



VOLUME 20, NUMBER 1, 2015

THE NIGERIAN JOURNAL OF GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING



ISSN 0794-0831

Dr Baba Dore Abubakar

**THE NIGERIAN JOURNAL
OF
GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING:**

An International Journal

TNJGC; VOLUME 20; NUMBER 1; 2015 EDITION

Published by:

Department of Counsellor Education, Faculty of Education,

University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Nigeria.

Unilorin Press
University of Ilorin,
P.M.B. 1515,
Ilorin,
Nigeria.
Email: unilorinpress@gmail.com

© Department of Counsellor Education,
University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Nigeria

Published 2015

ISSN: 0794-0831

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INFLUENCE OF MEDIA ENLIGHTENMENT PROGRAMME ON CONTROL AND PREVENTION OF CEREBROSPINAL MENINGITIS AMONG PEOPLE OF ILORIN METROPOLIS, KWARA STATE, NIGERIA



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Abstract

The study examined the influence of media enlightenment programmes on control and prevention of cerebrospinal meningitis among people of Ilorin metropolis, Kwara State, Nigeria. The study population comprised all the people within Ilorin metropolis, Kwara state. A descriptive research design of survey method was adopted for the study. A multi-stage sampling technique was employed to select two hundred (200) respondents for the study. The instrument used for the study was researchers' structured questionnaire validated by experts in the field of community health and health education. A test re-test method was used establish the reliability of the research instrument and a correlation coefficient of 0.75 was obtained. Three research hypotheses were tested with the use of chi-square (χ^2) statistical method at 0.05 alpha level of significance. The findings of the study revealed that enlightenment programmes have much influence on control of cerebrospinal meningitis infection among people of Ilorin metropolis, Kwara State. Also, media enlightenment programmes have positive influence on prevention of cerebrospinal meningitis infection among people of Ilorin metropolis, Kwara state. Based on the findings above, the study it was recommended that more programmes on media enlightenment should be organized on effective control of meningitis infections. Private organizations, individuals' and governments at all level should join hands to ensure effective prevention of meningitis infections.

Keywords: Influence, Media, Enlightenment Programme, Cerebrospinal Meningitis, Control and Prevention

Introduction

The brain and the spinal cord are covered by a protective membrane, This membrane is made up of three layers called, the dura-mater, arachnoid mater and pia-mater. These layers which help in protecting the central nervous system from infections are together called meningitis. However, there are Certain Micro-organisms as well as drugs that can cause inflammation of the meningitis which leads to a life threatening disease (Health Plus, 2013). Liana and Lawrence (1996) noted that using the mass media to improve public health can be like navigating a vast network of road without street signs.

Health Plus 24 (2013) and Verges and Kumabi (2000) described the inflammation of the meningitis around the brain and spinal cord as meningitis. This usually leads to swelling around the brain and spinal cord which result into, headache, stiff neck and fever. In some cases, the infection can get cured after few weeks of treatment. Thus, anyone suffering from meningitis requires immediate medical attention. According to Medical Researchers Reveal Cerebrospinal Meningitis (MRRCPM) (2013) cerebrospinal meningitis is also known as meningococcal diseases. Sometime, it could be a fatal condition, especially in third-world nations. Cerebrospinal meningitis is an inflammation of the membranes in both the brain and the spinal cord which require urgent attention, The inflammation of the brain and the spinal cord often results in a very serious infection and becomes an often fatal variety of meningitis caused by the meningococcal bacterial.

Mcdermott and Alberecht (2002) asserted that mass media are tools for the transfer of information, concept and ideas to both general and specific audience. Mass media are important tools of advancing public health goals of diseases prevention and health promotion.

Cerebrospinal meningitis diseases is common in rural area of African communities which is relatively caused by the dislococcus intracellular is infections. According to MRRCPM (2013) and Bergendal (2000) a viral infection may result in viral meningitis which normally goes away without medical treatment. However, bacterial infections are extremely serious due to the fact that severe bacterial spinal meningitis often leads to death or severe brain damage. Cerebrospinal meningitis often resulted from risk factors like mosquito bites, fungi infection some chemical reactions, genital herpes, drug allergies, certain types of cancers and tumors. The common symptoms of cerebrospinal meningitis are sudden onset of fever, headache and stiffneck. It is often accompanied by other symptoms such as; vomiting, nausea, photophobia and altered mental status.

Ankomah, Adebayo, Arogundade, Anyanti, Nwokolo, Inyang, Oladipupo, Ipadeola and Meremiku (2014) stated that the best strategic plan for prevention and control of diseases outbreak is through creation of awareness and enlightenment programmes. An individual that listen to mass media campaign were more likely to adopt strategies that protect them against infectious disease than those paying non-challant attitude.

WHO (2003) and Gupta (2002) observed that there are two types of meningitis which include bacterial meningitis and virus meningitis. Meningococcal bacterial is an acute bacterial disease caused by the meningococcus bacterial [*Neisseria meningitides*] some forms of bacterial meningitis are contagious. The bacterial meningococcal infection can only be spread from one place to another through exchange of respiratory and throat secretion. This can occur through coughing, kissing and sneezing. However, the bacteria that cause meningitis spread to other people who usually had close or prolonged contact with a patient with meningitis caused by *Neisseria meningitidis* which is also known as meningococcal meningitis or Hib.

The virus can also be spread through respiratory secretions released by an infected person, In some cases, certain virus can spread through direct as well as indirect contact like shaking hands, touching objects contaminate by the virus or sharing towels, clothes

and napkins (Health plus 24, 2013). Viral meningitis can strike anyone at any age, however, it is common in people with weak immune system like children under the age of 5 years or very old people which often spread from person to person due to faecal contamination

According to Health Plus 24 (2013) the symptoms of meningitis includes eating less, difficulty to waking up a sleeping child, rash sore throat, diarrhea irritation and so on. In other words, adults develop the following signs of viral meningitis; poor appetite, high fever, joint pains, stiffness in neck, problem of waking up, nausea and vomiting, light sensitivity (photophobia) sound sensitivity (photophobia).

According to Medical Dictionary (2013), a number of techniques are used when examining a patient suspected of having meningitis to verify the diagnosis, certain manipulations of the head and flexing the head, chin towards chest, may be difficult to perform and painful for a patient with meningitis. The most important test used to diagnose meningitis is the lumbar puncture commonly called spinal tap. Lumbar puncture involves the insertion of a thin needle into a space between the vertebrae in the lower back and the withdrawal of a small amount of cerebrospinal fluid.

According to Health Plus (2013) meningitis spreads from an infected person to healthy individuals which make it necessary for people to always cover their nose and mouth while coughing and sneezing people should avoid sharing utensils, towels, napkins and toothbrushes. Also, make sure you wash hands and maintain all precaution. It is equally important for an individual to ensure intake food rich in essential nutrients to improve body immunity to resist the infectious diseases. It is also necessary to maintain good personal hygiene. Symptom View (2014) noted that meningitis can be a bacterial or viral infection. It is an infection of meningitis, the protective membranes that surround the brain and spinal cord. Meningitis is caused by bacteria, virus, certain physical injuries cancers or drug misuses or abuse.

The role of media enlightenment go a long way to educate and sensitize people toward cerebrospinal meningitis which pose a threat on the healthful living of people in the African continent, most especially in the Northern Nigeria (Medical Reports, 2013 & WHO, 2004). Several programme on health tips was organized so as to educate and enlightening the general public on preventive measure that could be taken in order to kick against these infections in our community. The Federal Ministry of Health organized a symposium tagged kick cerebrospinal meningitis out of Nigeria (2008), this programme was first of its kind under the then Minister of Health Prof. Babatunde Oshotimilehin. This programme was broadcast live both on N.T.A. and Radio Nigeria. Babatunde (2008) noted that radio and television programme are being organized to sensitize people on the causes, prevention and control measures against cerebrospinal meningitis or other infectious diseases. All the stakeholders were advised to mobilize and mount heavy campaign on meningitis infection. In the light of foregoing, this paper investigates influence of media enlightenment programme on control and prevention of cerebrospinal meningitis among people of Ilorin metropolis, Kwara State.

Research Questions

In carrying out this study, the following research questions were raised to guide the study:

1. Does media enlightenment have any significant influence on control of cerebrospinal meningitis disease among people of Ilorin metropolis?
2. Does media enlightenment programme have any significant influence on prevention of cerebrospinal meningitis infection among people of Ilorin metropolis?
3. Does media enlightenment programme have any influence on creation of awareness on causes and prevalence of spinal meningitis infection among people Ilorin metropolis?

Research Hypotheses

The following research hypotheses were formulated and tested for the study:

1. Media enlightenment programme will not have significant influence on control of cerebrospinal meningitis infection among people of Ilorin metropolis.
2. Media enlightenment programme will not have significant influence on prevention of cerebrospinal meningitis infection among people of Ilorin metropolis.
3. Media enlightenment programme will not have significant influence on creation of awareness on causes and prevalence of cerebrospinal meningitis infection among people of Ilorin metropolis.

Methodology

The research design used for this study was a descriptive research design of survey method. The population for the study comprised of all the people in Ilorin metropolis. A multistage sampling techniques was used to select the sample for the study. The metropolis were divided into four strata the Western, Eastern, Southern and Northern part. In all 50 respondents were sampled from each of the stratum which comprises of 20 females and 30 males health workers. This means that 200 health workers were selected for the study comprises of 120 males workers and 80 females workers. The instrument used for the study was a likert scale format questionnaire which was well validated by experts in the field of Health Education. A test-re-test method was employed to establish the reliability level of the instrument used for the study. A reliability of 0.75 correlation coefficient was obtained. The data collected were analysed with the use of chi-square (χ^2) inferential statistics at 0.05 alpha level of significance.

Results

Hypothesis 1: *Media enlightenment programme will not have significant influence on control of cerebrospinal meningitis infection among people of Ilorin metropolis.*

Table 1: Chi-square (χ^2) results on influence of media enlightenment on control of cerebrospinal meningitis among people of Ilorin metropolis

S/N	Item	SA	A	D	SD	Freq. of Agree	% of Agree	Freq. of Disagree	% of Disagree	Roll Total	Cal. value	Critical value	Decision
1.	Media enlightenment reduces the spread of meningitis infection among people	80 (78.75)	60 (57.5)	40 (38)	20 (25.75)	140	70	60	30	200			
2.	Media enlightenment positively influence the control of meningitis infection	70 (78.75)	65 (57.5)	35 (38)	30 (25.75)	135	67.5	65	32.5	200			
3.	Enlightenment programme on health reduces the risk of meningitis infection	90 (78.75)	50 (57.5)	45 (38)	15 (25.75)	140	70	60	30	200	30.23	9	16.92
4.	Media enlightenment provides useful information to people on control of meningitis	75 (78.75)	55 (57.5)	32 (38)	38 (25.75)	130	65	70	35	200			
Total		315	230	152	103					800			

Rejected Hypothesis

The item by item analysis in table one shows that 140(70%) of respondents agreed that media enlightenment is effective in-reducing meningitis infection within the community while 60(30%) of respondents disagreed with the statement. Also, 135(67.5%) of respondent agreed that the roles played by media enlightenment enable people to know the causes of meningitis infection, while 65(32.5%) of respondents disagreed with the statement. A total of 140(70%) respondent agreed that media enlightenment programme negatively influence causes of meningitis among people, while 60(30%) of respondents disagreed with the statement. The result of analysis of item 4 in table 1 above shows that 130(65%) of respondents agreed that media enlightenment provides useful information to people on control of meningitis, while 70(35%) of respondents disagreed with the statement.

Table 1 shows the calculated chi-square value of 30.23 as against the critical value of 16.92 with degree of freedom of 9 at 0.05 alpha level of significance, since the calculated value is greater than the critical value, the null hypothesis that states media enlightenment programme will not have significant influence on control of meningitis is hereby rejected. This means that media enlightenment programme will have much influence on control of meningitis infection among people of Ilorin metropolis.

Hypothesis 2: *Media enlightenment programme will not have significant influence on prevention of cerebrospinal meningitis infection among people of Ilorin metropolis.*

Table 2: Chi-square (χ^2) result on influence of media enlightenment on prevention of meningitis infection among people of Ilorin metropolis

S/N	Item	SA	A	D	SD	Freq. of Agree	% of Agree	Freq. of Disagree	% of Disagree	Ro ll Total	Cal. d value	Crit De . valu e
1.	Health talk on radio and television enhance preventive measure against meningitis among people	85 (77.5 0)	55 (55.75)	45 (42.5 0)	15 (21.2 5)	140	70	60	30	20 0		
2.	Health programme organized on television and radio reduces the risk of getting infected with meningitis infection	75 (77.5 0)	50 (55.75)	45 (42.5 0)	35 (21.2 5)	125	62.5	75	37.5	20 0		
3.	Media enlightenment enhances preventive measures taken by the health officers in the fight against meningitis infection	80 (77.5 0)	60 (55.75)	48 (42.5 0)	12 (21.2 5)	140	70	60	30	20 0	52.76	9
4.	Organizing a public lecture on Radio and Television educate people on preventive step toward meningitis infection.	70 (77.5 0)	58 (55.75)	35 (42.5 0)	37 (21.2 5)	128	64	72	36	20 0		
Total		310	223	170	97					80 0		16.92

Hypothesis Rejected

The item by item analysis in table 2 shows that 140(70%) of respondents agreed that health talk on radio and television enhance preventive measure against meningitis among people while 60(30%) of respondent disagreed with the statement. Also, 125(62.5%) of respondents agreed that health programme organized on television and radio reduces the risk of getting infected with meningitis infection while 75(37.5%) of respondents disagreed with the statement. A total of 140(70%) of respondents agreed that media enlightenment enhances preventive measures taken by the health officers in the fight against meningitis infection while 60(30%) them disagreed with the statement. The result of analysis of item 4 in table 2 shows that 128(65%) agreed that organizing a pubic lecture on radio and television educate people on preventive step towards meningitis infection

A critical analysis of tale 2 shows the calculated value of 52.76 as against the critical value of 16.92 with degree of freedom of 9 at 0.05 alpha level of significance. Since the calculated value is greater than the critical value, the null hypothesis which states that media enlightenment programme will not have significant influence on prevention of

meningitis infection among people of Ilorin metropolis is hereby rejected. This means that media enlightenment programme will have serious influence on meningitis infection among people of Ilorin metropolis, Kwara State.

Hypothesis 3: *Media enlightenment programme will not have significant influence on causes and prevalence of meningitis infection among people of Ilorin metropolis.*

Table 3: Chi-square (χ^2) results on influence of media enlightenment on causes and prevalence of meningitis infection among people of Ilorin metropolis, Kwara States

S/N	Item	SA	A	D	SD	Freq. of Agree	% of Agree	Freq. of Disagree	% of Disagree	Roll Total	Cal. value	Crit. value	Decision
1.	Media enlightenment is effective in reducing the causes of meningitis infection	95 (82.50)	63 (58.25)	15 (30)	25 (29.25)	158	79	42	21	200			
2.	The role of media enlightenment makes people to be conscious about the causes of meningitis infection	85 (82.50)	55 (58.25)	33 (30)	27 (29.25)	140	70	60	30	200			
3.	Media enlightenment programme negatively influence the causes of meningitis among people	80 (82.50)	60 (58.25)	40 (30)	30 (29.25)	140	70	60	30	200	37.18	9	16.92
4.	Media enlightenment increases awareness control of widespread of meningitis infection among people	80 (82.50)	53 (58.25)	32 (30)	38 (29.25)	130	65	70	35	200			
Total		330	233	120	117					800			

Hypothesis Rejected

The item by item analysis in table 3 shows that 158(79%) of respondents agreed that media enlightenment is effective in reducing the causes of meningitis infection while 42(21%) disagreed with the statement. A total of 140(70%) of respondents agreed that the role of media enlightenment makes people to be conscious about the causes of meningitis infection while 60(30%) disagreed with the statement. Also, 140 (70%) of respondents agreed that media enlightenment programme negatively influence the causes of meningitis among people while 60(30%) disagreed with the statement. The result of

analysis of item 4 in table 4 above shows that 130(65%) of respondents agreed that media enlightenment increases awareness on control of widespread of meningitis infection among people, while 70(35%) of them disagreed with the statement.

Table 3 indicates a calculated value of 37.18 as against the critical value of 16.92 with degree of freedom of 9 at 0.05 alpha level of significance. Since the calculated value is greater than the critical value, the null hypothesis that states that, media enlightenment programme will not have significant influence on causes and prevalence of meningitis infection among people of Ilorin metropolis is hereby rejected. This means that media enlightenment programme will have much influence on causes of meningitis infection among people of Ilorin metropolis, Kwara State.

Discussion of Findings

The result of finding of tested hypothesis 1 in table 1 shows χ^2 value of 30.23 > χ^2 table value of 16.92. This revealed that media enlightenment programme have much influence on control of meningitis infection among people of Ilorin metropolis. This result tallied with the view of Medical Report (2013) that adequate information about meningitis infection on media programme go along way in prevention and control of the infection the rural area. Liana and Lawrence (1996) noted that using the mass media to improve public health can be like navigating a vast network of road without street signs.

The finding from tested hypothesis 2 revealed that media enlightenment programme will have serious influence on prevention of meningitis infection among people of Ilorin metropolis. This finding is in line with the findings of Health plus (2013) that enlightenment programme like covering their nose and mouth while coughing and sneezing and never share toothbrush and napkins with infected person will prevent the diseases from spreading. McDermott and Alberecht (2002) asserted that mass media are tools for the transfer of information, concept and ideas to both general and specific audience. Mass media are important tools of advancing public health goals of diseases prevention and health promotion. This finding was supported by Ankomah, Adebayo, Arogundade, Anyanti, Nwokolo, Inyang, Oladipupo, Ipadeola and Meremiku (2014) that the best strategic plan for prevention and control of diseases outbreak is through creation of awareness and enlightenment programmes. An individual that listen to mass media campaign were more likely to adopt strategies that protect them against infectious disease than those paying non-challant attitude.

The hypothesis 3 in table 3 shows chi-square (χ^2) analysis of influence of media enlightenment on causes of cerebrospinal meningitis infection among people of Ilorin metropolis. This result agreed with Babatunde (2008) who stated that sensitization programme on Radio and television helps people to know the causes, prevalence, control and preventive steps that can be taken to fight against meningitis infection in our community. Symptom View (2014) noted that meningitis can be a bacterial or viral infection. It is an infection of meningitis, the protective membranes that surround the brain and spinal cord. Meningitis is caused by bacteria, virus, certain physical injuries cancers or drug misuses or abuse.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of this study, the following conclusions were made:

1. Media Enlightenment programme have much influence on the control of cerebrospinal meningitis infection among people of Ilorin metropolis, Kwara State.
2. Media Enlightenment programme have serious influence on prevention of cerebrospinal meningitis infection among people of Ilorin metropolis. Kwara State.
3. Media enlightenment programme have greater influence than on causes and prevalence of cerebrospinal meningitis infection among people of Ilorin metropolis, Kwara State.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations were made;

1. More programme on media enlightenment should be organized so as to control the wide spread of cerebrospinal infection among people of Ilorin metropolis, Kwara State.
2. There is need for private bodies to join hands with Ministry of Health on media enlightenment programme on the preventive measures to be taken against cerebrospinal infection among people of Ilorin metropolis, Kwara State.
3. Heavy campaign should be made on media programme so as to fight against the causes and widespread of this infection among people of Ilorin metropolis, Kwara State.

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