

More than Just Bites: Assessing the Healthcare Needs for Animal Bite Treatment Center among Hospital Workers in a Selected Community Hospital in Surigao Del Sur

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ABSTRACT

This study focused on the healthcare needs in setting up an Animal Bite Treatment Center at the chosen community hospital in Surigao del Sur, Philippines, due to the increasing number of rabies and animal bite cases that could be dangerous to public health. It was the intention of the research to analyze the knowledge of the hospital staff regarding animal bites management, as well as to explore their perceptions concerning the facilities, equipment and other resources required for proper delivery of services. Descriptive research methodology was used whereby 108 hospital workers were recruited using purposive sampling technique. Survey questionnaires were used to collect data which were analyzed using frequency distribution, percentages, means and standard deviations. The findings showed that the most of the respondents were young adults, women, college degree holders and had relatively low monthly income. The respondents exhibited high knowledge regarding home intervention, health seeking behavior and prophylaxis, while they had moderate knowledge about bite classification. In addition to the increased importance of improved facilities, provision of designated rooms for the treatment of victims, proper wound treatment equipment, as well as proper vaccine storage conditions, the study revealed the importance of human resources and training. The conclusion drawn from the study is that the hospital staff is knowledgeable about the measures that need to be taken in order to prevent rabies but that there are critical deficiencies regarding infrastructure and preparedness of the staff.

Keywords: - Animal Bite Treatment Center, Animal Bite Management, Healthcare Infrastructure, Hospital Workers, Healthcare Needs Assessment, Human Resources and Training

INTRODUCTION

Statement of the Problem

This study determined whether there are healthcare needs of animal bite treatment centers among the hospital workers in a selected community hospital in Surigao del Sur. Specifically, it sought to answer the following questions:

1. What is the demographic profile of the respondents in terms of:
 - 1.1 age
 - 1.2 sex
 - 1.3 educational attainment
 - 1.4 disposition
 - 1.5 location of residency

- 1.6 monthly income
2. What is the level of knowledge among hospital workers have on an animal bite when it comes to.
 - 2.1 Home Intervention
 - 2.2 Health-Seeking Behavior
 - 2.3 Bite category
 - 2.4 Pre- or Post-Exposure Prophylaxis
3. What are the healthcare needs of the animal bite treatment center among the hospital workers in regard to.
 - 3.1 Facilities and Equipment
 - 3.2 Human Resources and Training
 - 3.3 Medical Supplies and Accessibility
 - 3.4 Referral and Health System Support
4. Is there a significant relationship between the demographic profile and the healthcare needs for an animal bite center among the hospital workers?
5. Is there a significant relationship between the demographic profile and the level of knowledge of animal bites among the hospital workers?
6. Based on the findings, what intervention program may be proposed?

Scope and Delimitations

This study examined the healthcare needs of an animal bite treatment center among 108 medical and non-medical hospital workers in Surigao del Sur, aged 18–60. It assessed their demographic profile, knowledge of animal bites, and healthcare needs in terms of facilities, training, materials, and referrals.

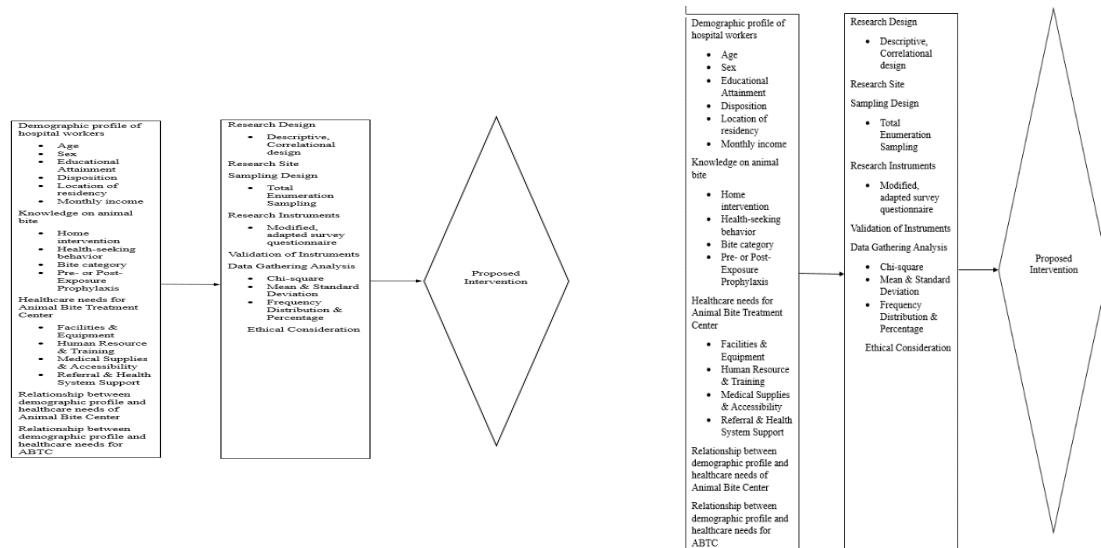
Review of Related Literature

According to Quimbao et al. (2023), Animal Bite Treatment Centers (ABTCs) are government-supported facilities that require skilled healthcare professionals, although not all areas in the Philippines have the capacity to establish one. Bandoy et al. (2026) emphasized the importance of adequate water supply and proper waste disposal to ensure hygiene and safety. Saddik et al. (2024) found that healthcare workers in emergency units had poor knowledge of animal bites, which was not significantly associated with their socio-demographic profile. Overall, the literature highlights that effective rabies prevention depends on well-equipped ABTCs, competent healthcare professionals, sufficient medical supplies, and timely patient care. These studies served as key references for the present research.

Theoretical Framework

The Nola J. Pender Health Promotion Model explains how demographic factors influence hospital workers' knowledge and behaviors related to rabies prevention.

Conceptual Framework



METHODOLOGY

This quantitative descriptive-correlational research study examined hospital workers' knowledge and perceived healthcare needs in rabies prevention and management to justify the establishment of an Animal Bite Treatment Center in Surigao del Sur, Philippines.

Research Design

The purpose of this quantitative descriptive-correlational research was to assess hospital workers' knowledge and perceived healthcare needs in rabies prevention and management in Surigao del Sur, Philippines, by analyzing demographic profiles and examining relationships among variables to justify the establishment of an Animal Bite Treatment Center.

Research Steps

This research commenced with an extensive literature review to develop a solid understanding of rabies prevention and management, as well as the healthcare needs of hospital workers in Surigao del Sur, Philippines. This entailed scrutinizing prior research, theoretical frameworks such as Betty Neuman's Systems Model and Nightingale's Environmental Theory, and epidemiological data on rabies cases in the country.

Data Collection and Sample Selection

Data was gathered using a questionnaire that was distributed among hospital staff members in Surigao del Sur, Philippines. It consisted of three parts, which were demographic information (age, gender, educational attainment, occupational status, place of residency, and income level); a 20-item Likert scale regarding animal bite knowledge (household care, types

of bites, health-seeking behavior, and prophylaxis); and a 20-item Likert scale about the needs of the Animal Bite Treatment Center.

Data Analysis Methods

Data were analyzed using parametric measures and statistical tools. Frequency distribution and percentage described the respondents' demographic profile, while mean and standard deviation measured their level of knowledge on animal bites and healthcare needs for an animal bite treatment center. The Chi-square test determined the significant associations between demographic variables and knowledge levels, as well as between demographic profiles and healthcare needs.

Research Hypotheses and Validation

This study analyzed the knowledge level and healthcare needs of hospital workers concerning rabies prevention in Surigao del Sur. Findings revealed that almost all demographic variables were not significantly correlated except for monthly income, which was associated with differences in knowledge level. This demonstrates that income may affect awareness, thereby establishing an animal bite treatment center is necessary.

Study Limitations and Ethical Considerations

The study adhered to ethical protocols by obtaining clearance from hospital administrators and reviewing the project by both the technical and academic committees. All the respondents were informed of the research process, using language that was understood by them. This was done in order to give them the choice whether to participate or not. The treatment of all the respondents was equal without discrimination on the basis of any form of racism, religion, or culture. Confidentiality was maintained as the data was kept safe and would be destroyed five years later.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

SOP 1. What is the demographic profile of the respondents in terms of age, sex, educational attainment, disposition, location of residency, and monthly income?

The results showed that most respondents were female, aged 18–29, college graduates, employed as nurses or other hospital staff, residing in municipalities, and earning ₱10,001–₱20,000 monthly. This indicates that the study gathered insights from hospital workers actively involved in healthcare services and rabies prevention.

SOP 2. What is the level of knowledge among hospital workers when it comes to an animal bite when it comes to home intervention, health-seeking behavior, bite category, and pre- or post-exposure prophylaxis?

The findings revealed that respondents had an exceptionally high level of knowledge on animal bite management, including proper first aid, appropriate health-seeking behavior, clinical assessment for high-risk exposures, and the importance of vaccination and immunization.

SOP 3. What are the healthcare needs of an animal bite treatment center among the hospital workers in regards to Facilities and Equipment, Human Resource and Training, Medical Supplies and Accessibility, and Referral and Health System Support?

The findings showed that respondents recognized the need to improve animal bite treatment

centers through better facilities, vaccine storage, trained healthcare personnel, vaccine accessibility, prophylaxis, and stronger referral and institutional support. Overall, they emphasized enhancing infrastructure and human resources to strengthen treatment services.

SOP 4. Is there a significant relationship between the demographic profile and the healthcare needs for an animal bite center among the hospital workers?

The findings revealed no significant relationship between respondents' demographic characteristics and their healthcare needs for an Animal Bite Treatment Center. Chi-square analysis showed that all variables had p-values greater than 0.05, indicating that age, gender, education, employment, residency, and income did not significantly influence their perceptions.

SOP 5. Is there a significant relationship between the demographic profile and the level of knowledge of animal bites among the hospital workers?

The results showed no statistically significant relationship between respondents' demographic characteristics and their level of knowledge about animal bites. Chi-square analysis revealed that age, gender, educational attainment, employment, and residency all had p-values greater than 0.05, indicating that respondents had similar levels of knowledge regardless of their demographic profile.

SOP 6. Based on the findings, what intervention program may be proposed?

Based on the findings, a program to enhance the proposed Animal Bite Treatment Center can be developed. The program will focus on improving facilities, equipment, human resources, and ensuring timely access to vaccines and other essential medical supplies.

SUMMARY

The study found that hospital employees in Surigao del Sur had a high level of knowledge on animal bite management, including home care, health-seeking behavior, bite classification, and prophylaxis. No significant relationship was found between demographic profile and respondents' knowledge or healthcare needs, except for monthly income, which was significantly associated with knowledge. These findings served as the basis for the proposed Animal Bite Treatment Center Enhancement Program.

CONCLUSIONS

The study found that hospital employees in Surigao del Sur had excellent knowledge of animal bite management, including home care, health-seeking behavior, bite classification, and prophylaxis. No significant relationship was found between demographic profile and respondents' knowledge or healthcare needs, supporting the development of an animal bite treatment center improvement program.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings, the following are recommended:

- Facilities should be improved and the right equipment provided for the safe keeping of vaccines and enough wound care supplies.
- There should be improvement in human resource and training capacity building and new clinical guidelines.
- Improvements should be made in medical supplies and their accessibility through the provision of vaccines and prophylaxis.

- Referrals should be improved along with other health system support mechanisms.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The researcher is deeply grateful for the unfailing support and encouragement she received from her SMCH family, sisters, fiancé, and family members during the research process. The researcher acknowledges the participation of the respondents and the help received from Prof. Mary Ann Lopez, MAN, RN, LPT. Most importantly, the researcher thanks God Almighty for His wisdom and blessings.

AI DECLARATION STATEMENT

The use of AI-based resources was strictly limited to improving grammar, language, and structuring the document. All procedures related to data gathering, statistics, data interpretation, and conclusions were carried out individually by the researchers.

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