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BOOK OF ABSTRACTS



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**KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDES AND PRACTICE REGARDING RABIES
AMONG COMMUNITY IN SANTHIVELI GRAMA NILADHARI
DIVISION, BATTICALOA**

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Background: Rabies is a 100% fatal disease after the clinical signs develop but can be prevented by avoiding contact with rabid animals and immediate post-exposure prophylaxis treatment. Community awareness and responsible behavior of pet owners are the key factors to reduce rabid deaths.

Objectives: To assess the knowledge, attitudes, and practice regarding rabies among the community in Santhiveli GN division in Kiran MOH area, Batticaloa.

Method: Descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted in Santhiveli GN division, Kiran MOH area, Batticaloa. Simple random sampling was used to select household residents (n=380). Data were collected through a pre-designed, modified interviewer-administered questionnaire. Data was analyzed using SPSS V 22.

Results: Nearly 48% of the respondents had moderate knowledge regarding rabies, and 59% of the pet owners had a good level of attitudes on pet care. Majority (75.0%) of the respondents had good attitudes regarding stray dog management. Nearly, 28% of the individuals had good practice in case of the animal bite. There was a significant association between knowledge of rabies and following socio-demographic characteristics; age, education level, and occupation and there was a significant difference between attitudes and education level, occupation.

Conclusion: Overall knowledge and practice regarding the rabies were inadequate although attitudes were adequate among the study sample. Attitudes regarding stray dog management of the subjects were not associated with socio-demographic characteristics which may contribute to greater difficulties in controlling rabies. Therefore both knowledge and practice awareness should be increased by effective education and attitude changing factors should be discovered and proper rabies control awareness programme should be established to achieve zero rabid deaths

Keywords: Rabies, Residents, Knowledge, attitude