

An Executive Summary Of The Final Report Of The Work Done On The Minor Research Project Of Dr Loveena Lobo, entitled “**Effectiveness Of Information Education And Communication (IEC) On The Role Of Eco Health in Prevention Of Mosquito Borne Diseases Among Women Of Selected Communities Of Mangalore Urban Area**” sanctioned by UGC,vide sanction letter No MRP(H)177/12-13/KAMA002/UGC-SWRO dated 23 Sept,2013.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Mangalore, the headquarters of Dakshina Kannada District in Karnataka State, India, has been witnessing a rise in construction activities in the recent years. And this has led to the spread of mosquito borne diseases. People need to be sensitized to play active role in prevention of these diseases. Women can play a great role in maintaining healthy environment and also in restoring the health of family members. It is said that ‘if you educate a woman then you educate the whole family’. Prevention of disease through ecological or environmental manipulations or interventions is much safer, cheaper and more effective approach than all the other means of control. This can be achieved only through awareness and adequate preventive measures and women form the best target group for this approach.

The present study is carried out on women as target group with an objective to ascertain their knowledge on the role of Eco health in prevention of mosquito borne diseases and to evaluate the effectiveness of Information Education and Communication(IEC) on the role of eco health. Experimental research design i.e. ‘one group Pre-test, Post-test design’ was used in this study. Universe consisted of all SHG women of the different adopted communities of an NGO in Mangalore. Hundred women above 20yrs formed the sample that was selected using purposive sampling method and who fulfilled the inclusion/exclusion criteria. Structured Questionnaires were used to collect data from respondents.

The findings showed that majority (57%) of respondents belonged to age group of 31 to 40 years. Beedi rolling was seen as occupation of majority (53%) of them. 57% of respondents hailed from Nuclear families.48% of respondents lived in Pucca houses while 38% lived in kutchha houses. Majority (89%) of the respondents did not possess their own house and lived in rented houses.27% respondents had past history of mosquito Borne diseases. About 15% agreed to the existence of stagnant water around their house which means some measures have to be taken to address it.

Study revealed that majority (59%) of respondents got information on Eco Health from health professionals.16% respondents do not have any information about Eco health. Regarding precautions taken against mosquito bite 35% use mosquito nets, 27% use mosquito repellants while another 27% prevent mosquito bites through spraying.57% respondents use burning as a method of waste management and 24% collect waste and dispose it.64% respondents opined that they have a closed type of drainage system while 36% have open drainage system.

The findings revealed that knowledge of majority of the respondents related to concepts of Eco Health, Mosquito borne diseases and preventive measures is of moderate level. It also revealed that Knowledge on role of Eco health improved after IEC was administered to the participants. This indicates the importance of IEC in promoting health of a community particularly communicable diseases. The study implies that Professional Social workers can play an important role in Preventive Health Care. Social workers involved in Community development and Health welfare can plan effective IEC packages for different target groups, SHG's etc to promote and enhance health of the people. Study also implies the need to conduct more Research in this area and explore other dimensions of preventive health related to mosquito borne diseases.
