

## ASSESSMENT OF AWARENESS LEVEL REGARDING RABIES AMONGST SCHOOL STUDENTS IN KANPUR NAGAR

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### ABSTRACT:

#### Research Question :

*What is the awareness level of rabies amongst school students of Kanpur Nagar?*

#### Objectives :

01. To assess the awareness level of students about rabies.
2. To find out possible ways to enhance their awareness through formal and informal education strategy.

#### Study Design : Cross-sectional

**Settings :** Students of government inter college at Kanpur nagar **Participants:** 85 school students of class 9th & 11th.

#### Statistical analysis : percentage

**Result :** Occurrence of rabies in animals was accepted by 66.1%. Regarding symptoms of the disease anxiety was considered by most of the respondents followed by hydrophobia and others.

### Introduction :

Rabies is caused by the Lyssa virus which is present in saliva of rabid animals and result in fatal encephalitis. In 2003 for the first time a country wide national multicentric community based survey was done by Association for Prevention and control of Rabies in India (APCRI), which revealed-high dog man ratio, dogs and cats largely responsible for human mortality, 20% use of Rabies vaccine, high stray dog problem and only 4.3% Muncipal dog licensing. The present study was planned to cover teenage school going children regarding their awareness about rabies as they form the most susceptible group for animal and dog bite.

### Material and Method :

A cross sectional study was planned using multistage random sampling technique for respondents from government boys higher secondary schools at Kanpur In first stage two randomly selected H.S. school were taken. In second stage 10th class was selected among class 9th 10th 11th and 12th. Total 85 students were interviewed by using pre-designed and pre-tested questionnaire.

### Results and Discussion :

62.4% respondents belonged to General Caste 20% Scheduled Caste and 17.6% Other Backward Class. Only 12.9% respondents are found having pets. 72.9% of all have herd about rabies and 61.3% could answer rabid dog bite

can cause rabies. Virus as a causative agent was identified by 51.6% and Brain as a organ involved by 35.5%. 25.8% responded hundred percent case fatality rate while 14.5% did not know. 66.1% knew rabies also occurring in animals and anxiety along with hydrophobia was considered as a most common symptom in humans by majority of them. Knobel DL et al

2008, reported in their study 14% house hold surveyed having dog. The percentage of dog owning house holds was highest in rural areas and lowest in costal urban communities. Lung AK et al 2007, reported hyperexcitability, autonomic dysfunction, hydrophobia and aerophobia are characteristics of encephalitic rabies which accounts for 80% the cases.

Table-1

**AWARENESS ABOUT RABIES**

Awareness	Number	Percentage
Present	62	72.9
Absent	23	27.1
Total	85	100.00

Table-2

**CAUSES OF RABIES**

Causes	Number	Percentage
Rabid dog bite	38	61.3
Prick by nails	3	4.8
Licking of wounds	21	33.9
Total	53	100.00

Table-3

**ORGANISM RESPONSIBLE FOR RABIES**

Organism	Number	Percentage
Viruses	32	51.6
Bacteria	18	29.0
Parasites	7	11.3
Don't know	5	8.1
Total	62	100.00



Table-4  
SYMPTOMS OF RABIES (Multiple Response)

Symptoms	Number	Percentage
Anxiety	55	88.7
Hydrophobia	47	75.8
Photophobia	10	24.4
All above	7	11.3
Vomiting	4	6.5

Table-5  
SYMPTOMS OF A RABID DOG

Symptoms	Number	Percentage
Purposeless running	13	21.0
Continuous salivation	19	30.6
To catch moving objects	14	22.6
All of above	16	25.8
Total	62	100.00

#### Conclusion and Recommendation :

Majority of the students were lacking adequate knowledge about symptoms of Rabies both in man and animals. Only a few of them were having correct information about causation and causative organism of Rabies. The awareness regarding Rabies should be given to this group of children as they are most susceptible for animal bites specially stray dogs. School administration and parent should seek medical help if child is bitten. Government should increase their efforts to vaccinate stray dogs and promote municipal licensing for pet dogs.

#### References :

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