

Abstract

Introduction

Dengue has been spreading throughout the country on a rapid scale. Most of the Dengue cases were reported among the school children. Therefore, a proper intervention should be placed in order to minimize the Dengue spread scale. This study was aimed to assess the effectiveness of a such program for schools especially for the Teachers. Hence, the focus of this study aimed the knowledge enhancement of school Teachers that could force the students of minimizing the Dengue spread.

Objectives

The prime objective of this intervention to improve the preparedness to prevent and control Dengue among Teachers in a selected school in Wattala MOH area and Karunaratne Buddhist College was selected.

Methodology

A self-administrated Questionnaire was designed and used to assess the Basic knowledge, Breeding site identification, Early detection, Preventive measures, and Knowledge dissemination. The study had two parts in general that captured the pre-intervention and post intervention. Having collaborated with 96 Teachers of Karunaratna Buddhist College (Both Primary and Post Primary Schools), Wattala, the intervention was conducted. The collected data was entered to spreadsheet application and statistical analysis performed using SPSS in which is an instrumental software that designed for such analysis.

Results

The study includes 96 Teachers and with regard to Basic knowledge of them shows a significant improvement from 89.3% (pre intervention) to 95.0% (Post intervention). The knowledge of breeding site identification has increased from 69.8% to 82.8%, with specific focus on areas like Water storage and Sewage tanks. Awareness of Early detection has risen from 45.8% to 65.2%, emphasizing crucial symptoms. The knowledge of preventive measures such as including the use of natural repellents,

improved from 67.1% to 79.0%. Engaging discussions with students and Knowledge dissemination also increased from 90.3% to 94.1%.

In Feedback, it is revealed that 90.6% of participants reported an enhanced understanding of Dengue control measures. Further a significant majority (86.4%) of the sample indicated that the Dengue prevention workshop had effectively addressed their concerns. It was found that 72.9% of Teachers contributed positively for the program provided with practical strategies by emphasizing its effectiveness.

Recommendations

It is recommended that incorporating Dengue prevention and continuous teacher training with formalizing Dengue committees in the educational curriculum by the study. Further it is identified that implementing of regular prevention programs, such as organized activities with the involvement of students and community engagement for collective responsibility that identifying breeding sites that helps the prevention.

Conclusion

It is observed that the intervention had successfully enhanced Teachers' preparedness in Dengue prevention. If the recommendations are implemented, the Dengue epidemic could be minimized in Sri Lanka. Further research is suggested to refine interventions and overcome challenges encountered during this study.

Key words

Dengue, Community Engagement, School Based Programs, Early Detection, Breeding Site Identification, Practical Strategies.