



A Comparative Study to Assess the Prevalence and Behaviour Regarding Covid -19 Among Public at Selected Rural and Urban Areas, Khammam, Telangana

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Abstract

A comparative study to assess the prevalence and behaviour regarding Covid -19 among public at selected rural and urban areas, Khammam, Telangana. The objectives were to assess the prevalence of Covid-19 among rural and urban public, to assess the behaviour regarding Covid-19 among rural and urban public. To develop and distribute an information booklet on appropriate behavior regarding Covid- 19 to rural and urban public.

Methodology: *A quantitative survey approach and Cross-sectional comparative descriptive design was used for this study. The study was conducted at rural public of Raghunadhapalem and urban public of Sambani nagar, it is one of the urban areas of Khammam, Telangana. The sample comprised of 200 (100 from Urban and 100 from Rural) and sample was selected by Non-Probability Convenience Sampling Technique. The data was collected by interview technique and tool use for the study was structured Interview schedule.*

Results: *The results revealed that 200 (100 from urban and 100 from rural) Period prevalence was calculated according to the census available at sub centre on 30th August 2021. The period prevalence in urban public at Sambani nagar was 4.5 and in rural public at Raghunadhapalem was 4. The period prevalence was almost same at both the places. When it comes to appropriate behaviour for Covid-19 pandemic situation the urban public are following the preventive measures 100% when compared to the rural public which is only 43.3%.*

Conclusion: *The study concludes that the period prevalence is almost same with slight difference in urban and rural public. When it comes to appropriate behaviour for Covid-19 pandemic situation the urban public are following the preventive measures when compared to the rural public. So the rural public need to be given more awareness programs regarding appropriate behavior to prevent spread of Covid-19.*

Keywords: Covid-19; Prevalence; Behaviour; Urban area; Rural area

Introduction

“Behaviour is always greater than knowledge because in life there are many situations where knowledge fails, but behaviour can still handle” (Amal SR Nair).

The world is being challenged by the Covid-19 outbreak that resulted in a universal concern and economic hardship. It is a leading public health emergency across the globe. In general and developing countries in particular strengthening good preventive behaviour is the best way to tackle such pandemics.

The Covid -19 pandemic has impacted nurses and the field of nursing profoundly in terms of direct care capabilities, nursing practice issues and health care systems. However, the challenge of formulating nursing professional identity has increased for nurses and nursing students during the Covid -19 pandemic. Across the World more than 7 billion people are at risk due to Covid -19. This affects health care providers especially nurses fighting on the frontlines to safeguard the lives of everyone affected. Nurses have critical role and responsibilities during the Covid -19 pandemic. They are actively involved in care of patients and community with high quality services irrespective of their infectious condition.

Need for the Study

As it is a communicable disease, and the incidence and prevalence rates are high the nurses need to take precautions themselves and bring awareness in the public about appropriate behaviour. The nurses are the vital link between the public and health sector, and it is their responsibility to see their behaviour whether it is appropriate or not for this pandemic situation to prevent spread of Covid-19. So, the investigator felt the need to see what the prevalence in both the areas is and how far the rural and urban public are following the appropriate behaviour in preventing spread of the disease.

Statement of the Problem

A comparative study to assess the prevalence and behaviour regarding Covid -19 among public at selected rural and urban areas, Khammam, Telangana.

Objectives of the Study

- To assess the prevalence of Covid-19 among rural and urban public.
- To assess the behaviour regarding Covid-19 among rural and urban public.
- To develop and distribute an information booklet on appropriate behavior regarding Covid- 19 to rural and urban public.

Review of Literature

A community based cross-sectional study was conducted in Qellam wallaga zone, Oromia, Ethiopia, with a sample size of 634 participants by using multi-stage sampling technique. Data was collected by interview and analyzed by using SPSS version 23.0. Only 10.7% participants showed good preventive behaviour for Covid-19. The majority of them 84.7% perceived that the disease is very dangerous and 71 %

of them believe that they are at high risk. More than 17% of the respondents have sufficient knowledge. Respondents with sufficient knowledge about Covid -19 were about 2 times more likely exercise good preventive behaviour compared to those with insufficient knowledge. The urban residents were 3.3 times more than that of rural residents to practice good preventive behaviour. Adoptions of Covid-19 preventive behaviour in the study population is very low. Due emphasis should be given to rural residents. Risk communication activities should be strengthened through effective community engagement to slow down and stop the transmission of the disease in the community.

A study was conducted in India about Covid-19 appropriate behaviour. The Covid - 19 pandemic gave an opportunity to adopt many appropriate changes in the behaviour of the people in India. Indian people have passed through the "Pre-Contemplation" to "Action" stage of behaviour changes during different phases of this pandemic. Frequent hand hygiene, maintaining physical distancing, use of face mask, cough etiquettes, avoid greetings through physical contacts, fear in spitting and urination at public places, refrain from gatherings and avoiding outside food are some of the examples of those appropriate behaviours which were enforced or learnt during the Covid pandemic. The first -ever lifetime experience of unbelievable rejuvenating nature because of lack of human play taught people to appreciate nature. Although the current focus is on responding to the pandemic and on coping with its immediate effects, yet this is the time when there is an urgent need to create an enabling environment to support and sustain these COVID-19 appropriate behaviours (maintenance stage) to reap the maximum benefits out of them. Sustaining these appropriate behaviours is also important considering the bimodal distribution of the Covid-19 and possibility of advent of the second wave of Covid-19 in near future.

Methodology

Research Approach: Survey approach

Research design: Cross sectional comparative descriptive design

Sample Size: 200 (100 from Urban and 100 from Rural)

Sampling Technique: Non Probability Convenience Sampling Technique.

Setting of the Study: The study was conducted at rural public of Raghunadhapalem and urban public of

Sambani Nagar, it is one of the urban areas of Khammam, Telangana.

Pilot Study: The pilot study was conducted on 10 percent of sample in urban area and rural area to find

out the reliability of the tool and feasibility of the study. The tool was found reliable and feasible. The reliability of the tool was 0.99.

Findings and Interpretation

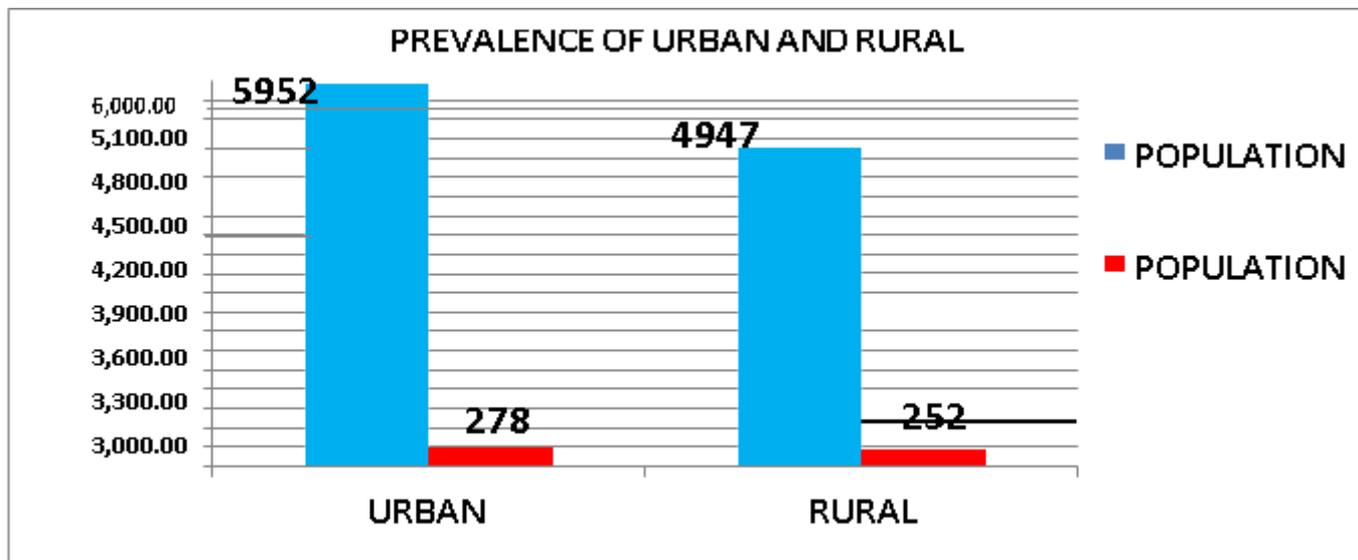


Figure 1: Prevalence of urban at Sambani Nagar and rural public atraghunadhapalem regarding Covid-19.

The above bar diagram is showing Number of populations at risk and number of Covid-19 cases affected from 11th March 2020 to till date.

Period prevalence was calculated according to the census available at sub centre on 30th August 2021. The

period prevalence in urban public at Sambani Nagar was 4.5 and in rural public at Raghunadhapalem was 4. The period prevalence was almost same at both the places (n=200).

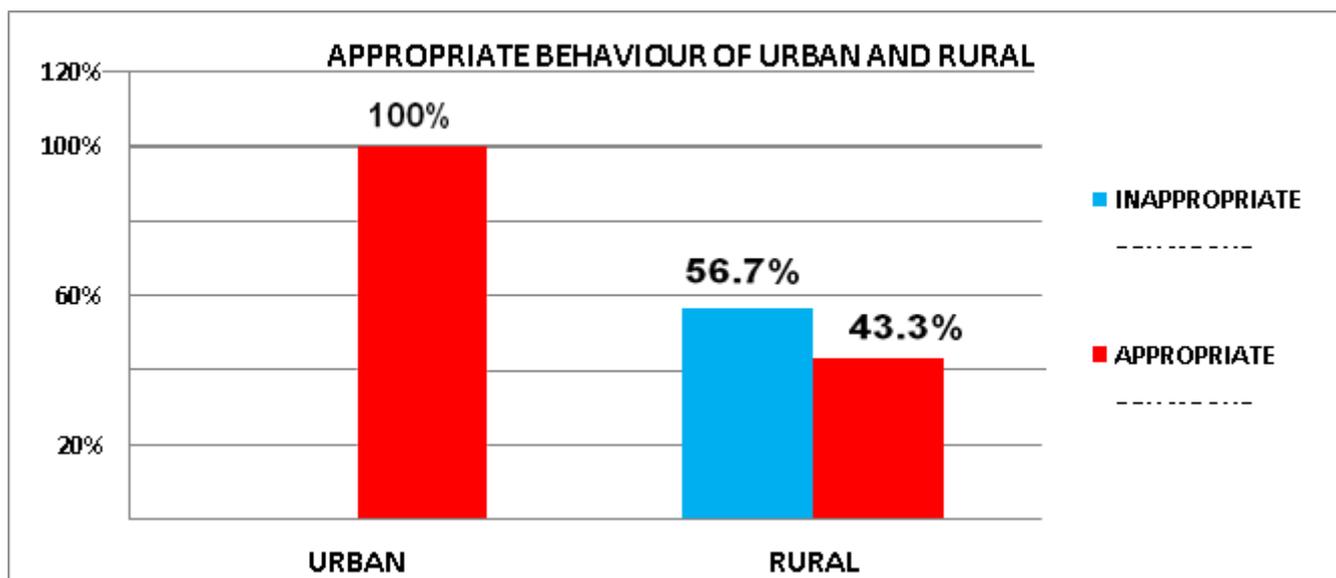


Figure 2: Percentage distribution of appropriate behaviour of urban at Sambani Nagar and rural public at Raghunadhapalem regarding Covid -19.

The above bar diagram shows that urban public at Sambani Nagar has appropriate behaviour when compared to the rural public at Raghunadhapalem.

Recommendations

- The similar study can be conducted on large sample for generalizations.
- The similar study can be conducted at various settings.
- The similar study can be conducted by using pre-experimental design.

Implications

Nursing Service

Regular in-service education needs to be conducted to all the staff periodically. In the community all the anganwadi teachers, schoolteachers, Dwarka groups and any other groups formal or informal groups need to be educated regarding appropriate behaviour of covid-19 frequently.

Nursing Education

Covid -19 should be included in nursing curriculum to educate all the nursing students. Authors of the books need to be given an opportunity to write the details of the Covid-19 disease, so that the teachers and students can refer the books to follow and disseminate the knowledge to the future generations.

Nursing Research

The community health nurse and hospital based nurse need to see the importance of research in the area of Covid-19 and to fill the gaps in the knowledge to reinforce the appropriate behaviour. In this area students and staff can be encouraged to do the research on knowledge, attitude of the people, professional identity and the difficulties the nurses are facing during the pandemic of Covid.

Nursing Administration

The leaders in the nursing administration need to realize the importance of continuing appropriate behaviour in all the categories of the hospital. They need to conduct classes, arrange meetings to different categories in the hospital regularly to reinforce the amendments regarding Covid-19. They need to give orientation to all the nurses regarding PPE kits, sanitizers, mask, gloves available and supervise them to wear and perform care to the unaffected individual.

Conclusion

The present study concludes that the period prevalence is almost same with slight difference in urban and rural public. When it comes to appropriate behaviour for Covid-19 pandemic situation the urban public are following the preventive measures 100% when compared to the rural public which is only 43.3%. So the rural public need to be given more awareness programs regarding appropriate behavior in this Pandemic situation to prevent spread of Covid-19.

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