

Knowledge, attitude, practice about dengue and associating socio-demographic factor among the advanced level school students in Jaffna Educational Division

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Background: Dengue is regarded as one of the most important vector-borne viral communicable disease that in recent decades have become an important global public health issue. Dengue can be fatal but can be preventable. Human habits and activities strongly associated with the epidemiology and ecology of dengue infections. This study aims to assess the Knowledge, attitudes and practices and associated socio demographic factors among the advanced level school students in Jaffna educational zone.

Methods: This study was an Institutional based descriptive cross sectional study. Data was collected using a pre-tested interviewer administered questionnaire to assess the knowledge, attitudes and practices and associated socio demographic factors of 822 advanced level first and second year students from Jaffna educational division.

Results: When Overall knowledge regarding dengue fever and transmission is considered 61.7% had good knowledge, 36.6% had adequate knowledge. Our study revealed that most of the students (88.2%) accepted that dengue as a viral disease and most students (90%) were aware that disease is transmitted by mosquito. When Overall knowledge regarding signs and symptoms of dengue fever is considered 53.5% had good knowledge, 38.8% had adequate knowledge. Media especially television (92.7%) and family and friends (93.6%) being the most quoted source of information. When Overall knowledge regarding the complications of dengue fever is considered 29.9% had good knowledge, 49% had adequate knowledge. Based on the scoring system only 44.6% students had good overall Knowledge. Furthermore, most of the students had good attitude (92.3%) and good practices towards dengue (92.3%).

Conclusion: It is essential to give more information regarding dengue to the students. Some miss perceptions and wrong practices were still prevailing among the school students related to the time of bite, transmission and management. This will badly reflect on the community.

Keywords: Dengue, Knowledge, Jaffna, Adolescents