



902/A/Poster

**Knowledge, attitude and practices (KAPs) based risk factors for dengue in the Gampola Medical Officer Health area, Kandy District, Sri Lanka**

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Dengue is a major health issue in Sri Lanka, with 29,777 cases reported in 2015. Knowledge, attitude and practices (KAPs) directly influence the susceptibility of a population to dengue. Therefore, the current study was conducted to identify the potential risk factors for dengue in terms of KAPs in the Gampola Medical Officer of Health (MOH) area in the Kandy District.

A descriptive study was conducted from randomly selected dengue cases reported (n=200) and non-reported (n=200) households. Information relevant to KAPs were collected via a structured questionnaire. Paired-Chi square test was used for data analysis.

A majority of the healthy population had a high awareness level on dengue (47.5%, n=95) in contrast to the dengue infected population. Both populations were willing to further improve their awareness on dengue, especially in terms of controlling vector breeding sites (p<0.05). High proportion of the healthy households were practicing source separation of waste, home gardening and composting than the infected population (p<0.05). Cleanliness of households of both groups remained high (94.5%, n=187 and 92.5%, n=185, respectively). Waste collection by the Municipal Council (MC) and open burning were observed as the predominant practices in both groups, while the frequency of waste disposal by the residents remained <7 days. Use of bed-nets, mosquito coils and creating smoke remained as preferred methods for prevention of mosquito bites in both populations. When considering the community participation in controlling dengue, 87.0% (n=174) of the healthy population were willing to extend their support in contrast to the 64.0% (n=128) of the dengue infected group (p<0.05). Significant variations in awareness on dengue, solid waste disposal methods, practicing of source separation of waste, home-gardening/ composting, prevention methods of mosquito bites and community participation were noted among the two populations (p<0.05). Therefore, above aspects could be recognized as key areas to focus on by the relevant authorities to facilitate community based dengue vector management in the Gampola MOH area in the Kandy District.

Keywords: Dengue, Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAPs)

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