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Research Article

AWARENESS OF PEOPLE TO ATTEND FREE MEDICAL CAMP CONDUCTED IN SOUTH INDIAN TERTIARY CARE HOSPITAL

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Abstract

Prevention and treatment of medical issues are the main task of a health service at a youth camp. However, only few reports about organization and implementation of camp health care are available. This makes it difficult for future camp directors to plan and estimate the health care needed for a certain camp size. Keeping this in mind, a prospective study was conducted in Yenepoya Medical College Hospital (Tertiary Care hospital) between April 8th to 12th, 2013 on the occasion of World Health Day 2013 in order to assess the awareness of people in attending free medical camp. In this study we found that about 267 patients attended the camp. Among those about 155 (61.50 %) were males and about 97 (38.49 %) were females. Among males the highest percentages of males were in the age group of 41-50 years (29.03 %) and among females the highest percentage were in the age group of 31-40 years (30.92 %). The lowest age recorded was 10 months and the highest age recorded was 95 years. The Standard Deviation (S.D) of age for males was found to be 35.90 years and for the females was 9.10 years.

Keywords: Free medical camp, Health care, Health service.

INTRODUCTION

When Sir Baden-Powell initiated the scout movement, camping and outdoor experience became an important part in youth education¹.

Camping itself provides a unique platform for youth development that is different from experiences that youth gather at school or at home. The body of research regarding camp experience is expanding since the last decade which has led to an improved understanding of the values in these activities². A camp experience improves positive youth development including self-esteem, peer relationships, independence, leadership and social competence³. The connection with the natural environment has been associated with positive impact on physical and psychological conditions like depression, attention disorder and obesity⁴. Sir Baden-Powell stated in his original "Scouting for boys" that without basic skills in first aid the scouts might as well stay home⁵. Today, it is a requirement that sufficient health service is provided at larger camp sites. Health service should be provided at camps, especially in the field where participants are disabled or have special needs^{6,7}. Outbreaks of infectious diseases during camps are related to the amount of people living together in provisional housing or by environmental exposure to a pathogen^{8,9}. Health prevention on camps was adopted early in scouting by its founder Sir Baden-Powell. Prevention as well as treatment of medical issues should be the main task of the health service when planning a camp^{10,11}. Hygiene is a key word emphasized by

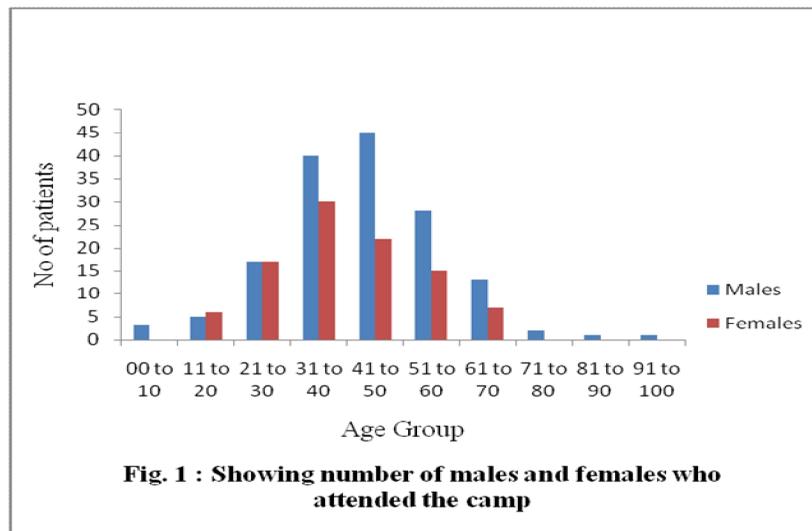
Sir Baden-Powell. He emphasized in his book the importance to keep the camp, the camp kitchen and yourself clean to avoid becoming sick¹². However, only few reports about camp health care are available regarding the organization and implementation of health care at big camps^{13,14}. This makes it difficult for future camp directors to plan and estimate the health care needed for a certain camp size.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A prospective study was conducted in Yenepoya Medical College Hospital (Tertiary Care hospital) between April 8th to 12th, 2013 on the occasion of World Health Day 2013 in order to assess the awareness of people in attending free medical camp. The relevant data was collected in a preformed Proforma and were analyzed.

Table 1: Showing Percentage of Patients Attend the Camp According to Class Intervals

Age in years	Sex			
	Males (No.)	Male (%)	Females (No.)	Females (%)
0-10	03	1.93	00	00
11-20	05	3.22	06	6.18
21-30	17	10.96	17	17.52
31-40	40	25.80	30	30.92
41-50	45	29.03	22	22.68
51-60	28	18.06	15	15.46
61-70	13	8.38	07	7.21
71-80	02	1.29	0	0
81-90	01	0.64	0	0
91-100	01	0.64	0	0



RESULTS

The results are presented in Table 1 and Figure 1.

DISCUSSION

In this article we summarize the experiences in planning and running health care camp conducted in Yenepoya Medical College Hospital (Tertiary Care hospital) between April 8th to 12th, 2013 on the occasion of World Health Day 2013 in order to assess the awareness of people in attending free medical camp. In this study we found that about 267 patients attended the camp. Among those about 155 (61.50 %) were males and about 97 (38.49 %) were females. Among males the highest percentages of males were in the age group of 41-50 years (29.03 %) and among females the highest percentage were in the age group of 31-40 years (30.92 %). The lowest age recorded was 10 months and the highest age recorded was 95 years. (Table 1 and Figure 1). The Standard Deviation (S.D) of age for males was found to be 35.90 years and for the females was 9.10 years. Growth in the volume and rigor of camp research over the past decade has led to improved understanding of the value of the camp experience as a setting for positive youth development and the developmental outcomes of camp experiences for youth and adults, suggesting innovations and opportunities in the exploration of the camp experience. In our study we found that there was an awareness in the people to attend the free health checkup camp, but we still feel that the number of people attending the camp would have been increased if proper campaigning would have been done to reach larger population in and around the area of the camp location. We opine that, it is also necessary to have the follow up of the patients who have been diagnosed with chronic illness during the camp in order to deliver a better health care with a concern for wellbeing of the society.

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