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KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE AND PRACTICE OF INFLUENZA A (H1N1) AMONG RURAL COMMUNITY IN MALAYSIA

Azmawati MN, Nazarudin S, Norfazilah A, Noor Hassim I, Mohd Rohaizat H

Department of Community Health, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia Medical Centre

Background

The 2009 influenza A (H1N1) pandemic has affected most countries of the world including Malaysia in a short span of time. Assessment of general public's knowledge, attitude and practice is needed for better prevention and control activities.

Materials & Methods

A cross sectional questionnaire survey was conducted in rural community (Kuala Selangor), Malaysia among 250 individuals from 5 November till 26 November 2009.

Results

The mean age of respondents was 45.9 (16.58) years old. The highest knowledge score were among those age 36-45 years old (mean=7.9±2.11, p<0.001), females (mean=7.1±2.23, p=0.904), higher educational level (median=9±1, p<0.001) and working respondents (mean=7.1±2.09, p=0.60). Attitude score were more towards older age more than 60 years old (mean=8.2±1.22, p=0.380), females (mean=7.9±1.45, p=0.383), higher educational level (mean=8.4±1.16, p=0.070) and non-working (mean=8.0±1.42, p=0.05) respondents. Practice score was higher and significantly different in higher education respondents (mean=9.0±1.89, p<0.001) but no other demographic factors. There was significant correlation between knowledge and attitude (r=0.38), knowledge and practice (r=0.51) and attitude and practice (r=0.47).

Conclusion

Knowledge, attitude and practice influence each other in pandemic Influenza A (H1N1). Efforts should be targeted at educating the general population to improve practice in the current pandemic, as well as for future epidemics.

Keywords:

KAP, H1N1, Rural