

## EFFECTIVENESS OF PEER EDUCATION INTERVENTIONS ON KNOWLEDGE REGARDING DENGUE FEVER

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### ABSTRACT

Dengue infection is generally considered to be a pediatric disease but is currently a growing problem in adults throughout the tropics. The Peer education intervention is the widely used and is generally a low cost intervention, conveying information in natural settings where target groups are located.

The statement of the study is to assess the effectiveness of Peer education interventions on knowledge regarding dengue fever among adults in selected areas, Kanchipuram District, Tamilnadu. The objectives of the study is to assess the existing knowledge on dengue fever among the adults, to evaluate the effectiveness of peer education intervention on knowledge of dengue fever among adults and to associate the post-test knowledge on dengue fever among adults with selected demographic variables.

An evaluative research approach was adopted for the study. The research design used in this study is Quasi- experimental design (one group pre-test and post-test design). The study was conducted in selected rural areas in Thiruporur. Sample of the study was 60 were selected by using random sampling technique. Data was collected from 27/09/22 to 29/10/22. Semi structured interview schedule was used to assess the knowledge on dengue fever. Five adult educators were taught about dengue fever and they in turn taught to the other adults under the supervision of the investigator. Post test was conducted on the 7th day of the intervention. The results shows that in the Pre-test all adults had inadequate knowledge about dengue fever.

Overall post-test mean knowledge score was 23.61 with standard deviation of 2.98, which was more than the pre-test mean score 7.81 with the standard deviation of 2.78. This shows that peer education was effective. There was no significant association between the post test knowledge level and the demographic variables among adults. This study shows that peer education intervention is an effective intervention among adults to promote knowledge on dengue fever.

**KEYWORDS:** Effectiveness, peer education, Dengue fever, adults

## INTRODUCTION

Dengue is a mosquito-borne disease found mainly in countries with tropical and subtropical climates. The global prevalence of dengue has grown dramatically in recent decades. Currently, about half of the world's population is at risk of infection.

Dengue virus infection is increasingly recognized as one of the world's emerging infectious diseases. About 50–100 million cases of dengue fever and 500,000 cases of Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever, resulting in around 24,000 deaths, are reported annually. Over half of the world's population resides in areas potentially at risk for dengue transmission, making dengue one of the most important human viral disease transmitted by arthropod vectors in terms of morbidity and mortality.

WHO declares dengue and dengue hemorrhagic fever to be endemic in the Asian subcontinent. Presently, dengue is endemic in 112 countries of the world. In a developing country's preventable diseases such as dengue have the potential to cause the greatest mortality. Despite the magnitude of problem, no documented evidence exists on the awareness and practices of the adult population regarding dengue fever.

To achieve the above objectives, it is recognized that massive, repetitive, intense and persistent health education campaigns through peer education is important for community awareness and mobilization are crucial. Intensive health education activities through print, electronic and inter-personal communication, media, outdoor publicity as well as an inter-sectoral collaboration with civil society, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community-based organizations (CBOs) like self-help groups, Panchayati Raj institutions and municipalities have been emphasized by the NVBDCP. Educating endemic communities has been identified as a supportive strategy towards prevention and control of dengue.

## MATERIALS & METHODS

Research methodology deals with the description of the method and different steps in collection and organization data from the investigation. It includes description of the research approach, research design, setting, population, samples and sample size, the sample technique, sampling criteria, development and description of the tool, data collection procedure and the plan or analysis in the study.

An evaluative research approach was adopted for the study. The research design used in this study is Quasi-experimental design (one group pre-test and post-test design). The study was conducted in selected rural areas in Thiruporur. Sample of the study was 60 were selected by using random sampling technique. Data was collected from 27/09/21 to 29/10/21. Semi structured interview schedule was used to assess the knowledge on dengue fever. Five adult educators were taught about dengue fever and they in turn taught to the other adults under the supervision of the investigator. Post test was conducted on the 7th day of the intervention. The results shows that in the Pre-test all adults had inadequate knowledge about dengue fever.

Overall post-test mean knowledge score was 23.61 with standard deviation of 2.98, which was more than the pre-test mean score 7.81 with the standard deviation of 2.78. This shows that peer education was effective. There was no significant association between the post test knowledge level and the demographic variables among adults. This study shows that peer education intervention is an effective intervention among adults to promote knowledge on dengue fever.

**STUDY FINDINGS:**

- Maximum no of adults were in the age group of 30-40 years 40(40%)
- Maximum Female 65 (63%)are adults.
- Majority of education status was Non formal education 45(45%)
- Majority of family are nuclear family 60(60%)
- Majority of socio economic status of the adults are Rs 5001-10000 per month 45(45%)
- Majority of person occupational status were housewife 43(43%)
- Majority of marital status were Married 48(68%)
- Overall post-test mean knowledge score was 23.61 with standard deviation of 2.98, which was more than the pre-test mean score 7.81 with the standard deviation of 2.78. This shows that peer education was effective .
- There was no significant association between the post test knowledge level and the demographic variables among adults. This study shows that peer education intervention is an effective intervention among adults to promote knowledge on dengue fever.

**DISCUSSION:**

This study helps to provide supportive evidence for implementing Peer education on Dengue fever and its complications, which is the easy and acceptable method in implementing health education to occupy major group of people, so that we can able to prevent most of the pandemic diseases, which may contribute to sustainable behavioral change.

Ensure that the government health care facilities have health care infrastructure ,service personnel and quality of health care services to the need in education the public on prevention of dengue fever. Efforts to be made to enhance the capabilities of the doctors, village health nurses and other paramedical through pre-services and in service training programmed a prevention of dengue among the public.

**CONCLUSION:**

We have conducted a research on “ to assess the effectiveness of Peer education interventions on knowledge regarding dengue fever among adults in selected areas, Kanchipuram District, Tamilnadu” India. Sample of the study was 60 were selected by using random sampling technique

Overall post-test mean knowledge score was 23.61 with standard deviation of 2.98, which was more than the pre-test mean score 7.81 with the standard deviation of 2.78. This shows that peer education was effective. There was no significant association between the post test knowledge level and the demographic variables among adults. This study shows that peer education intervention is an effective intervention among adults to promote knowledge on dengue fever

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST:**

NIL

**SOURCE OF FUNDING:**

Self funding

**ETHICAL CLEARANCE:**

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