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Study to assess the knowledge and attitude about dog bite and the disease rabies among dog catchers of Bangalore city- A cross sectional study

Mohamed Tanveer Ahmed¹, Jyothi jadhav^{2*}, Ranganath T.S³, Anil kumar⁴

Affiliation: ¹Tutor, Department of Community Medicine, Bowring and Lady Curzon Medical College and Research Institute. ²Associate professor, & ³Head of Department and professor, ⁴Medical Officer- ARC Department of Community Medicine, Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute, Bangalore..

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***Author for correspondence:** Dr. Jyothi Jadhav, Associate professor, Dept of Community Medicine, Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute, Fort, K R Road, Bengaluru- 560002. Email ID: drjyothijadhav28@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Background: Rabies, a deadly viral zoonotic disease caused by animal bite contributes to around 30,000 deaths in India annually. Veterinarians, dog-handlers, dog-catchers are some of the high risk professions for contracting the rabies disease. Hence proper knowledge about dog bite and the disease plays a significant role in prevention of rabies. **Objective:** to assess the knowledge and attitude about Dog bite and the knowledge about the Rabies among dog catchers. **Methods:** A cross sectional study was carried out in the month of April 2016 wherein 30 dog catchers employed in the NGO's of Bangalore city were included in the study. Data was collected using pre-structured questionnaire by interview method. **Results:** Awareness about Rabies was 100%. Most of the study subjects were in the age group of 21-25 years accounting for 33.3% (10). Almost 73.3% of them believed rabies was due to bite of animal and 16.7% due to scratch where 10% believed due to both. 86.7% (26) of the study subjects believed that rabies can be caused by dog bite only whereas remaining 13.3% (4) of the study subjects stated that it can be due to bite of all warm blooded mammals. Among the 30 study subjects, 20 (66.7%) had knowledge that rabies is preventable. **Conclusion:** There is a need to create awareness that rabies is a preventable disease by pre-exposure prophylaxis and importance of various modalities used in its prevention following dog bite. **Key Words:** Rabies, Dog catchers, veterinarians, High risk profession.