

Abstract

The prevalence of Dengue in Taiwan has grown dramatically in recent decades, especially in tropical Kaohsiung and Pintung area this year. For the prevention of possible epidemics, community residents' active participation is crucial. The purpose of the study is to explore community residents' dengue knowledge, prevention attitude as well as their behavioral related factors. Furthermore, what preventive strategies are effective from community natives' points of view will be derived.

The cross-sectional study designed to examine the influencing factors of community residents' participation in breeding source reduction of Dengue vectors. There are two parts in the study by adopting the methodological triangulation for obtaining both qualitative and quantitative data. In the first qualitative data part, two focus groups were conducted. Fifteen community residents and the other fifteen key persons participated in the three times' group discussions. All the discussions were audio-recorded and the content analysis was used to induct the data. In the second quantitative data part, a random sample of 300 adult residents (first group) and a purposive sample of 100 key persons (second group) in the Chiching district were recruited and interviewed with structured questionnaire. All the quantitative data for the study were analyzed by applying the SPSS (10.07) software.

The results reveal that:

- 1. More than 80% of the all subjects knew about the transmission mode and symptoms of Dengue fever (DF), yet less than 50% knew the DF related to repeated infection , the breeding sites of mosquito larvae, and the Aedes aegypti's habitual biting time.**
- 2. The knowledge of DF positively related to educational level but negatively to age.**
- 3. The score for cleaning activities of indoor breeding sites is significantly higher than that of cleaning activities of outdoor breeding sites.**
- 4. Educational level and attitude for dengue prevention are the most significant factors related to knowledge for dengue prevention.**
- 5. Generally speaking, for both community residents and key persons, the attitude and knowledge for Dengue prevention are interrelated. Attitude affect knowledge learning and the more knowledge they have, the more positive attitude they hold.**
- 6. The infection history of significant others and attitude for Dengue prevention are highly correlated to the cleaning activities of breeding sites.**
- 7. There are quite different related factors among behaviors of "preventive**

activities of mosquito breeding”, “cleaning activities of indoor breeding sites” and “cleaning activities of outdoor breeding sites”. knowledge for Dengue prevention is correlated to “preventive activities of mosquito breeding”. The infection history of significant others is correlated to “cleaning activities of indoor breeding sites”. Attitude for Dengue prevention is correlated to “cleaning activities of outdoor breeding sites”.

8. People with public trust or passion about public affairs are the key persons to help community to clean out the mosquito breeding sites.

The results of focus group implicated that to overcome the low priority accorded dengue prevention, the dengue preventive educational program should focus on communal participation and internalize the social and cultural factors of the target community.

The results of this study can not only improve the understanding of community residents’ behaviors about Dengue Fever’s prevention. Moreover, the findings will provide the baseline data for government in designing the health policy for the specific health problem.

Keywords : community residents ; dengue fever ; behavioral related factors ; focus group ; communal participation