

Knowledge, attitudes, and practices regarding schistosomiasis infection and prevention: A mixed-methods study among endemic communities of western Uganda

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Introduction

- Schistosomiasis is one of the Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) only second to malaria in terms of prevalence.
- Public health and social problem to Ugandan population.
- Infections and re-infections continue to occur despite interventions
- At least 3/10 adults, 4/10 children aged 2-4years old and 9/10 in areas of the country possibly due to some barriers .

Study objectives & study area

To assess knowledge, attitude, and practices of the community regarding schistosomiasis and understand their views and perspectives of the disease in Kagadi and Ntoroko districts.

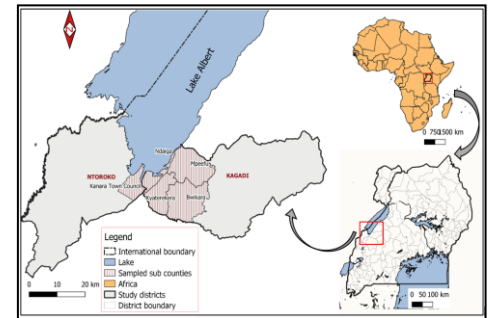


Fig: Study site location

Materials and methods

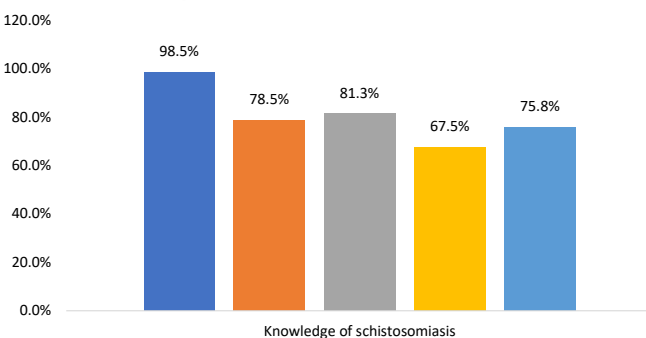


- A fully concurrent, equal status mixed methods design
- 337 questionnaires to adult household respondents,
- 28 Focus group discussions sessions, and 12 In-depth interviews with selected individuals and groups of adults
- Descriptive and inferential quantitative analysis and qualitative thematic analysis

Administering questionnaire and conducting FGD in Kitebere and Lyanda villages respectively

Results

Knowledge



Attitudes

- 96.6% Schistosomiasis is a serious disease
- 94.2% it is necessary to prevent infection
- 98.4% it is important to defecate in latrine
- 73.4% it is important to avoid contact with water

Practices

- ✓ Open defecation, a common practice
- ✓ 46.3% use lake water as their common source
- ✓ 22.3% get into contact with water at least thrice a day,
- ✓ 17.3% get into the water either twice a day or Ten times and more a day
- ✓ It is difficult to avoid contact with water and open defecation
- ✓ The lake is where people derive their livelihoods
- ✓ It is challenge to construct latrines due to lack of space, materials and the mobile nature of living

Myths and Misconceptions

- ☐ Lake water has no problem; Gassing in water causes infection; Eating cold and contaminated food causes infection
- ☐ Fetching water early in the morning and from deep inside the lake is okay

Conclusions

- ❖ Insufficient knowledge especially of diagnosis and prevention,
- ❖ Risky water sanitation and hygiene WASH practices such as open defecation and use of lake water,
- ❖ Myths and misconceptions

Recommendations

- A Culturally contextualised, community based and community-led intervention to address risky practices and habits and debunk the deeply rooted myths and misconceptions

Acknowledgements

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