



KASTURBA MEDICAL COLLEGE
MANIPAL
(A constituent unit of KMC, Manipal)



GOA FOREST DEPARTMENT
WITH
THE CENTRE FOR WILDERNESS MEDICINE,
MAHE, MANIPAL
At the Valpoi Forest training school, Goa, 21.08.2021

SEMINAR AND WORKSHOP
FOR FOREST OFFICERS
ON
VECTOR BORNE DISEASES AND PREVENTION
FIRST RESPONSE IN SNAKE BITE AND CPR
SAFE SNAKE RESCUE PRACTICES

SPEAKERS: Damodar Salelkar (ACF GOA), Benhail Antao,
Aaron Fernandes, Alex Carpenter, Dr.Freston Marc Sirur



For queries on volunteering and participation write to cwm.kmc@manipal.edu



Speakers: Damodar Salekar (ACF Goa), Benhail Antao, Aaron Fernandes, Alex Carpenter, Dr. Freston Marc Sirur

Volunteers: BEMT-MCHP 3rd year students- Ramya, Caroline Ashritha Maben, Krithika Salian, Devika JL, Arundhathi Hebbar, Usha and Dr. Rashmi Bhat a PhD scholar at the Prasanna School of Public Health

Location: The Valpoi Forest training school situated at SH1, Naguem, Goa from 10:30 am to 4:30 pm.

Participants: Officers from all divisions of the Goa Forest Department(52 attendees)

Purpose:

1.To train the forest officers about personal protection and prevention of exposure to vectors common in the Western Ghats that transmit diseases such as Kiyasannur forest disease, scrub typhus, malaria, dengue and other tick borne infections.

2. Training on First response basics and in snake bite.
3. CPR training.
4. Safe snake rescue practices.

The workshop was carried out in four different sessions.

To begin with the first session, Dr.Freston Marc Sirur, Assistant professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine, KMC, Manipal and coordinator of Centre for Wilderness medicine along with Dr.Rashmi Bhat, PhD scholar at the Prasanna School of Public Health, Manipal and the EMT students, introduced the participants about the different types of vector borne diseases like KFD, scrub typhus, tick typhus and leptospirosis. They spoke about the causative organisms, transmission, life cycle and the prevention of these vector borne diseases while working in the field. The officers shared their experiences and field knowledge with the audience as well.



Dr Rashmi Bhat talking the endemic about vector borne disease KFD



The volunteer and the attendees



A senior Forest officer sharing his experience

Benhail Antao, a honoary wildlife warden and a well known animal rescuer from Goa took the lead for second session which was mainly about the burden of human snake conflict, social media and showmanship resulting in avoidable snake bite and consequent death from envenomation and finally a talk on safe snake rescue practices. This session also included multiple

videos shown by Aaron Fernandes on how do and how not to handle snakes. It also highlighted certain precautionary methods to be followed while rescuing the snakes and thus preventing snake bites and creating an awareness among the forest officers. Throughout the workshop, the officers shared their personal encounters and experiences with wildlife which was informative and made the session very interesting.



Benhail addressing the audience

Dr.Freston continued the session by giving a talk on first response in an emergency and the responsibility that forest officers have in remote and rural areas where medical services may be a long distance away. It included scene safety, reassurance, basic ABCD evaluation, safe transport and communication with medical workers. This session included the demonstration of recovery position, head tilt chin lift maneuver, splinting and immobilizing a bitten limb. He also spoke about the dangers of tourniquets, delays in hospital treatment and awareness about the importance of polyvalent anti snake venom (ASV) and the risk of anaphylaxis. This session was conducted with the help of the able EMT students.



Dr.Freston and the EMT volunteers demonstrating the recovery position with Alex Carpenter



EMTs immobilizing the bitten limb

The CPR training session followed a lunch break with the EMTs taking over two small groups. All the officers were individually trained in detecting cardiac arrest and administering effective CPR. The major goal of the session was early recognition of cardiac arrest, early initiation of CPR and thus improving the chance recovery in out of hospital cardiac arrests.





Alex Carpenter, Benhail Antao and Aaron Fernandes conducted the last session. A preconceived simulation with live snakes both in indoors and outdoors with medically significant species was conducted.







Acknowledgments:

Goa Forest Department

Medical simulation Center, Manipal, MAHE

Center for Wilderness Medicine, Manipal, MAHE

BSc.EMT students Final Year

Valpoi Forest Training School

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