

Assessment of awareness about HCV mode of transmission and implementation rate of preventive measures in different literacy groups in Bahawalpur, Punjab, Pakistan

Palwasha khan, Narjis batool, Mehvish zulfiqar, Rabail khaliq, and Khurram waqas

Department of pharmacy,
Islamia University Bahawalpur, Pakistan

Copyright © 2014 ISSR Journals. This is an open access article distributed under the **Creative Commons Attribution License**, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

ABSTRACT: Our project comprises of assessment of awareness about HCV modes of transmission & implementation rate of preventive measures to prevent hepatitis C in different literacy groups. We want to find out the reason of spread of hepatitis C either there is lack of awareness or there is lack of follow up of precautionary measures. In this regard, we designed a questionnaire according to WHO guidelines & got it filled from different education levels. We also gave the awareness about the disease to the general public. After the survey we analyzed & calculated the percentages of awareness about Hepatitis C & follow up rates of precautionary measures in the individuals. We assessed that the literacy group of primary level had lowest awareness with lowest follow up rates. And the literacy group of under-graduate level had maximum awareness & follow up. Thus there is a need of awareness about the disease at primary level in order to minimize the risk of getting Hepatitis C as the incidence of Hepatitis is increasing due to negligence in implementation of preventive measures.

KEYWORDS: mode of transmission, Implementation, follow up, modes of transmission, implementation rate.

1 INTRODUCTION

Hepatitis C is an infection caused by virus. It causes the inflammation of liver which is the vital organ of body. Causative agent is Hepatitis C virus which is RNA virus (1). In Pakistan HCV is spreading frequently particularly by sharing needles & transfusion of infected blood mostly. Approximately 10 Million people have been infected with HC The most of patients have acquired their infection by unsafe injections, reuse of syringes and needles and community barber shops used for face and armpit shaving (2). Problem may be due to lack of awareness or lack of follow up of precautionary measures. Our main focus in the project is to assess the awareness & follow up of the disease by the educated persons of different academic levels according to WHO guidelines so effective efforts should be made to minimize chances of spread of disease.

2 OBJECTIVES OF STUDY

- To find the rate of awareness in different educational groups.
- To find the rate of follow up of precautionary measures to avoid hepatitis C.
- To find that very group which lacks both or one of these two aspects.
- To find difference between awareness and follow up in these groups.

3 MATERIAL & METHOD

In this first of all we made six literacy groups. I.e. Primary level, Middle level, SSC level, HSC level, Undergraduate level, Postgraduate level.

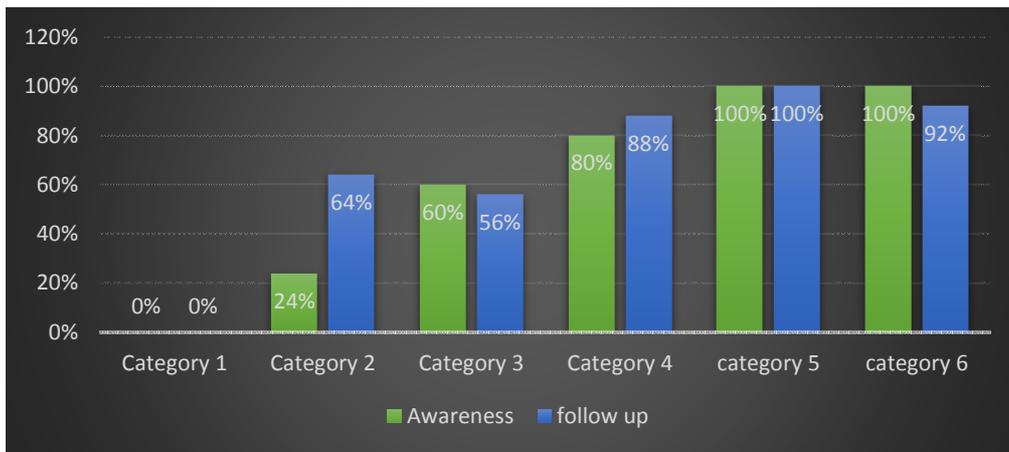
Then we designed a questionnaire to assess the awareness and follow up rates about modes of transmission of HCV among these groups. Data was collected, evaluation was done and finally result was made in the form of table and graph.

4 RESULT

After evaluation of data following results are as follow:

Table 1: shows awareness and follow up percentage in different age groups.

Literacy group	Awareness percentage	Follow up percentage
Primary level	0%	0%
Middle level	24%	64%
SSC level	60%	56%
HSC level	80%	88%
Undergraduate level	100%	100%
Postgraduate level	100%	92%



Graph: Shows percentage of awareness and follow up in different literacy groups.

Table 2: shows lack of awareness and lack of follow up percentage in different literacy groups.

Literacy groups	Lack of Awareness	Lack of Follow up
Primary level	100%	100%
Middle level	76%	36%
SSC level	40%	44%
HSC level	20%	12%
Undergraduate level	0%	0%
Postgraduate level	0%	8%

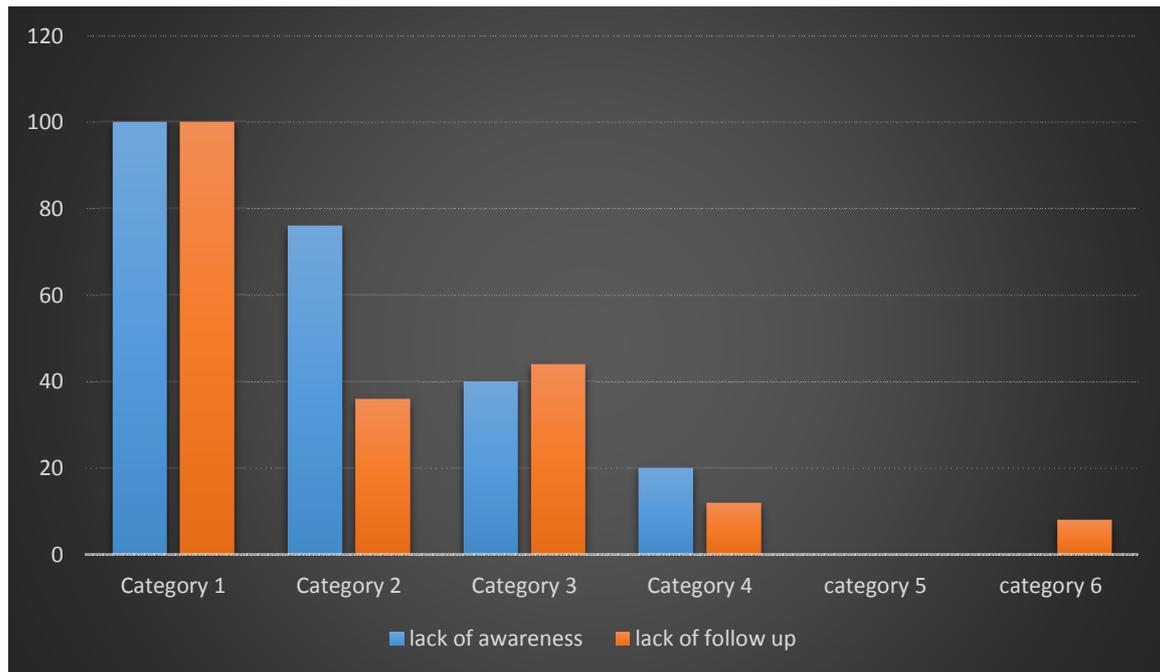


Fig2: lack of awareness and lack of follow up percentage in different categories of literacy groups.

5 DISCUSSION

Hepatitis C is a common problem of our community which is spreading day by day due to several factors like blood transfusion, unsterilized syringes & their reuse. Most of the people don't follow precautionary measures & don't take care of hygienic conditions.

Even most of our qualified population know about HCV but still they don't follow precautionary measures and behave like illiterate persons. So our main aim behind this project was to aware the general public and to assess that whether the persons who are educated and have knowledge about HCV; follow these precautions or not.

For this we distributed pamphlets in general public & filled Performa's from six different literacy groups & from those we calculated the %ages of awareness & follow up.

6 CONCLUSION

From results it was concluded that primary level had no awareness and follow up. Middle level had 24% awareness & 64% follow up. SSC level had 60% awareness & 56% follow up. HSC level had 80% awareness & 88% follow up. Undergraduate level had 100% awareness & follow up. Post graduate level had 100% awareness & 92% follow up. It shows that primary level had minimum awareness & follow up while Undergraduate level had maximum awareness & follow up.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is clear that primary level has lowest awareness thus there is no follow up in this group. So, here our main target should be this group because in young children chances of spread of HCV are more as they don't take care of hygienic conditions, have no knowledge about the disease and lack proper guidance.

By knowing the above facts we recommend that there should be proper guidance for young children not only at homes but also in schools. A part of their science book should be comprised of general knowledge about HCV & its modes of transmission. There should be seminars & animated movies to boost their level of awareness about the disease. Teachers should tell them about hygienic conditions and consequences of disease as children pay a lot of attention to their teachers. There should be health care teams that should visit the educational institutes & also our rural areas to increase awareness in our community.

Awareness programs should be there to educate our people. There should be commercial advertisement about the disease from govt. to general public. LHV's should aware the females to avoid pregnancies while they are suffering from HCV & limitize the sexual contacts (limited to spouse). Literacy rate should be increased.

So, we believe that by following preventive measures and these recommendations risks of getting HCV can be minimized and we can move towards a healthy Pakistan.

REFERENCES

- [1] Organization WH. Hepatitis C 2014 [updated april 2014; cited 2014 11 june]. Available from: <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs164/en/>.
- [2] Raja KS JK. Epidemiology of hepatitis C virus infection in Pakistan. *journal of microbiology, immunology, and infection.* 2008;41(1):4-8.