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A STUDY TO ASSESS THE EFFECTIVENESS OF STRUCTURED TEACHING PROGRAMME ON KNOWLEDGE REGARDING CAUSES AND PREVENTION OF DENGUE FEVER AMONG HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN A SELECTED SCHOOL AT MAVELIKARA TALUK”

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Abstract: Dengue fever and dengue hemorrhagic fever are acute febrile diseases caused by a virus transmitted by the bite of *Aedes aegypti* mosquito. This disease is otherwise known as break bone or dandy fever. The name break bone fever was given because of the contortions caused due to the intense joint and muscle pain. In this study, Quantitative approach was adopted to assess the effectiveness of Structured Teaching Programme on knowledge regarding causes and prevention of dengue fever among High School students in a selected School at Mavelikara taluk, Kerala. The level of significance for testing the hypothesis was 0.05. Findings of the study showed that the pretest knowledge score (8.5) of high school students prior to the structured teaching programme was not satisfactory. The structured teaching programme helped them to learn more about the causes and prevention of dengue fever. The mean post-test knowledge score (25.55) showed significant increase in the knowledge of high school students. There was significant association between the Pretest knowledge scores with the selected Sociodemographic variables. Hence, it could be concluded that Structured Teaching Programme was an effective strategy for providing information and in improving the knowledge of the respondents.

Keywords: Effectiveness, Knowledge, Cause, Prevention, Dengue fever, Structured Teaching Programme

INTRODUCTION

Dengue is one of the most serious and fast emerging pandemic viral disease which affects mostly in poor urban areas, suburbs, and the countryside, predominantly in tropical and sub-tropical areas¹. Dengue fever and dengue haemorrhagic fever are acute febrile disease caused by viruses transmitted by the bite of *aedes aegypti* mosquito. This disease is also known as break bone or

dandy fever. The name break bone fever was given because of the contortions caused due to the intense joint and muscle pain². The incidence of dengue has increased 30-fold over the last 50 years. Among all other communicable disease dengue fever is on rise globally. In India, dengue epidemics are expanding geographically, especially in rural areas³.

NEED FOR THE STUDY

Dengue is the most important mosquito borne disease affecting human after malaria. It resulted for some devastating outbreaks and accounts for nearly 50-100 million cases of dengue fever and 2-5 lakh cases of the dengue haemorrhagic fever. So, dengue fever is an expanding health problem and about two-fifth of the world population are at risk for acquiring dengue with 100-500 million cases of acute febrile illness yearly, including about 500000 cases of dengue fever and dengue haemorrhagic fever⁴. Based on prevalence rate, it was found that dengue is a new

endemic in more than 100 countries. Dengue transmission has increased considerably in the past 20years³.

Researcher observed a wide spread of dengue fever in many of the districts in Kerala. Since, it is very fruitful to give awareness programmes in the formative years of life of children, the researcher decided to impart a structured teaching programme on knowledge regarding causes and prevention of dengue fever to

school children for its effective implementation in the community.

METHODOLOGY

Quantitative approach was adopted for this study. Research design opted for this study was the pre-experimental one group pretest post-test design. The sample consist of 60 students, were selected by simple random sampling technique by using lottery method. The tool used for the study was structured knowledge questionnaire. The prepared tool was validated by 5 experts. The reliability obtained was (r =0.99). A pilot study was conducted and found feasible. The data collection for the main study was conducted in a selected High School at Mavelikara taluk, Kerala. Formal written permission was obtained from the authorities. The data were collected from 60 high school students: 20 students from 8th std, 20 students from 9th std and another 20 students from 10th std. The students were informed about the

purpose of the study and obtained consent from them. Baseline data was collected, and pre-test was conducted on the 1st day, a structured teaching programme was given to the respondents and on the 7th day, post test was conducted using the same structured knowledge questionnaire. The analysis of the obtained data was done based on the objectives and hypothesis of the study. Both descriptive and inferential statistics were used for data analysis and interpretations. Descriptive statistics were used for frequency, mean, median, standard deviation, mean percentage, and graphical representation of the data. ‘t’ test and chi square test were applied to test the hypothesis. The level of significance for testing the hypothesis was 0.05.

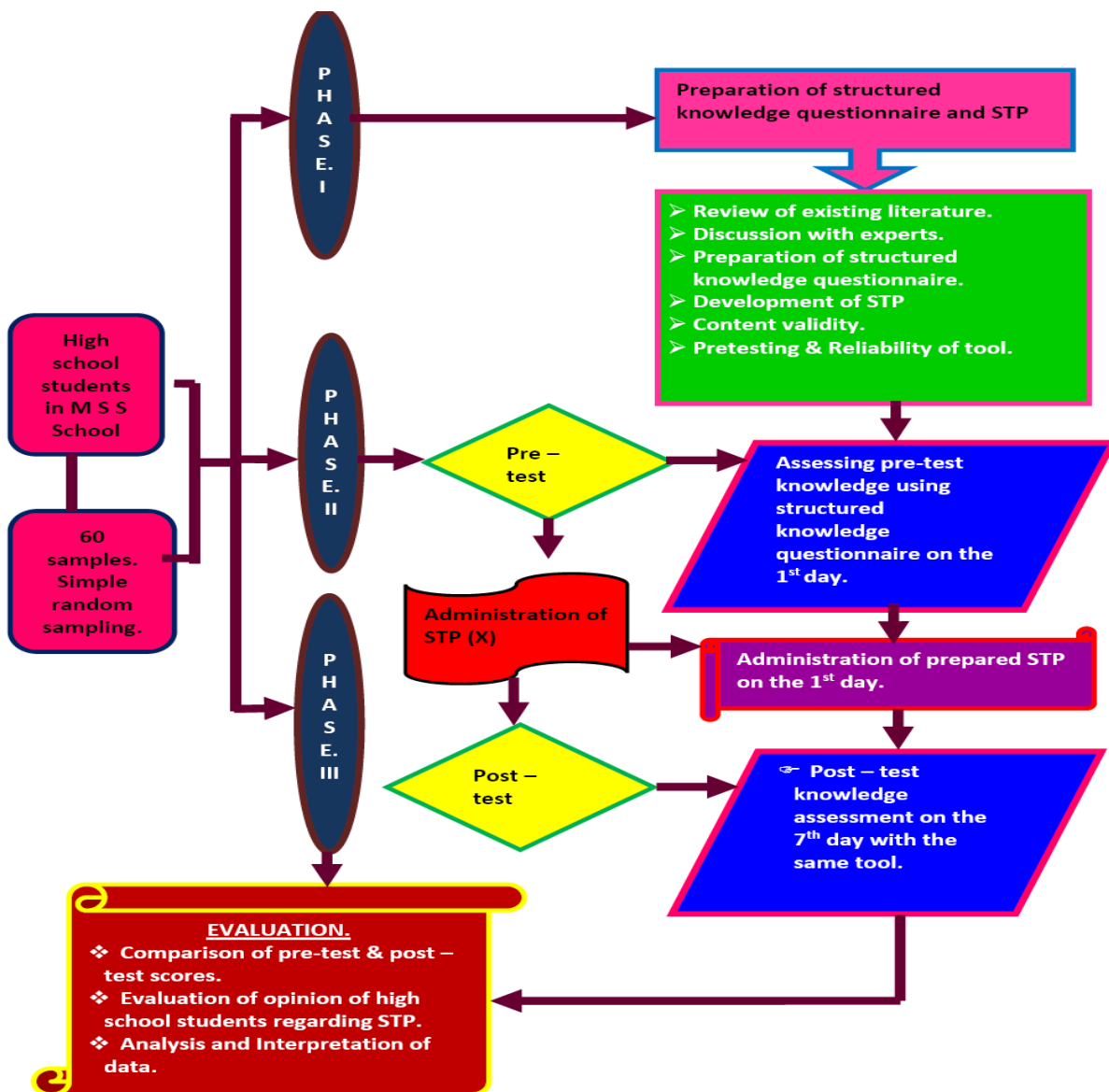


Figure 1: Schematic representation of the study

RESULTS

Section A

Sociodemographic Data

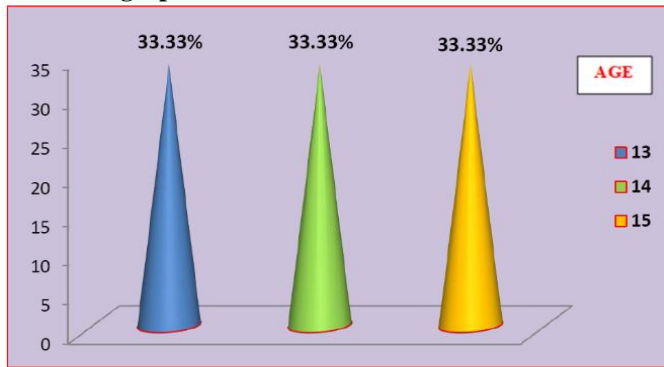


Figure 2: Distribution of sample according to age

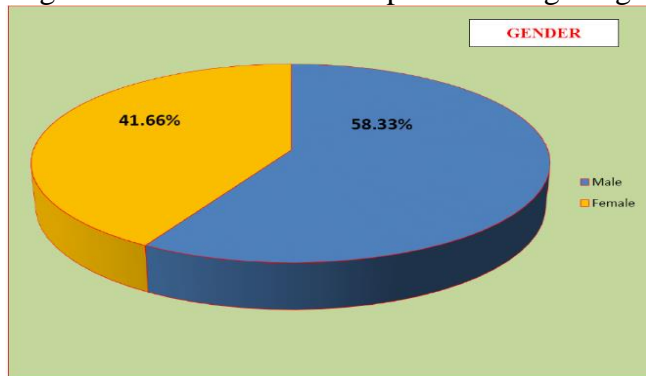


Figure 3: Distribution of samples according to gender

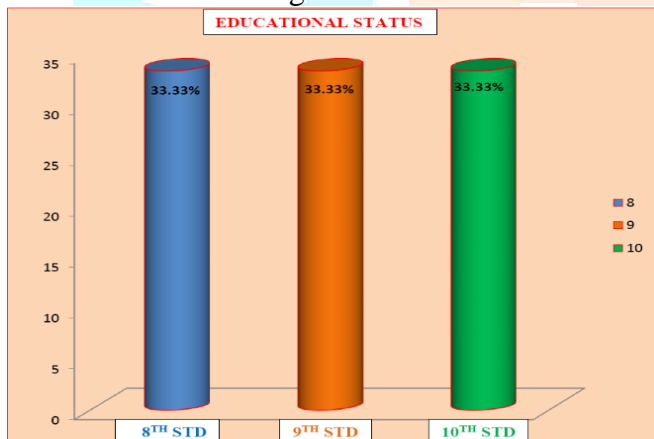


Figure 4: Distribution of samples according to their educational status.

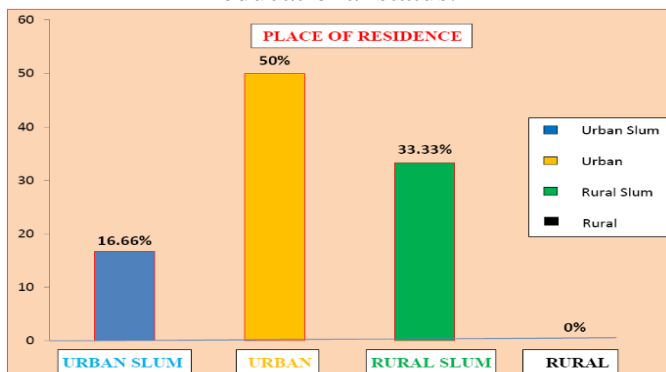


Figure 5: Distribution of samples according to their place of residence

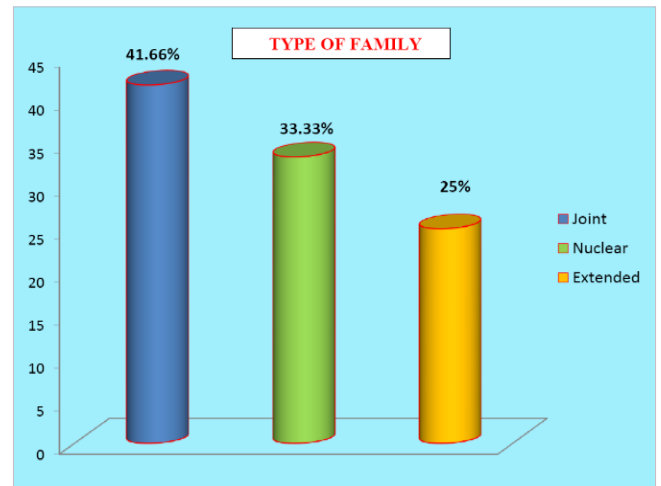


Figure 6: Distribution of samples according to their type of family

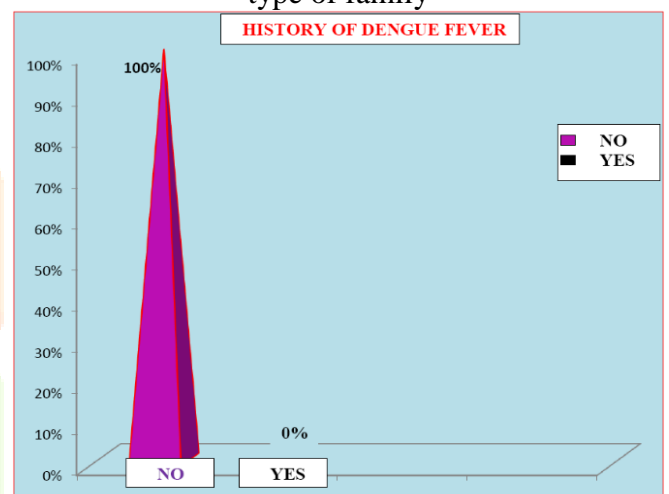


Figure 7: Distribution of samples according to the history of dengue fever.

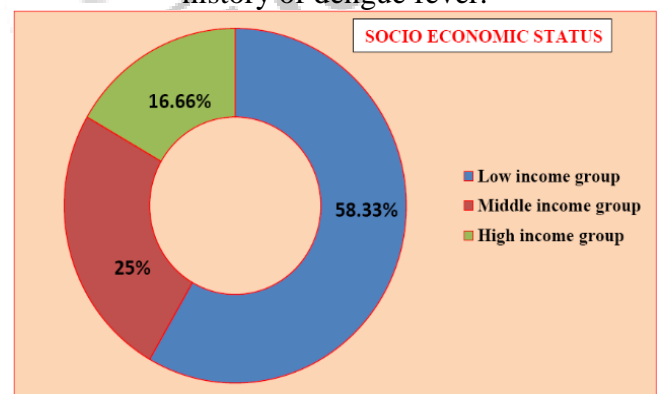


Figure 8: Distribution of samples according to the socio-economic status

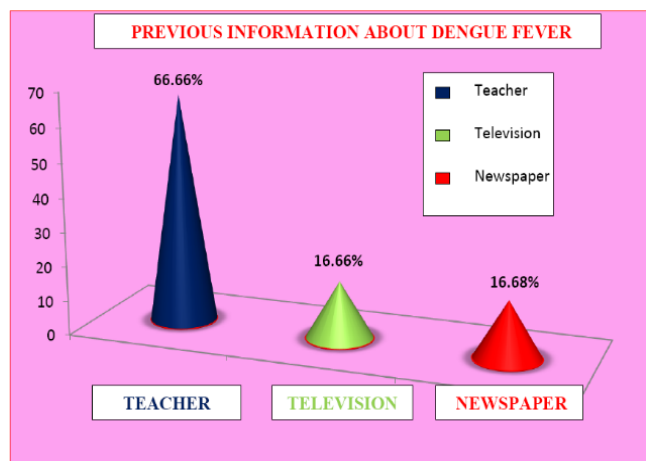


Figure 9: Distribution of samples according to previous information about dengue fever.

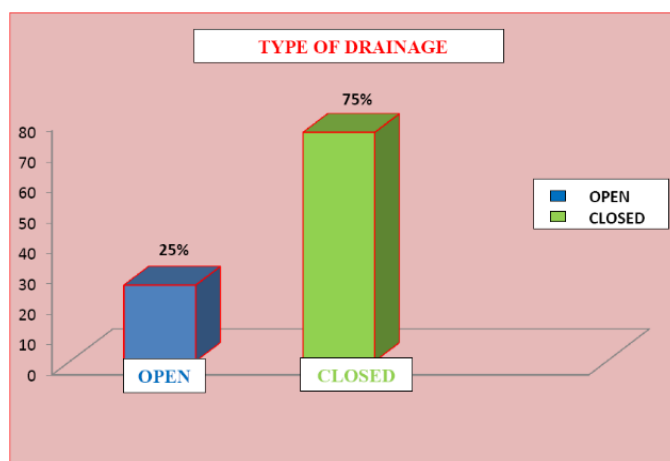


Figure 10: Distribution of samples according to type of drainage

Section B: Knowledge level of High School students regarding causes and prevention of dengue fever

Table 1: Distribution of mean, median, standard deviation, level of knowledge of high school students regarding causes and prevention of dengue fever.

VARIABLE	MEAN	MEDIAN	S. D	MEAN PERCENTAGE
Knowledge regarding causes and prevention of dengue fever	8.5	4	2.71	1.65

Inference: The table represents the knowledge of high school students regarding causes and prevention of dengue fever. The mean score percentage of knowledge regarding causes and prevention of dengue fever among high school students is 1.65.

Section C: Effectiveness of Structured Teaching Programme in terms of 't' value

Table 2: To assess the effectiveness of Structured Teaching Programme

SL NO.	CAUSES AND PREVENTION OF DENGUE FEVER	NO. OF SAMPLES	MEAN	S.D	't' VALUE	INFERENCE
1.	Pre test	60	8.5	2.71	7.61	HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT
2.	Post test	60	25.55	3.83		

Inference: Table 2 represents the effectiveness of teaching programme. After the structured teaching programme, the mean score in the pretest has increased from 8.5 to 25.55 in the post test with a difference in the standard deviation of 1.12 from the post-test and pretest.

Paired 't' test value is 7.61 with a 'p' value <0.05 shows that significant improvement in knowledge on causes and prevention of dengue fever among high school students after the structured programme.

DISCUSSION

The findings of the study had been discussed with reference to the objectives stated in the introduction and in relation with the findings of other studies. The paired 't' test computed to find the difference between mean pre-test and post-test knowledge scores of high school students was statistically significant. Hence the researcher rejected null hypothesis and research hypothesis was accepted, indicating that the self-instructional module was

effective. The findings of the study demonstrated that there was significant association between the knowledge level and demographic variables such as age ($\chi^2=0.09$), gender ($\chi^2 = 0.48$), educational status ($\chi^2=0.09$), place of residence ($\chi^2=0.73$), type of family ($\chi^2=0.73$), history of dengue fever ($\chi^2=0.03$), socio economic status ($\chi^2=1.05$), previous information about dengue fever ($\chi^2=0.7$), type of drainage ($\chi^2=0.4$).

CONCLUSION

The overall experience of conducting the study was a satisfying one. The study was a new learning experience for the investigator. The present study identified a great need for the high school students to update their knowledge regarding causes

and prevention of dengue fever. The study revealed that structured teaching programme can be used as an effective teaching strategy in improving the knowledge of high school students regarding causes and prevention of dengue fever.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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