



PERCEPTION OF AGRICULTURE COLLEGE STUDENTS REGARDING FIRST AID FOR ANIMAL EXPOSURE, A CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY DONE IN MANDYA

Community Medicine

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ABSTRACT

Background: Since most people lack professional first aid training, they may not have the necessary expertise to handle an emergency without a hospital setting at the scene of the accident or emergency. This could result in the failure to use critical time to save lives. **Aim:** To assess the knowledge of first aid about animal bite among students of agriculture college in Mandya district of South India. **Methodology:** This cross-sectional study was conducted among 171 agricultural students aged between 18-21 years, who gave informed consent to participate in the study. They were interviewed using a semi-structured proforma, and descriptive statistics like proportion and frequencies were used. **Result:** The study included students aged 18-21. During a dog bite 64.3% supported taking the rabies vaccine, only 34.5% knew to wash the wound, and 43.2% believed in applying an irritant. For bee stings, 58.4% recommended antipyretics, 41.5% antihistamines, 31.5% suggested removing the stinger, and 25.1% favoured irritants. Regarding snake bites, 77.1% endorsed anti-venom, 60.2% knew to avoid a tourniquet, but 34.5% thought one should be applied above the wound. **Conclusion:** Awareness of vaccination was high, knowledge of proper immediate first aid, such as wound washing or immobilization during a snake bite, was low. Misconceptions about applying irritants were common across all types of animal exposure.

KEYWORDS

First aid skills, Knowledge, Agricultural students.

INTRODUCTION

The goals of first aid are to maintain life, stop the deterioration of a person's health, promote recovery, and assist in ensuring secure transportation towards the closest medical facility. A considerable risk of infection exists with any animal bite that tears the skin; thus, it calls for special care.¹ The type and health of the animal species, the size and condition of the person bitten, and availability to adequate medical attention all affect how an animal bite affects a person's health.²

Early and appropriate management of such emergencies and injuries can help to reduce morbidity and mortality rate.³ Properly administered first aid can mean the difference between life and death, rapid versus prolonged recovery and temporary versus permanent disability.⁴ Providing of knowledge and training about correct management of injuries and illnesses to students is important for two causes; first, it will improve their health knowledge which in turn may lead to healthy and save life. Second, they may be used as a change agent in the family and community.⁵ So the school should prepare students to meet these needs which including; assistance to victims, quickly emergency response, care for their own safety, and the safety of victims.⁶

In this study, the perception regarding first aid of the most common animal exposure that an agriculturist face was taken such as first aid during a dog bite, bee sting and snake bite

Objective

To assess the knowledge of first aid about animal bite among students of agriculture college in Mandya district of South India

METHODOLOGY

Study Design: Cross-section study

Study Population: Agricultural college students who attend College of Agriculture, Mandya

Sample Size: 171 students aged between 18-21 years.

Sampling Technique: Complete enumeration.

Data Collection: Permission was taken from the college headmaster to conduct the survey and those students who gave informed consent to participate in the study were interviewed using a semi-structured proforma which contained sociodemographic details and Do's and Don'ts while giving 1st aid to a particular event

Statistical Analysis

Data was entered in Excel and analysed using SPSS and descriptive statistics like proportion and frequencies were used

RESULTS

The study population mainly comprised students aged 18-21 years. The study participant mainly comprised of women with 59.06% and men accounting for 40.93% of the group. In association to dog bite figure 01 depicts that most of the participants have agreed on taking rabies vaccine (64.3%) during a dog bite but only quite a few knew that wound wash (34.5%) had to be done immediately after an animal bite, also 43.2% of study participants believed that some form of irritant had to be applied after an animal bite.

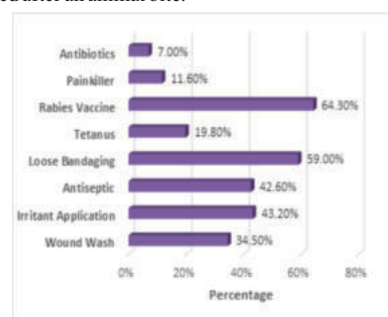


Figure 1: Distribution Of Study Participants Based On Knowledge Regarding 1st Aid For Dog Bite.

In regards to 1st aid for bee sting 58.4% and 41.5% of study participants believed in consuming antipyretic and antihistamine respectively. 31.5% of them believed in removing the stinger and 25.1% thought some form of irritant application is the cure as shown in figure 02.

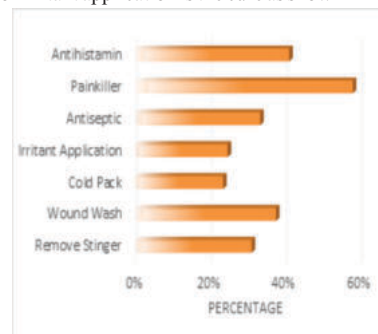


Figure 2: Distribution Of Study Participants Based On Knowledge Regarding 1st Aid For Bee Sting.

With respect to 1st aid for a snake bite 77.1% of study participants believed in taking anti-snake venom. Also 60.2% knew tourniquet shouldn't be applied but 34.5% of them believed that they should tie a tourniquet just above the wound site as shown in figure 03.

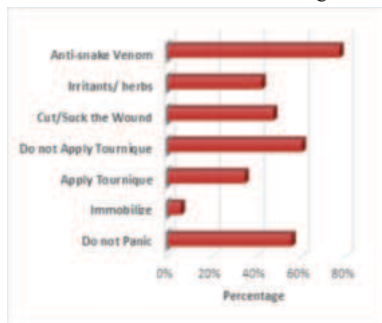


Figure 3: Distribution Of Study Participants Based On Knowledge Regarding 1st Aid For Snake Bite.

CONCLUSION

There is a general lacuna among knowledge regarding 1st Aid during animal exposure. The right perception regarding vaccination was high but the immediate 1st aid to be given such as wound wash or immobilization during snake bite were low, also the wrong perception about irritant application was high in all types of animal exposure.

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