



## Socio-demographic Profile and Health Seeking Behaviour among Malaria Patients in Western Odisha (Original Article)

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### Abstract

**Background:** *The prevention and control of vector born disease is complex. Under NVBCDP some of the pronged strategy for prevention & control of malaria is early case detection and complete treatment, strengthening of referral services, supportive intervention including behavioral change communication.*

**Objectives:** *1.To study the socio demographic profile of malaria patients. 2. To know the health seeking behavior of these patients.*

**Materials and Methods:** *It was a hospital based cross sectional study carried out from June to Sept.2014 in the medicine indoor of VSS medical college & Hospital. All the patients admitted to the medicine ward after diagnosed as malaria were included as study subjects. Data was collected in a predesigned pretested questionnaire and it was analyzed with MS Excel.*

**Result:** *Out of 140 malaria patients young adult & middle aged were more (75%) cases with a male pre dominance( 78%). 59% of the cases were belonged to lower socio economic classes. The educated person (68%) were constitutes the more number of cases. Most patients (75%) had used the mosquito net. .39% cases were attributed to migration to endemic region.64. 5% of patients sought for medical attention after 3 days. 81% cases came to the hospital with their own motivation.65% of the study subject were as referred cases.*

**Conclusion:** *Malaria still continues to pose a major threat to the people of western Odisha even after implementation of various national programs. So IEC & BCC are required to increase the awareness regarding various aspects of malaria.*

**Keywords:** *Socio demographic, Malaria, Health seeking behavior*

## Introduction

Malaria is a leading cause of morbidity and mortality affecting 109 countries with an annual case fatality of 1-3 millions. Despite a detailed knowledge of malaria parasite and transmitting agent, it still continues to be a major cause of death. In Odisha due to lack of adequate prophylactic measures, development of drug resistance & insecticide resistance mosquitoes. Annually country wide 23.4 million blood smear are examined with total 0.8 million cases of malaria & 379 death<sup>[1,2]</sup> Malaria traditionally believed to be a rural disease shows a direct relationship with socio economic status, housing conditions, personal measures taken against mosquitoes bites & health seeking behavior. VSSMCH is a tertiary care hospital catering to the need of 25 lakh population with 70-80% belonging to rural areas & admits 1000-1500 cases of malaria annually. On this background the present study was carried out to know the socio demographic profile and the health seeking behavior of malaria patients attending the tertiary care hospital.

## Materials and Methods

It was a hospital based cross sectional study carried out from June - Sept. 2014 in the medicine ward of VSS Medical College & Hospital. All the patients are admitted to medicine ward after diagnosed as malaria were included as study subjects. After explaining the objectives of the study informed consent was taken. Data was collected in a predesigned pre- tested questionnaires & it was analyzed with MS excel.

## Result

Out of 140 malaria patients, young adult & middle age group were more i.e. 105 (75%) cases with male predominance 110(78%). Among the study subjects 104(74%) were married. 114(81.5%) were from rural area. Only 7.85% were illiterate & 64(45.74%) were having higher education. 82(59%) of the cases were belong to lower socio economic status. Most of the patients 110(78.6%) were using mosquito net. Out of these 54(49%) were using medicated net.

Among the study subject 6(4.3%) of cases were having history of sickling. 54(39%) of cases were attributed to migration to endemic area in the recent past. 90(64.5%) of patients sought for medical attention after 3 days. 114(81.43%) cases came to the hospital with their own motivation, 90(64.28%) of the study subject were as referred cases.

## Discussion

In the present study young, adult & middle age group were more cases (75%) with male predominance (78%) due to greater outdoor activities. Similar type of findings were in the study carried out by Madhu M, P.S. Prakash.<sup>[6]</sup> Majority of the study subjects (81.43%) belong to the rural area. 59% of cases were in the low socio economic status with a finding similar to Pankaj P Tavid et al.<sup>[7,8]</sup> Contrary to popular believe, educated persons constituted the major cases (68%). Regarding personal prophylactic measure 78% were using the mosquito net. Out of this 49% were using the medicated one. In relation to the health seeking behavior of the patients, 64.58% cases waited for 3 days or more for consulting the doctor & the reason for it was home remedy treatment & negligence. This finding was similar to the findings of study conducted by Singh TG<sup>[10]</sup>.

## Conclusion

Malaria still continues to pose a major threat to the people of western Odisha even after implementation of various national programs. So IEC & BCC are required to increase the awareness regarding various aspects of malaria i.e. Regarding the regular use of mosquito net, early diagnosis of malaria with complete treatment by early consultation with doctors without any delay.

**Conflicts of Interest:** Nil

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