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S Shairabanu
B.Sc Nursing, Narayana
College of Nursing, Nellore,
Andhra Pradesh, 524003,
India

Dr. Indira S
Department of Medical and
surgical Nursing, Narayana
College of Nursing, Nellore,
Andhra Pradesh, 524003,
India

B Kavitha
Department of Community
Health Nursing, Narayana
College of Nursing, Nellore,
Andhra Pradesh, 524003,
India

Correspondence
S Shairabanu
B.Sc Nursing, Narayana
College of Nursing, Nellore,
Andhra Pradesh, 524003,
India

Knowledge on leptospirosis among farmers

S Shairabanu, Dr. Indira S and B Kavitha

Abstract

Background: Leptospirosis is essentially animal infection by serotypes of *Leptospira* (spirochetes) and transmitted to man under certain environmental conditions. At present 23 serogroups and serovars have been recognized from various part of the world. It has high prevalence in warm humid tropical countries the disease manifestations are many varied, ranging in severity from a mild febrile illness to severe and sometimes fatal disease.

Aim: To assess the level of knowledge regarding leptospirosis among farmers

Material and method: The study was conducted by using descriptive research design, the samples are selected through Non probability convenient sampling technique.

Statistical Analysis Used: The collected data was organized, tabulated, analyzed and interpreted by using descriptive and inferential statistics based on the objectives of the study.

Results and Conclusion: The study result shows that with regard to level of knowledge regarding leptospirosis among farmers. 1(3.3%) had A grade, 7(23.3%) had B+ grade, 2(6.7%) had B grade, 6(20%) had C grade and 14(46.7%) D had grade knowledge.

Keywords: Knowledge, leptospirosis, farmers

Introduction

Leptospirosis is severe and contagious bacterial infection it is caused by exposure to several types of the *Leptospira* bacteria which can be found in freshwater that has been contaminated by animal urine. The alternative names of leptospirosis are Icthemorrhagic fever, Swine herd's disease, Ricefield fever, Cane-cutter fever, Swap fever, Mud fever, hemorrhagic Jaundice, Stuttgart disease, Canicola fever and farmer, disease in India. Leptospirosis is essentially animal infection by serotypes of *Leptospira* (spirochetes) and transmitted to man under certain environmental conditions. At present 23 serogroups and serovars have been recognized from various part of the world. It has high prevalence in warm humid tropical countries the disease manifestations are many varied, ranging in severity from a mild febrile illness to severe and sometimes fatal disease^[1].

The some sources of human infections are rats, dogs, cats, live stock and wild animals. Once infected animal excrete spirochetes in the urine for an extended period of time. *Leptospire* survival outside the human host is dependent on the moist content, temperature and PH of the soil and water into which they are shed. The majority of human cases worldwide result from occupational exposure to rat contaminated water or soil. Occupational groups with a high incidence of Leptospirosis include agriculture workers, person who live or work in rat infested environment individuals involved in animal and husbandry or veterinary medicine and laboratory workers^[2].

Leptospirosis is a zoonotic spirocheteal disease of global importance. The disease continuous to have a major impact on people living at urban and rural areas in developing countries. Leptospirosis is under reported due to lack of clinical suspicion and barriers to diagnostic capacity. Most commonly human infection with pathogenic *Leptospira* results in asymptomatic seroconversion and less commonly in a symptomatic illness^[3].

India is a developing country about 72-74% of the people live in village areas. The main sources of income is agriculture, several millions of them are either marginal farmers or work on hired labour and struggle for bare necessities of life it is said that nearly 11% of the total wild animal population is in India. It is usually observed that animals are house under the same roof as human being. Therefore all possibilities exist for the various disease to be transmitted by the animals to man^[4].

Objectives of the study

- To assess the level of knowledge regarding leptospirosis among farmers
- To find out the association between level of knowledge of farmers regarding leptospirosis with selected socio demographic variables.

Detailed research plan

Research approach: Quantitative research approach was utilized in determine the study to assess the knowledge regarding leptospirosis.

Research design: Descriptive design was adopted for the present study.

Sample: Farmers those who are living in selected villages at Nellore.

Sampling technique: Non probability Convenience sampling technique was used to assess the knowledge on leptospirosis.

Sample size: Sample size for the present includes 30 farmers was who are residing in selected village at Nellore.

Result and conclusion

Table 1: Frequency and percentage distribution of level of knowledge regarding leptospirosis among farmers. (N=30)

Source of information	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
A	1	3.3
B+	7	23.3
B	2	6.7
C	6	20
D	14	46.7
Total	30	100

Table-1: Shows that with regard to level of knowledge regarding leptospirosis among farmers. 1(3.3%) had A grade, 7(23.3%) had B+ grade, 2(6.7%) had B grade, 6(20%) had C grade and 14(46.7%) D had grade knowledge.

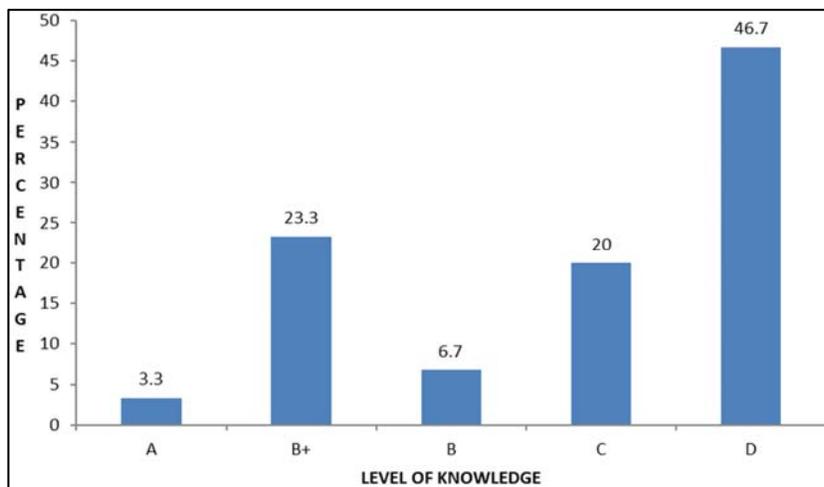


Fig 1: Percentage distribution of level of knowledge regarding leptospirosis among farmers.

Table 2: Mean and standard deviation of level of knowledge regarding leptospirosis among farmers.

Sample	Mean	Standard deviation
Farmers	11.6	3.7

Table-2: Shows that mean and standard deviation of level of knowledge of regarding Leptospirosis among farmers with mean of 11.6 with standard deviation 3.7.

Association between the level of knowledge regarding leptospirosis among farmers with their selected socio demographic variables

There is an association between the level of knowledge regarding Leptospirosis with their selected socio demographic variables. There is no significant association with their demographic variables like age, sex, religion, family history of Leptospirosis and source of information.

Nursing implications

Nursing practice: The assessment of knowledge level will help the farmers to bring awareness about leptospirosis for farmers. The present study will helps to give knowledge for the farmers regarding leptospirosis.

Nursing education: It is very important to provide the knowledge for farmers regarding Leptospirosis. The farmers were had to improve their knowledge regarding Leptospirosis.

Nursing administration: The Community health nursing in service education should be provided to the various levels to make them about knowledge of Leptospirosis. The farmers had to update the farmer’s knowledge about current practice of through the Leptospirosis. This will enable to them to provide education effectively holistic approach.

Nursing research: Through this study can identify the knowledge level of farmers. Through the nursing research awareness programs and educational programs can be conducted for the farmers to improve knowledge level.

Conclusion

The study is conducted in selected villages at Nellore. The findings of the study related that among 30 farmers shows that with regard to level of knowledge regarding leptospirosis among farmers. 1(3.3%) had A grade,

7(23.3%) had B+ grade, 2(6.7%) had B grade, 6(20%) had C grade and 14(46.7%) D had grade knowledge.

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