

Research Article

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A comparative study on awareness about tuberculosis among urban and rural P.U. college students of Davangere taluk, Karnataka, India

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ABSTRACT

Background: Tuberculosis continues to be a major public health problem in our country and is the largest cause of loss of healthy life years in the productive age. Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme depends on passive reporting of the chest symptomatic to the health institution. Therefore, it is important that the basic knowledge about the disease and the availability of free treatment is clear among the individual in the community.

Methods: A cross sectional study was conducted among 360 students of I and II PU College students of urban and rural area of Davangere Taluk, Karnataka. Selection of schools and students was done by simple random and systematic random sampling method. Data collection was done by using predesigned, pretested structured proforma & analyzed by using software SPSS version17.

Results: Our study results show that awareness with regard to severity (64.4%), causative agent (72.8%), whether spreads from person to person (56.7%), mode of transmission(38.9%), symptoms(78.9%) and whom to consult if signs of TB are detected (82.8%) of rural students was better compared to urban students and with regards to affected organ (72.8%), among whom TB is commonly seen(85%), diagnosis(78.9%), whether TB is curable (73.3%), availability of diagnostic and treatment facilities (71.7%), prevention (85%) and what advice given to TB patient (86.1%) awareness was better among urban students compared to rural students.

Conclusions: Our study findings indicated that overall the awareness was better among urban students compared to rural students & 53% of the rural students had wrong knowledge that TB can be diagnosed by blood test.

Keywords: Pulmonary Tuberculosis, Awareness, PU college students

INTRODUCTION

Tuberculosis (TB) remains a major public health problem in India. World Tuberculosis Day is observed on 24 March of every year and is designed to build the public awareness about TB as an epidemic. In India two TB patients are loosing their life in every three minutes; nearly 3 lakh School children give up study because of TB per year. Tuberculosis is a barrier to socioeconomic development. The greatest burden of tuberculosis

incidence and mortality in India is in adults aged 15-16 years & higher prevalence seen in persons aged 60 years and above while lowest in childhood, Which may be due to decrease immunity in old age people.¹

Tuberculosis is a disease of great significance in India. With the advent of the HIV/AIDS epidemic the problem has been compounded. The Millennium Development Goal number 6, target 8, is 'Halt and begin to reverse the incidence of TB by 2015'. In order to achieve this goal

the World Health Organization (WHO) launched the Stop TB program; one of the important strategies of which was education and empowerment of communities.²

Globally there were an estimated 9.4 million incident cases of T.B with 11.1 million prevalent cases. In 2008, 1.8 million deaths resulted from T.B. India is a highest T.B burden country accounting for 20% of global burden of tuberculosis, 2/3rd of the cases are in SEAR. Every year about 1.8 million persons develop T.B. Two out of every five Indians are infected with T.B bacillus. Patients with infectious pulmonary T.B can infect 10-15 persons in a year.³

T.B continues to rank among world's most serious health problems despite effective diagnostic & treatment measures.⁴ Current study was conducted considering the fact that unless the general public & young generation possess basic knowledge about T.B & its management, it is unlikely to make best use of available facilities.

We have hardly any data from our country, both urban & rural areas, as to how knowledgeable are our college students about different aspects of tuberculosis. It is hypothesized that improving the knowledge and awareness about tuberculosis in college going children will spread the awareness in the general community. In this study P.U college students are selected as they are more receptive & are capable of spreading awareness among general population

Objectives:

1. To assess the awareness about T.B among P.U college students
2. To compare the awareness about T.B among urban & rural P.U students.

METHODS

Source of data: I & II year Government P.U College Students of urban & rural areas of Davangere taluk,

Method of collection of data:

Sampling procedure:

There are about 50 urban & 19 rural government P.U colleges in Davangere taluk. 10% of the colleges were selected by simple random sampling method i.e 5 from urban & 2 from rural area. The sample size was calculated by taking the prevalence that 50% of students were aware about the exact mode of transmission of T.B from Nepalese study.⁵ The sample is calculated by using formula, $N=4pq/d^2$

Where,

N=sample size
p=prevalence of T.B i.e. 50%

$$q=100-p=100-50=50$$

$$d=\text{admissible error (15\% of } p) = 15\% \text{ of } 50 = 7.5$$

$$N=4x50x50/7.5x7.5=177.77$$

The calculated sample size is 177.8. It is rounded up to 180 for urban & 180 for rural areas, thus constituting a total of 360 P.U college students as the study group. It was planned to include only those students for analysis who had replied to the question "Have you ever heard of tuberculosis" in affirmative. 174 male students and 186 female students i.e. a total of 360 students who answered in affirmative were eligible for further analysis in this study. Students were selected by systematic random sampling method. Prior permission was obtained from the school authorities. The students were briefed regarding the purpose of the study & confidentiality maintained. The data was collected by distribution of pre-designed, pre-tested, multiple response type of questionnaire in local language. The questionnaire was addressed on topic of source of information, awareness about T.B which included variables like affected organ, causative agent, who will be affected, whether spreads from person to person & mode of transmission, its clinical features, diagnosis, treatment & prevention. Each participant was given a questionnaire & was instructed to circle the correct answer they know. Every question has a response of right answer, a wrong answer & don't know also, considering it as incorrect. The forms were collected soon after it is filled up.

Study design: It is a college based cross sectional comparative study.

Study period: 2 months from 1st July, 2012 to 31st August, 2012.

Statistical analysis: proportions & chi-square test.

Inclusion criteria:

- a) I & II year P.U college students of urban & rural area of Davangere Taluk.
- b) Those students who were present on the day of study.
- c) Those willing to participate.

Exclusion criteria:

- a) Those students who are absent on the day of data collection
- b) Those not willing to participate.

RESULTS

Figure 1 shows that 144(80%) students from urban area & 120(66.7%) students from rural area are in the age group of 17yrs. And 36(20%) students from urban area & 60(33.3%) from rural area are in the age group of 18yrs. From figure 2 it is seen that about 128(71%) students from urban and 46(26%) students from rural area are males where as 52(29%) students from urban area and 134(74%) students from rural area are females. Figure 3

shows that the main source of information for the students of urban area is teachers (38.9%) and for rural

area is mass media (32.8%, 52.8%).

Table 1: Awareness about epidemiological determinants.

Sl.no	Variables	Urban(n=180)	Rural(n=180)	χ^2 , df, p-value
1	TB is severe disease			
	A. yes	113 (62.8%)	116 (64.4%)	$\chi^2 = 7.66$, df=2, p= 0.022
	B. no	38 (21.1%)	21 (11.7%)	
	C. don't know	29(16.1%)	43 (23.9%)	Significant
2	Most commonly affected organ			
	A. Heart	6 (3.3%)	16 (8.9%)	$\chi^2 = 25.288$, df=3, p= 0.000
	B. lungs	131 (72.8%)	85 (47.2%)	
	C. brain	14 (7.8%)	30 (16.7%)	Highly significant
	D. don't know	29 (16.1)	49 (27.2%)	
3	Causative agent			
	A. Bacteria/germ	108 (60%)	131 (72.8%)	$\chi^2 = 15. 69$, df=3, p= 0.001
	B. curse of god	3 (1.7%)	0 (0%)	
	C. polluted water	53 (29.4%)	26 (14.4%)	Highly significant
	D. don't know	16 (8.9%)	23 (12.8%)	
4	T.b commonly seen among			
	A.anyone including you & me	153 (85%)	137 (76.1%)	$\chi^2 = 13.752$, df=3, p= 0.003
	B.only children	3 (1.7%)	8 (4.4%)	
	C.only old aged individuals	12 (6.7%)	5 (2.8%)	Highly significant
	D.dont know	12 (6.7%)	30 (16.7%)	
5	Spreads from person to person			
	A.yes	87 (48.3%)	102 (56.7%)	$\chi^2 = 4.532$, df=2, p= 0.104
	B.no	69 (38.3%)	50 (27.8%)	
	C.dont know	24 (13.3%)	28 (15.6%)	Not significant
6	Mode of transmission			
	A.droplet infection	58 (32.2%)	70 (38.9%)	$\chi^2 = 4.603$, df=3, p= 0.203
	B.mosquito bite	21 (11.7%)	29 (16.1%)	
	C.blood transfusion	61 (33.9%)	49 (27.2%)	Not significant
	D.dont know	40 (22.2%)	32 (17.8%)	

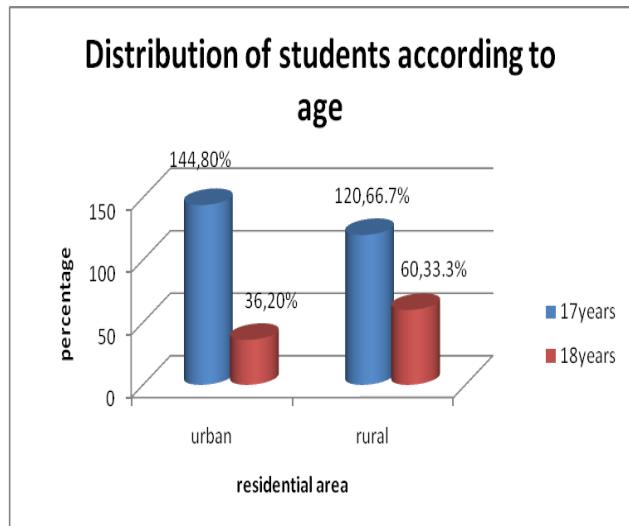


Figure 1: Distribution of students according to age.

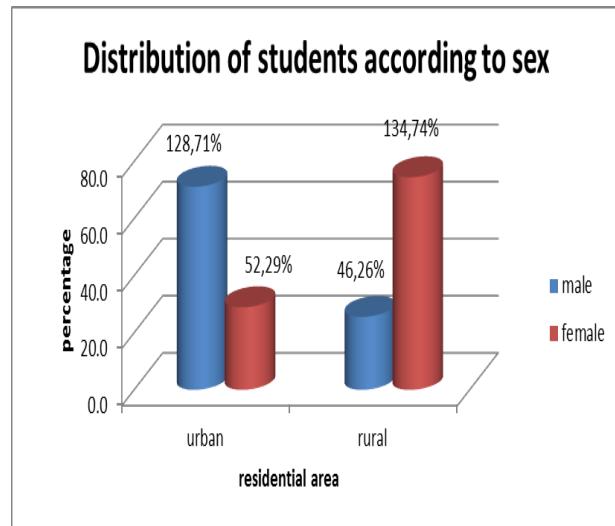


Figure 2: Distribution of students according to sex.

Table 2: Awareness about symptoms & diagnosis of tuberculosis.

Sl.no	Variables	Urban(n=180)	Rural(n=180)	X ² , df, p-value
1	Symptoms			
	A.cough with expectoration	140 (77.8%)	142 (78.9%)	X ² =4.974, df=3, p= 0.174
	B.vomiting	15 (8.3%)	6 (3.3%)	
	C.joint pain	11 (6.1%)	12 (6.7%)	Not significant
	D.dont know	14 (7.8%)	20 (11.1%)	
2	T.b detected by			
	A.blood test	61 (33.9%)	95 (52.8%)	X ² =13.381,df=3,p= 0.004
	B.urine test	15 (8.3%)	10 (5.6%)	
	C.sputum test	89 (49.4%)	62 (34.4%)	Highly significant
	D.dont know	15 (8.3%)	13 (7.2%)	

Table 3: Awareness about management of tuberculosis.

Sl.no	Variables	Urban(n=18)	Rural(n=180)	X ² , df, p-value
1	Can tb be cured completely			
	A.yes	132 (73.3%)	123 (68.3%)	X ² =1.177,df=2,p= 0.555
	B.no	18 (10%)	23 (12.8%)	
	C.dont know	30 (16.7%)	34 (18.9%)	Not significant
2	Treatment & diagnosis for t.b is Available in			
	A.only in govt. Hospitals	32 (17.8%)	16 (8.9%)	X ² =16.952 df=3,p= 0.001
	B.only in private hospitals	7 (3.9%)	22 (12.2%)	
	C.all govt. Hospitals including Phc's	129 (71.7%)	119 (66.1%)	Highly significant
	D.dont know	12 (6.7%)	23 (12.8%)	
3	T.b treatment & diagnosis is free of cost			
	A.yes	92 (51.1)	73 (40.6%)	X ² =7.536,df=2, p= 0.023
	B.no	53 (29.4)	50 (27.8%)	
	C.dont know	35 (19.4%)	57 (31.7%)	Significant
4	If you find signs of t.b whom do You consult			
	A.astrologer	22 (12.2%)	21 (11.7%)	X ² =4.238, df=3, p= 0.237
	B.doctor	138 (76.7%)	149 (82.8%)	
	C.priest	1 (0.6%)	0 (0%)	Not significant
	D.dont know	19 (10.6%)	10 (5.6%)	

From table 1 it is seen that 64.4% of rural students considered TB as a severe disease compared to urban students 62.8% and the difference was found statistically significant. 72.8% urban students answered correctly that lungs are the most commonly affected organ and 85% were knowing that TB can occur among anyone including you and me, whereas only 47.2% of rural students were knowing about the correct affected organ and 76.1% were knowing about among whom it is commonly seen and the difference was found statistically highly significant.

Regarding causative agent 72.8% of rural students knew that TB is caused by bacteria whereas only 60% of urban students were aware about this and the difference was found statistically highly significant.

56.7% of the rural students were knowing that TB spreads from person to person and 38.9% were knowing that TB is transmitted as droplet infection where as 48.3% of the urban students answered that TB spreads from person to person and 32.2% were knowing correctly about the mode of transmission and difference was found statistically not significant.

Table 2 shows that the rural students (78.9%) were knowing correctly the symptoms of Tb compared to urban students(77.8%) & the difference was found statistically not significant, 52.8% of rural students were aware that TB is diagnosed by sputum examination compared to urban students 33.9% and it was found statistically highly significant.

From the table 3 it is seen that 73.3% of urban students knew that TB can be cured completely compared to the rural students 68.3% and this difference was found statistically not significant. Regarding diagnosis and treatment 71.7% of the urban students were knowing that treatment is available in all the govt. hospitals including phcs compared to rural students 66.1% and the difference was found statistically highly significant, and 51.1% of

urban students answered correctly that treatment of TB is completely free compared to rural students 40.6% and this difference was found statistically significant. 82.8% of the rural students told that they would consult the doctor if they find the signs of TB compared to urban students 76.7%. This difference was found statistically not significant.

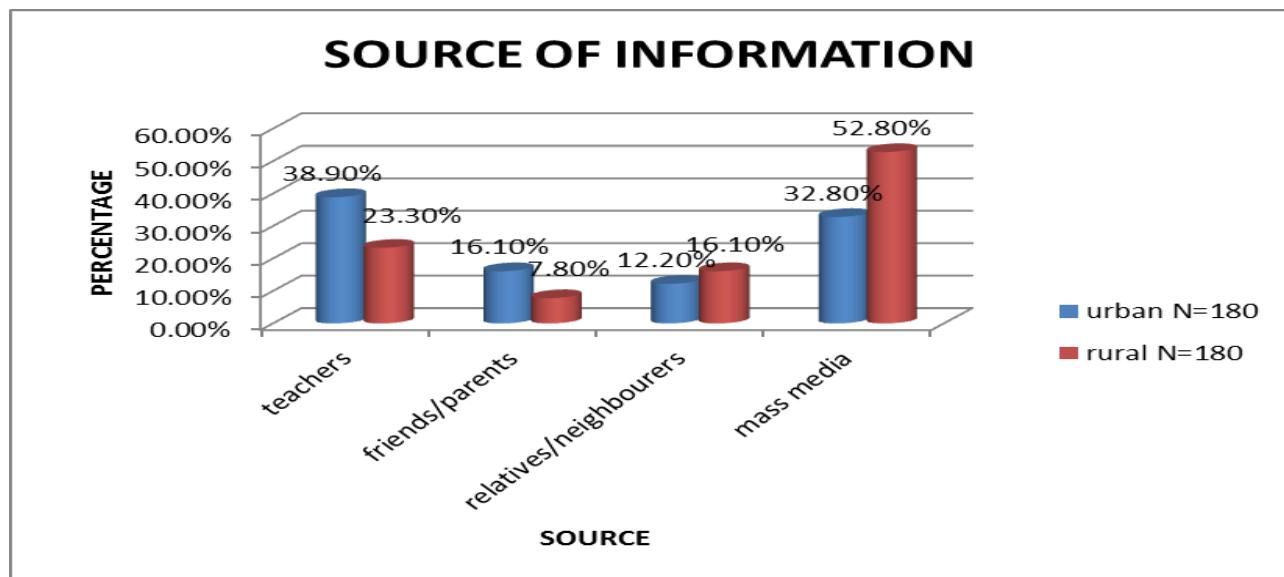


Figure 3: Source of information.

The table 4 shows that 85% of the urban students answered correctly that TB is prevented by covering the mouth and nose with cloth while coughing and sneezing and 86.1% of urban students answered they would advise the patient to complete the treatment, 90.6% of urban students told that they would encourage their friend to complete the treatment if they find their friend is diagnosed with TB as compared to rural students and all these differences were found statistically significant.

DISCUSSION

In the present study, assessment of Student's awareness about TB showed that the awareness of students is not satisfactory. The goal of national health policy 2002 was to increase the awareness of TB in both educated & uneducated people. In 1959 the Government of India, with the help of WHO, established the National TB Institute (NTI) in Bangalore to develop a national TB control programme (NTP), with the aim of establishing prompt awareness, diagnosis and ambulatory treatment which were integrated into general health services.

Our study showed that 72.8% urban & 47.2% of rural students were aware that lungs are the most commonly affected organ and regarding causative agent 72.8% of rural & 60% of urban students students were aware that TB is caused by bacteria/germ, 56.7% of the rural &

48.3% of the urban students were aware that TB spreads from person to person, 78.9% of the rural students were knowing correctly that cough with expectoration is the symptoms of Tb compared to urban students (77.8%). Where as in a study done by Gopichandran V et al.⁶ and Renuka M et al⁷ about 77% and 80.6% of the students were aware that tuberculosis is caused by bacteria and 85% and 85.3% were aware that it could spread from person to person. 80% and 78.3% of the students knew that cough for two weeks or more and weight loss were the common symptoms of tuberculosis and 76.4% and 83.7% of students were aware that lungs are the most commonly affected organ and in a study done by U.P Singh et al⁴ 70% of urban and rural males and females were aware that tuberculosis is caused by germs.

In our study 38.9% of urban & 32.2% of rural students was aware that TB is transmitted as droplet infection. It is seen in a study done by Tanimowo MO⁸ in Nigeria, on 791 senior secondary students; found that 70.9% of students answered correctly to the question- Can tuberculosis spread through air droplets? 71.6% answered correctly to question- Can it spread through overcrowding?

In our study 52.8% of rural students were aware that TB is diagnosed by sputum examination compared to urban

students 33.9%, where as in a study done by U.P Singh et al⁴ knowledge about sputum examination and chest skiagram as diagnostic tools was present in 42-48% and 31-35% students respectively and in a study done by Gopichandran V et al⁶ and Renuka M et al⁷ 52% and 72.1% were aware that the sputum test was the diagnostic test of choice.

In our study we have seen that 73.3% of urban students were knowing that TB can be cured completely compared to the rural students 68.3% where as in a study done by U.P. Singh et al⁴ on school children between 9th and 12th standard, found that 31.62% of urban and 35.65% of rural students were aware that tuberculosis is curable and in study done by Renuka M et al⁷ 86% of students were aware that TB is curable.

In our study 51.1% of urban students answered correctly that treatment of TB is completely free compared to rural students 40.6%, where as in a study done by Gopichandran V et al⁶ and Renuka M et al⁷ 71.9% and 81.4% of students answered correctly that treatment for tuberculosis is free of cost. In our study 85% of the urban students answered correctly that TB is prevented by covering the mouth and nose with cloth while coughing and sneezing compared to rural students 72.8%, where as in a study done by Gopichandran V et al⁶ and Renuka M et al⁷ 74.5% and 94.6% of students answered correctly that tuberculosis is preventable.

Many studies have revealed that a lot of awareness and knowledge is still required among the students of schools and colleges. Inspite of the advertisement through media, pamphlet, banners on public places, and the awareness of students were not satisfactory. Therefore, the central and state Government and principals of school & colleges must uplift some new steps in increasing the awareness of DOTS, methods of treatment, transmission and detection of TB.

CONCLUSION

Our study included a total of 360 students both from urban & rural P.U colleges of Davangere taluk. Our study findings indicated that Teachers (39%) were the most common source of information about T.B for urban students, where as for rural students Mass media (53%) was the common source of information. Most of the urban (63%) & rural (64%) students were aware that T.B is a serious disease. Awareness about which organ is affected ,who are affected , diagnosis , Can T.B be cured completely, place of availability of treatment & diagnosis ,treatment & diagnosis is free of cost, how to prevent & advice to T.B patient , advice to friend with TB was better among urban students when compared to rural students, where as awareness regarding severity, causative agent, Mode of transmission, Spread from person to person, symptoms & whom to consult if diagnosed with T.B was better among rural students

compared to urban students. Overall the awareness was better among urban students compared to rural students & 53% of the rural students had wrong knowledge that TB can be diagnosed by blood test.

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