) rural students were very less in their knowledge regarding communicable diseases as compared to student of urban area. In this regard school should take more steps to educate students as this is the place where students from all localities come & stay for longer time.

Keywords: Communicable Diseases, National AIDS Control Organisation.

Introduction

A lack of reasonable knowledge of infectious diseases leads to low detections rates, Interruption of treatment, discrimination and stigma. Therefore, to stop the spread of communicable disease proper knowledge of communicable diseases is must and the best line of action is from school level. As school is the place where children from various communities and localities come, thus to aware students about such kind of diseases in school is very important. Several studies in this regard has been conducted (He Liu, et.al.2013).

Aim of Study

To check level of awareness about communicable diseases in school children and if they don't know, study further aims, to teach them so that they could educate others in their locality.

Review of Literature

Communicable diseases like Typhoid, AIDS, Diarrhea are major concern in the world. Developing countries like India is also in this list. In 2015 (According to National Health Profile 2016) Ministry of Health & Family Welfare Govt. of India found 18,45,997 cases of Typhoid out of these 393 died. In case of AIDS The National AIDS Control Organisation estimated that 2.11 million people live with HIV AIDS in India in 2015. One another study showed the similar results (Soloman et. al. 2018).

Children's awareness of communicable diseases plays an important role in disease control. Similar study was conducted on AIDS awareness in young people in Southern India. (Mallehappa, 2012)

Methodology

This cross sectional study was conducted in Feb. 2018 on the students of Govt. Model Sen.Sec. School, Civil Lines, Patiala and Govt. Multi Purpose School, Patiala (Pb.). Subjects were 12-14 years of age. The purpose of the present study was to find out the awareness about communicable diseases between rural and urban school going children. Firstly, two schools and classes in both schools were randomly selected. Secondly, both schools was further divided into two groups urban and rural. Finally 250 students of both schools of class 8th and 9th were selected. Both schools has same pattern of imparting knowledge to the students.

Total = 250 (Two Schools)			
Class 8th (N = 137)		Class 9th (N = 113)	
Rural N = 47	Urban N = 90	Rural N = 48	Urban N = 65

For this purpose a self made structured questionnaire was prepared regarding awareness about communicable diseases among children. Questionnaire contains 9 questions. Investigator explained procedure and purpose of the test and give instruction to the students to fill the questionnaire. Students were motivated to take an active part in

filling the questionnaire. In statistical part % age of students regarding their awareness for communicable diseases was calculated.

Result and Discussion

Results obtained for this study are as follows:

Table No. 1

% Age of Students of 8th class regarding Their Knowledge of Communicable Diseases (N=137)

S.No.	Questions	Number	% Age
1	What do you know about communicable diseases	42	30.65
2	Do you know about influenza	47	34.30
3	How do you get influenza	29	21.16
4	Do you know AIDS	50	36.49
5	Do you know about typhoid	43	31.38
6	Family history of typhoid	19	13.86
7	What do you know about Diarrhea or suffered	73	53.28
8	Do you know prevention measures of Diarrhea	54	39.41
9	Do you know about chicken pox	68	49.63

Table No. 2

% Age of Rural and Urban Students of 8th Class Regarding Their Awareness for Communicable Diseases

S. No.	Questions	N	Rural	%	Urban	%
1	What do you know about communicable diseases.	42	14	33.33	28	66.66
2	Do you know about influenza	47	12	25.53	35	74.46
3	How do you get influenza	29	7	24.13	22	75.86
4	Do you know AIDS	50	10	20	40	80
5	Do you know about typhoid	43	6	13.95	37	86.04
6	Family history of typhoid	19	15	78.94	04	21.05
7	What do you know about Diarrhea or suffered	73	51	69.86	22	30.13
8	Do you know prevention measures of Diarrhea	54	14	25.92	40	74.07
9	Do you know about chicken pox	68	40	58.82	28	41.17

Table No. 1 and 2 Demonstrated the results of 8th class students about their awareness regarding communicable diseases. It was very surprising that out of total only 31% (approx.) (N=42) students had knowledge of communicable diseases. When further questioned about communicable diseases results were as: 35% students were those who have knowledge about influenza and 21% were those who know about the reasons of spreading of this disease. When these students further categorized in rural and urban category; 74% students who have knowledge of influenza where from urban areas and approx. 26% were from rural area. In case of AIDS 36% students had knowledge about this deadly disease, but how this disease spreads no students raised his / her hand. This means they know about the diseases but how it spreads? They should be educated. Urban students were more in % age (80%) than rural children (20%) regarding knowledge of AIDS.

This means family's knowledge has great impact, as both categories children were studying in same school and gathers similar education. In case of Typhoid 31% were those who know about Typhoid and approx. 14% students have atleast one case of Typhoid in their family. Further investigation showed that ratio of occurrence of typhoid is more in rural areas (79%) as compared to urban areas (21%). Similar results were found in case of diarrhea i.e. students living in rural area were more infected than students of urban area. It might be because of advanced hygienic facilities in urban localities.

In case of knowledge about chicken pox, %age of rural area students was more than urban students. This may be because Indians have mythological beliefs regarding chicken pox they call it "Chotti Mata" as believe that Goddess is around them for some reason. It may be because of less knowledge in rural localities.

Table No. 3

%Age of Student of 9th Class Regarding Their Knowledge of Communicable Disease (N=113)

S.No.	Questions	N	%
1	What do you know about communicable diseases	54	47.78
2	Do you know about influenza	73	64.60
3	How do you get influenza	67	59.29
4	Do you know AIDS	65	57.52
5	Do you know about typhoid	57	50.44
6	Family history of typhoid	21	18.58
7	What do you know about Diarrhea or suffered	50	44.24
8	Do you know prevention measures of Diarrhea	43	38.05
9	Do you know about chicken pox	59	52.21

Table No. 4

%Age of Rural and Urban Students of 9th Class Regarding Their Awareness for Communicable Diseases

S. No.	Questions	N	Rural	%	Urban	%
1	What do you know about communicable diseases	54	19	35.18	35	64.81
2	Do you know about influenza	73	24	32.87	49	67.12
3	How do you get influenza	67	28	41.79	39	58.21
4	Do you know AIDS	65	19	29.23	46	70.76
5	Do you know about typhoid	57	22	38.59	45	61.40
6	Family history of typhoid	21	11	52.38	10	47.61
7	What do you know about Diarrhea	50	29	58	21	42
8	Do you know prevention measures of Diarrhea	43	21	48.83	22	51.16
9	Do you know about chicken pox	59	40	67.79	19	32.20

Table No. 3 and 4 showed the results of 9th class students about their awareness regarding communicable diseases. It was very surprising that out of total only 48% (approx.) (n=54) students had knowledge of communicable diseases. When further questioned results were as; 64% students were those who have knowledge about influenza and 59% were those who know about the reasons of spread of disease. In case of AIDS when students were asked only 57% had knowledge about AIDS, but when further interviewed about spread of this deadly disease only 6 students raised their hands. When categorized further into rural and urban category 70% subjects were of those of urban areas and only 30% were of rural areas. This means family's knowledge has a great impact, as both category children were studying in same school. In case of typhoid 50% were aware of its spread and 19% were those who have Typhoid case is their family. In further categorization approx. 61% students were aware of its spread were from urban area 39% from rural. When further interviewed for other infectious disease diarrhea and its preventative measures ratio was approx. 50%-50% in both rural and urban category students. In case of their knowledge about chickenpox approx. 52% falls in the category of awareness. But when further investigated out of total known's 32% belongs to urban category and 68% belong to rural category.

These results showed that students who were aware of communicable diseases mostly belonged to urban areas. This showed that awareness at family level in rural area need more attention as both category students were in same school. Secondly it may be that school is not taking serious note about awareness of students regarding spread of communicable diseases. As this is the place where all category children gathers and stays for long time.

References

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