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Knowledge and Practice of Snakebite Prevention and First Aid Among Rural Bangladeshi Population: A Cross Sectional Study

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Background

Snakebite is a neglected tropical disease, and one main factor contributing to death and morbidity. According to the WHO, approximately 2.7 million cases of envenoming and 81,000-1,38,000 fatalities have been reported, with 7,400 cases per day. globally. In Bangladesh, 244 bites per 100,000 persons occurs with estimated 7,500 deaths annually. It was said, 95% bite incidence occurred in rural areas. However, there was no community based research conducted to determine the knowledge and practice on snakebite prevention and first aid among the rural community of Bangladesh.

Objectives

This study was aimed to assess the level of knowledge and practice of snakebite awareness and utilization of first aid for snakebite in two rural communities of Bangladesh.

Methodology

This cross-sectional study was carried out in two rural community, Shibganj of Chapainawabganj and Kalapara of Patukhali district, Bangladesh.

Sampling strategy

- Both the study sites were selected purposively.
- Two hundred and fifty primary sampling units were randomly chosen from both study areas.
- A total twelve household had been surveyed following systemic random sampling technique.
- An overall 2954 households has been selected for the interview.



Knowledge about first aid methods

- In this study, 77.7 % participants said using tourniquet as first aid measure.
- 45.4% study subjects believed visiting traditional healers as proper measure while 62.4% respondents mentioned visiting health facility after snakebite incidence.
- Respondents also mentioned some harmful practices likes incision at bite site, applying ashes/chicken shit, suck out the blood from bite site, casting mantra by traditional healer

Conclusion

- Poor knowledge and practice measures were found among rural people.
- A gap was evident among knowledge and practice measures on snakebite prevention.

Reference

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