Prevalence of Schistosomiasis in Warwade Community, Jigawa State, Nigeria

Alhaji, G. K.,*1 & 2 Dogara, M. M., 1 Balogun, J. B., 1 Abubakaar, M. M., 1 Sufi, M. A. 1, Dawaki, S. S. 1 and Usman, M. Isah

¹Department of Biological Sciences, Federal University Dutse, P. M. B. 7156, Dutse, Jigawa State, Nigeria

²Department of Science Laboratory Technology, School of Science and Technology, Federal Polytechnic Damaturu, P. M. B. 1006, Damaturu, Yobe State, Nigeria

Email: musadogara2013@gmail.com

Abstract

There is currently no documented literature on the status of transmission of schistosomiasis in Warwade community situated near a dam. This study was designed to determine the prevalence of schistosomiasis in the community. A total of 300 urine and stool samples from randomly selected participants were analysed for S. haematobium and S. mansoni using sedimentation and kato-katz techniques respectively. A pre-tested structured questionnaire was administered to all the participants and in the case of minors their parents/guardians. The data was analysed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences version 25 to determine if there was any significant difference between schistosomiasis and demographic characteristics of participants as well as the association between schistosomiasis and risk factors at P<0.05. The results revealed an overall prevalence of 20.3% with urinary and intestinal schistosomiasis having 12.3% and 8% respectively. Out of every 8 persons in the community one had urinary schistosomiasis while in every 12 persons, one had intestinal and in every 5 persons, one had at least either of the species. Urinary schistosomiasis was higher in females, but was the opposite in intestinal infection. Schistosomiasis infection was highest among children ≤ 18 years and ≤40 years and the opposite was the case for intestinal schistosomiasis, where 19 to 29 years had the highest prevalence. Age and occupation were the risk factors associated with schistosomiasis infection at P<0.05. All the positive samples for urinary schistosomiasis subjected to Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) amplification were positive. This study showed that Warwade community is endemic for schistosomiasis.

Keywords: Sedimentation, Kato-katz, schistosomiasis, endemic

INTRODUCTION

Schistosomiasis is the third most devastating tropical disease in the world, being a major public health problem in many developing countries in Africa, south America and the Middle East (Kuntz, 2010). More than 207 million people, 80% of who live in Africa are infected with schistosomiasis (WHO, 2014). Nigeria is the most endemic country in the

world for urinary schistosomiasis with an estimated 101.28 million people being at risk and 25.83 million infected (Abbasi *et al.*, 2011).

In Nigeria two species are pathogenic to man, *S. haematobium* and *S. mansoni* (Johnsen *et al.*, 2011). The disease caused by *S. haematobium* is characterized by bloody urine, calcification of the bladder and kidney failure and bladder cancer in adults and is also the major cause of Female Genital Schistosomiasis (FGS) (Butterworth, 1997., Noberg, 2004). On the other hand, intestinal schistosomiasis can result in abdominal pain, diarrhoea and blood in stool. Liver enlargement common in advanced cases, is frequently associated with an accumulation of fluid in the peritoneal cavity, hypertension of the abdominal blood vessels and there may be enlargement of the spleen (WHO, 2020). The prevalence and morbidity of schistosomiasis is highest among fishermen, irrigation workers, farmers, school children, adolescents and young adults (Hotez *et al.*, 2009). Schistosomiasis has negative impact on school performance and the debilitation caused by untreated infection demoralized both social and economic development in endemic areas (Van derwerf *et al.*, 2013).

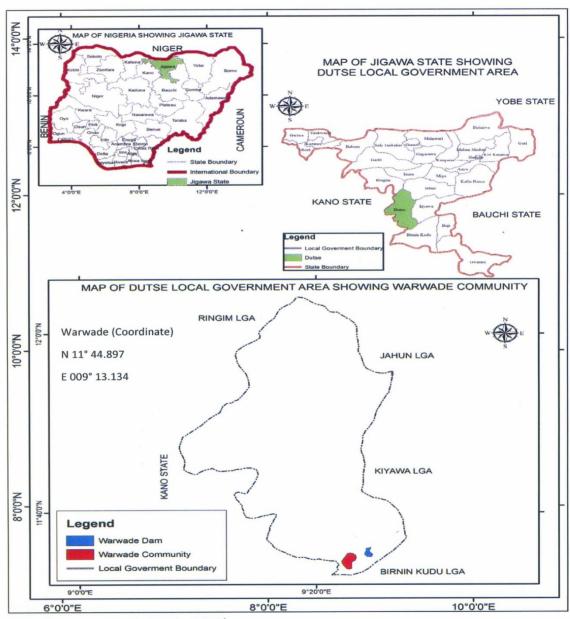
The global effort to control of schistosomiasis is based on large-scale treatment of at-risk population groups, access to safe water, improved sanitation, hygiene education, and snail control (WHO, 2020). In response to this global effort, Nigeria came up with a national programme to eliminate schistosomiasis together with other Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs). According to the Nigeria's master plan for NTDs elimination 2015 – 2020all the 774 Local Government Areas (LGAs) in the country have been mapped, 603 were endemic for schistosomiasis (FMOH, 2015). The provisional prevalence of the disease ranged between 0 – 84% nationwide (Bishop, 2017).

Previous studies revealed that both urinary and intestinal schistosomiasis is prevalent among school aged children in Dutse (Ahmed *et al.*, 2015, Bashir *et al.*, 2016). Preliminary investigation on freshwater snail vectors of Warwade dam located close to the village revealed the presence of *Bulinus globosus and Lymnaea natalensis* known to transmit schistosomiasis and fascioliasis respectively (Dogara *et al.*, 2019). The same investigation reported that members of the Warwade community were engaged in anthropogenic activities such as farming, fishing, washing of clothes and swimming that exposes them to schistosomiasis infection. Current literature revealed that there is no documented information on the extent and nature of community transmission of schistosomiasis in Warwade village that is required for planning and executing an effective schistosomiasis control programme. This study was planned and designed to provide this much needed information.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study Area

Figure 2, shows Warwade village, situated in Dutse Local Government Area, Jigawa State with geographical coordinates of 11°45′ 0″ North, 9° 13′ 0″ East. Warwade village is about 15 km south of Dutse (Rilwanu, 2018). Warwade is a community of settled and semi-settled Hausa/Fulani tribes whose occupation are mainly farming, cattle rearing and fishing. The community has a population of 1,500 people living in the community (Rilwanu, 2018).



(Source: Google Earth, 2019)

Fig 2: Map of the Study Area

Study Population

The population for the study consisted of 300 randomly selected individuals representing all age groups and sexes from the community. The sample size was determined using the formula Figure 1: Map of the study area

Specimen Collection and Processing

Advocacy visit to traditional head of the village and other elders living in the community was done prior to sample collection. This was preceded by sensitization session where members of the community were informed out the research work and volunteers were sought from the community. This activity took place near the Central Mosque of the village. One hundred and fifty houses from all the hamlets in the community were randomly selected. From each house two participants were selected making up the sample size of 300.

After obtaining informed consent of the participants and in the case of minors from their parents or guardians, each of the volunteer was given instruction on how to collect the stool and urine samples. They were then given two labeled sterile specimen screwed cap bottles in which they collected the samples (about10mls of urine and 5gm of stool) between 7:00am and 10:00am as described by (Lucas and Gilles, 1990). The samples were transported in ice container to the Biology Laboratory, Federal University Dutse where they were processed immediately. The urine samples were processed using sedimentation technique as described by Dazo and Biles (1974). The supernatant was discarded using syringe and needle, and the sediment was transferred to a plain slide with cover slip and the sediment was examined under× 40 magnification of the light microscope. Eggs were detected and identified by the shape and terminal spine characteristic of *S. haematobium*. The stool samples were analyzed as outlined by (Feldmeir and Proggens, 1993) using Kato-katz kit.

Malachite green was added to each of the processed slide and was examined under the microscope initially under ×10 and later ×40 for the presence of egg or ova of *S. mansoni*. The eggs were detected and identified by the shape and lateral spine characteristics of *S. mansoni*. Positive samples were counted and recorded.

The urine samples of individuals that tested positive were collected and subjected to molecular detection of *S. haematobium*. The samples were used to recover ova of *S. haematobium* through sedimentation method as described by (Dazo and Biles, 1974). The ova were subjected to DNA extraction and PCR analysis.

Administration of Questionnaire

A pretested structured questionnaire was administered to the three hundred participants (in the case of minors their parents/guardians) to obtain demographic and socioeconomic information such as age, gender, and other risk posing habits associated with schistosomiasis. The administration of the questionnaire was done in the local language, Hausa.

Data Analysis

The data generated were analyzed using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences version 25. Prevalence of schistosomiasis was calculated and expressed in percentages. Chi square was used to find any significant difference between prevalence of schistosomiasis and factors such as gender, age, frequency of water contact, water contact activity and source of drinking water. Pearson Moment of Correlation was also calculated to determine the association between schistosomiasis infection and risk factors. The level of significance was determined at P < 0.05 and 95 % confidence interval.

Ethical Consideration

Ethics Committee, Federal University Dutse approved the research. Permission to conduct the study in Warwade community was also obtained from Jigawa State Ministry of Health. The purpose of the study was explained to the village head and ward heads of the community of Warwade village while informed consent of all the participants was sought in writing (in case of minors it was obtained from their parents or guardians).

RESULTS

Socio-demographic Characteristics and Potential Risk Factors

Table 1 presents the demographic characteristics of the participants. The study participants were mainly composed of males (64.3%). The age ranged between 3 and 78 years, with a mean \pm SD of 30.2 \pm 13.9 years, and a median of 30 years. Majority of the participants belonged to 30 to 39 year age group (31%), closely followed by those 18 to 29 years (29%)

and 40 and above (22.3%). Children < 18 years accounted for 17.7% of the study participants. Most participants came in contact with water body within the community on a daily basis (n = 166, 55.3%) and weekly (n = 120, 40%), with washing accounting for 43.3% of water contact activities in the communities, followed by farming and irrigation (23.7%). Ninety percent of members of the community source their drinking water from wells

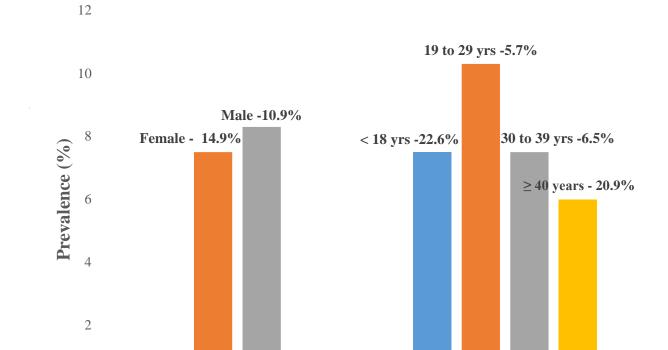
Table 1: Socio-demographic of study participants and potential risk factors

Variables	Frequency	Proportion	
	(n)	(%)	
Gender			
Female	107	35.7	
Male	193	64.3	
Age groups			
< 18 years	53	17.7	
19 to 29 years	87	29.0	
30 to 39 years	93	31.0	
≥ 40 years	67	22.3	
Age range	3 to 78 year	5	
Mean ± SD age	$30.2 \pm 13.9 \text{ y}$		
Median age	30 years		
Frequency of water contact	,		
None	8	2.7	
Daily	166	55.3	
Weekly	120	40.0	
Monthly	6	2.0	
Water contact activities			
None	8	2.7	
Bathing	11.7		
Fishing	28	9.3	
Farming/Irrigation	71	23.7	
Swimming	28	9.3	
Washing	130	43.3	
Source of drinking water			
Well	270	90.0	
Dam	30	10.0	

Prevalence of Schistosoma Infection

Out of 300 individuals examined, 61 persons were positive for schistosomiasis (urinary and intestinal) and the overall prevalence in the community was 20.3% (95% CI: 15.9 to 24.9%). The overall prevalence also revealed that females had slightly higher prevalence than males. The age group >40 years had higher prevalence than the combined prevalence of 21.43% found among children less than 18 years and 18 – 29 years. The prevalence of urinary and intestinal schistosomiasis was 12.3% (95% CI: 8.8 to 16.2%) and 8% (95% CI: 5.4 to 11.6%) respectively. The results as shown in Table 2 suggested that 1 in every 8 persons in the community had urinary schistosomiasis, 1 in 12 intestinal while 1 in 5 was infected by at least one of the two types.

Figure 2 presents the prevalence of the disease according to age and sex. The prevalence of urinary schistosomiasis was more in females, while in the intestinal infection it was higher in males. With regards to age groups, prevalence of urinary schistosomiasis was highest among children less than 18 years (22.6%) and individuals 40 years and above (20.9%). The



Intestinal						
	Examined		schistosomiasis schistosomiasis		Total	
			(%)	(%)		
Overall Prevalence	300	37(12.3)	24(8.0)	61(20.3)	
Gender						
Female	107	16(14.9)	8(7.5)	24(22.4)	
Male	193	21(10.9)	16(8.3)	37(19.2)	
Age group						
< 18 years	53	12(22.6)	4(7.5)	16(30.9)	
19 to 29 years	87	5(5.7)		9(10.3)	14(16.1)	
30 to 39 years	93	6(6.5)		7(7.5)	13(13.9)	
≥40 years	67	14(20.9)	4(6.0)	18(26.9)	

Gender

0

Age

^{% =} Prevalence

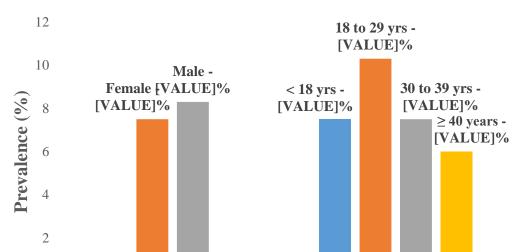


Figure 2: Prevalence of urinary schistosomiasis in Warwade community by gender and age

Figure 3: of Intestinal schistosomiasis according to gender and age in Warwade community

Prevalence

Risk factors associated with schistosomiasis

Gender

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In Table 3, gender, age, occupation, source of drinking water, water contact activities and its frequency were examined for their significance as risk factors associated with schistosomiasis. Age and occupation were statistically significant factors associated with Schistosoma infection in Warwade community. The results suggested that children less than 18 years old and older adults (40 years and above) were more prone to Schistosoma infections and the infections were highest amongst children less than 18 years.

Age

Table 3: Bivariate analysis of risk factors associated with overall prevalence of schistosomiasis in Warwade community (n = 300)

Factors	NO. Positi	NO. Positive cases		P-value	
	Examined	NO. (%)			
Gender			0.	.11	0.74
Female	107	24(22.5)			
Male	193	37(19.2)			
Age groups			8.	.91	0.03*
< 18 years	53	16(30.2)			
18 to 29 years	87	14(16.1)			
30 to 39 years	93	13(14.0)			
≥ 40 years	67	18(26.9)			
Occupation			10	0.6	0.03*
Dependents	70	23(32.9)			
Housewife	82	13(15.9)			
Traders/Business	28	7(25.0)			
Farming/Irrigation	86	14(16.3)			
Fishing	34	4(11.8)			
Frequency of water contact			1.22	0.27	
Non frequent users	134	23(17.2)			
Frequent users	166	38(22.9)			
Water contact activities		. ,	2.58	NA	
None	8	0(0.0)			

Domestic Occupational	193 99	42(21.8) 19(19.2)			
Source of drinking water		` '	2.08	0.15	
Well	270	52(19.3)			
Dam	21	9(42.9)			

^{*}Significant at P < 0.05 %=Prevalence NA=Not Applicable

Molecular detection of urinary schistosomes

The thirty seven urine samples found positive for urinary schistosomiasis subjected to PCR amplification were confirmed positive for *S. haematobium* infections as shown in Plates I, II and III.

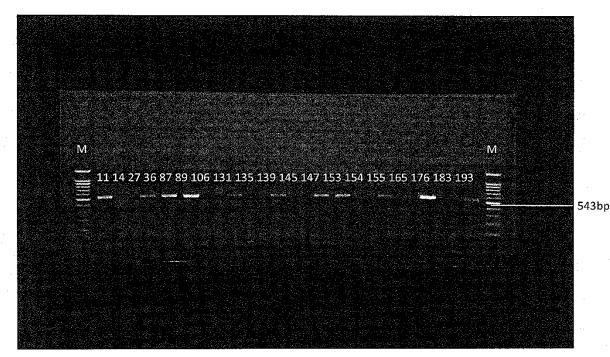


Plate I: PCR (Gel Electrophoresis) of the urine samples

M= Mass Spectrometry

Legend



Positive sample



Base pairs

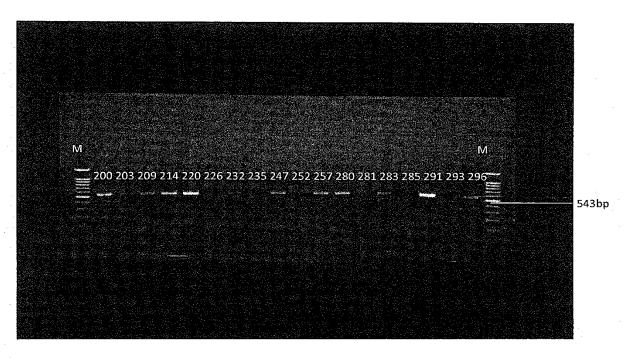


Plate II: PCR (Gel Electrophoresis) of the urine samples M= Mass Spectrometry

Legend



Positive sample



Base pairs

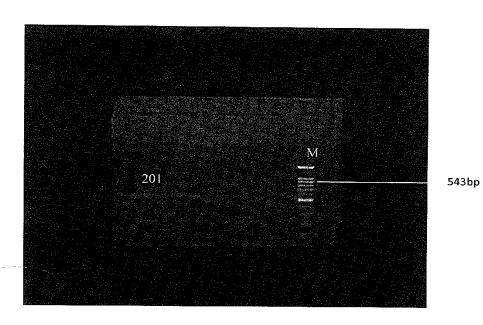


Plate III: PCR (Gel Electrophoresis) of the urine samples

M= Mass Spectrometry

Legend



Negative sample



Base pairs

DISCUSSION

This study revealed that schistosomiasis is endemic in Warwade community, but the level of endemicity according to Ezeh et al. (2019) was moderate as it falls within the range of 10% to 50%. The prevalence was comparable to previous findings by Ahmed et al., (2015) and Bashir et al., (2016) from the same locality and that reported by Omenesa et al. (2015) in Bomo, Zaria, Kaduna State and by Adulugba et al. (2015) in Agatu communities, Benue State. However, the findings deferred with the work of Nanvya et al. (2011) in Ndinjor district, Lantang North, Plateau State where the disease was hyper-endemic with a prevalence of 55.7% and that of Amutu et al. (2014) in Riverine areas of Ondo State, Nigeria, with 48.8%. The low endemicity in Warwade community may be as a result of the government intervention of mass drug administration (MDA) from 2009 to 2013 in Dutse local government area. The observed prevalence is similar to some previous reports in communities near dam sites in Nigeria where the prevalence were reported to be lower than in communities living close to streams, rivers and extensive irrigation schemes. For instance, out of the 44 Local Government Areas of Kano State, Kura with an extensive irrigation scheme had the highest prevalence (Abdullahi et al., 2011). Moreover, this study found 1 in every 5 persons was likely to be infected with either urinary or intestinal schistosomiasis further showed that the level of endemicity was moderate.

In this study prevalence of urinary schistosomiasis was more in females than males is contrary to observed norm in this part of the country where males are more engaged in activities that expose them to infection with schistosomiasis than their females counter parts. This could be because females in this community were made to engage in water contact activities such as fetching water, washing of cooking wares and clothes especially at the dam site more than the males. This probably exposed them more to infection with schistosomiasis when compared to males. Slightly higher prevalence were reported by Mbata *et al.* (2009), males 23.1% vs. females 22.5% and Hassan *et al.* (2015) 51.7% in males and 50.5% in females. Nevertheless, much higher prevalence was observed in males than in females by (24), 67.2% vs. 44.2%, (6), 60.2% vs. 47.7% and (8) 61.9% vs. 47.3%. However, equal prevalence of 4.8% was reported in both sexes (Akinwale *et al.*, 2009). These observed differences may due to variation in factors such as cultural practices and water contact behaviour among the two gender groups in different communities.

In case of intestinal schistosomiasis, our finding showed that males had higher prevalence than females. However, this observation did not agree with the work of Nanvya *et al.* (2011)) that reported higher prevalence in females, 18.4% than in males 10.5%. The varied prevalence regarding gender may point to the species virulence rather than behavioral factor.

This work reported higher prevalence of both urinary and intestinal schistosomiasis among children and adolescents than the middle age groups. The major reason is that children and adolescents are in their active ages and were therefore more likely to have regular contact with water bodies such as that of Warwade dam that expose them to infection with schistosomiasis than older age groups. This finding is similar to the work of Kabatereine *et al.* (2013) who reported that children are more at risk of infection, which increases and peak between the age of 11 and 20 years old. The relatively high prevalence recorded among the older age groups in this study especially in case of urinary schistosomiasis may due to occupational exposure to the water body mainly through activities such as fishing and farming possibly becoming more vulnerable to infection with the disease.

Of all the risk factors considered in this investigation, only age and occupation were found to be significantly associated with schistosomiasis infection in Warwade community. This is

because most members associated with these two risk factors had more water contact activities than others in the community. In terms of age it was the children and young adults that were most infected with schistosomiasis in the community. However, this finding is at variance with the observation Mbata *et al.* (2009) that neither age nor gender was not significantly associated with schistosomiasis infection. This is probably because members of the community had no restrictions in the way they were engaged in water contact activities such as swimming, bathing, fishing and fetching of water for other domestic activities. Farmers and fishermen being the second most infected with schistosomiasis constitute a sizeable number of the older age group whose occupation exposed them to infection with the disease. This is consistent with the findings that members of the community that engage in agricultural work and fishing as major water contact activity are more exposed to infection than others (Awosulu *et al.*, 2020).

Molecular method is a gold standard for the diagnosis of most infection including schistosomiasis. The thirty seven urine samples that tested positive using sedimentation techniques were also positive based on PCR analysis. This goes to confirm that Warwade community is endemic for urinary schistosomiasis infection.

CONCLUSION

Warwade community is moderately endemic for schistosomiasis with an overall prevalence of 20.3% with the prevalence of urinary schistosomiasis higher (12.4%) than intestinal with (8%). Overall infection with schistosomiasis (urinary and intestinal) males had higher prevalence than females, but the opposite was the case in case of urinary schistosomiasis. Children and young adults were the most infected, but the older age groups also had slightly lower prevalence probably because they were engaged in activities such as fishing and farming that exposed them the more to infection with schistosomiasis. Only age and occupation was found to be significantly associated with infection with schistosomiasis. PCR analysis confirmed that all the samples that tested positive for urinary schistosomiasis by sedimentation method were indeed so goes support the endemicity of the disease in the community.

RECOMMEDATION

Mass chemotherapy using praziquantel should be administered on every member living in the community with exception of the sick, malnourished children and pregnant women. The use of protective wears such as boots and hand gloves by individuals that normally come into contact with water bodies especially during farming, irrigation, washing and fetching water is strongly recommended. This should be complemented with freshwater snail control in the dam and other water bodies around the community.

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