

SUMMARY

An educational intervention on health knowledge and practices was introduced to a group of parents through their school going children in years 7 and 8. The knowledge and practices of the parents were assessed before and after intervention, in comparison with a control group where no education intervention was carried out.

The experimental and control groups did not differ significantly in their socio-economic characteristics and in availability of basic sanitary facilities.

The students benefited by the educational intervention as shown by the improvement of their knowledge and practices when measured after intervention. There was no significant improvement seen in the knowledge in the experimental group of parents though some aspects of practices had improved.

The improvement of knowledge in the control group of parents observed in the post-intervention assessment was attributed to the educational programme carried out the local authority in the area of residence of the control group in order to educate the people of the area on cholera prevention. This was implemented few weeks before post-intervention assessment following an outbreak of cholera in Jaffna.