Dengue False Positive Corona Patients Labelled and Stigmatized As Untouchable: A Sociological Study

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Abstract: "Media Content Analysis" was done. How news article highlights and portrays the "Social Distancing" from the "Dengue Patients". Here 11,060 articles were thoroughly analysed and coded for a survey period of 2 years 7 month (January 2018 to July 2020). Mixed method for both quantitative and qualitative data was arranged in frequency count and qualitatively analysed the data. 2 newspapers included which had the highest circulation in Kolkata. "The Telegraph Calcutta", published in "English" language and the other one, is the "Anandobazar Patrika", published in the local "Bengali" language. They were collected and analysed according to themes. "Microsoft Excel 2007" used to analyse data and findings of the study. The results found a significant difference between the months of the three different years (2018, 2019, 2020) taken separately and the reported Dengue Death in those months taken separately on the basis of pre-monsoon, monsoon, post-monsoon period of any particular year.

Keywords: Corona, Dengue, Monsoon, Labelling Theory, Stigmatization.

INTRODUCTION

Dengue is one of the most important tropical disease known all over the world(Lorenz et al., 2020) so as in India. Dengue spread like epidemic during the year 2018 in Kolkata which is the capital of West Bengal in India. KMC (Kolkata Municipal Corporation) reported 550 Dengue cases in the year 2018 and till august 2019 it was 420 published in ABP (Anandobazar Patrika on 4th September 2019). In the year 2020 till June Dengue affected patients count 573 in Kolkata published in ABP (Anandobazar Patrika on 12th June 2020). "In the year 2018 the reported death count 12 men, 18 female and 12 children "(Mondal, 2020b). "Followed by the year 2019 where 21 male, 36 female and 10 children found suffering from Dengue and died"(Mondal, 2020a). During this year 2020 till July patients found suffering from Dengue False positive Corona(Yan et al., 2020) in Kolkata, 4 Out of 6 Dengue patients found suffering from Corona also.

This study focuses on the "Media Content Analysis" as media in the form of newspaper which is readily available to the mass and can be utilized as the content to communicate information to the larger audience during a pandemic like Dengue and Corona Virus. This study will help the public health professionals as well as the general public to make them aware and educate them the symptoms of both Dengue and Corona and also help them to realise and understand the contagious nature of both Dengue and Corona. And educate them to handle themselves during this crisis.

Nowadays this has become a social in the sense of practicing social distancing slowly and slowly this went to untouchability and stigmatization of not only the patients suffering both Dengue and Corona at the same time but also their family members suffers of social isolation and segregation by the local community. Even sometime thing go so bad that the patients family are forced to stay in their own house not even allowing them to buy food from the local shops in the fear of getting and get infected by the contagious nature of both Dengue and Corona.

Thus this creates a social insecurity among the patients and their family members as all gets infected due to contagious nature of the Dengue and Corona Virus. Loneliness engulfs the patients and they suffer severe anxiety and psychological trauma and may sometimes fell helplessness as the Public Heath Administration cannot help them to overcome this situation.

Sometimes it is also seen that Doctors, Nurses and health workers who are infected by Dengue and Corona Virus and who used to live in a rented house are been forced to evacuate the house by the land lord or the owner of the house in fear that they too will also be infected by the virus. Untouchability and social distancing go hand in hand and at the extreme point total isolation, stigmatisation and segregation of the patients and their family. Sometimes as these two viral disease Dengue and Corona have almost have same kind of fever as the symptom and it also confuses the Doctors to understand the initial phase of the disease as which one means that whether a patient is suffering from Dengue or Corona and it is often seen that Dengue false positive Corona is evident among the patients in Kolkata (Prasitsirikul et al., 2020).

Thus this study will educate the Doctors, Nurses, Health workers, the Public Health administrators and the general mass not practice and encourage labelling the Dengue false positive Corona patients and their family members suffer from untouchability, stigmatisation, isolation and complete segregation. Social distancing is a way to stop the spread of disease only and should be adopted only to deal the crisis situation. As we can that no other researcher took initiative on this ground. So the researcher in this study made an effort to do this kind of research in Kolkata.

Here in this study two most leading newspaper of West Bengal the newspaper 1(Anadobazar Patrika) in Bengali version and (The Telegraph Calcutta) newspaper 2 in English version have the highest number of circulation in Kolkata the capital of West Bengal India were used for "Media Content Analysis", as newspapers are easily available to the general public and the news articles published both in the PHMR (Public Health Model of Reporting) and MM (Medical Model) are used to analyse the pandemic situation for Dengue and Corona Virus in Kolkata.

*The research Question*s-

1) To find out the repeated number of Dengue death in each and every month published during the year (2018, 2019 and 2020) on the basis of pre – monsoon, monsoon and post monsoon season in Kolkata the capital city of West Bengal in India.
2) To find out the present Labeling factor associated with the Dengue false positive Corona patients in Kolkata.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Labeling Theory

The labeling theory was used first during 1966 by Thomas J. Scheff in his renowned work "Being Mentally Ill". Scheff challenged by saying that mental illness was actually the influence of the society. Things happen when it is not according to the society's norm.

Well again labeling theory is also related to social-construction and also symbolic- interaction. Basically it is associated with self prophecy and stereotyping. Here the self identity and also the behaviour of an individual is determined or influence by the terminology used to describe or classify them. Here in this study the emphasis is given on the "Medical Label" placed on the individual(Messner & Rosenfeld, 2009). Here emphasis is given on the two types of labeling-

Formal Labeling

Formal label happens when the individual patients who is suffering from both Dengue and Corona and is labeled by the concern "Public Health Department" in Kolkata is the "Swashtya Bhavan" and "KMC (Kolkata Municipal Corporation)". Along with the patients "House" where he/she lives is "Marked" as the "Home Quarantine Centre" by the Public Health Authority in Kolkata.

This in turn comed into notice by the significant others or the community members and the peer group and friends, teachers etc. Then come the next type of labeling comes into the scenario and that is-

Informal Labeling

Informal labeling is more associated with "Social Distancing", "Stigmatization", "Social Exclusion", "and the practice of Untouchability". This in turn weakens the "Social Bond" and "Social Ties" with the community and larger social context or structure. Hence distances the patients and forces them to commit deviance attitude by withdrawing themselves, being embarrassed, shyness, confusion and fear.

Self-Concept of the Patient

Here the self-concept of the patients suffering from both Dengue and Corona seen suffering and loosing confidence on the significant others or the community members and friends. As these people withdraw their support and distances themselves from the patients and their family. So this kind of perception of oneself from the stand point of others actually changes the self-concept of the patients. Self-concept builds when an individual interacts with others in a society and due to isolation and confinement in a room, it deteriorates badly.

Causes and consequences of Medical Labeling

"The health professionals while practicing medical labeling sometimes fail to address the social and more practical decisions of medical treatment and clinical judgement"(Mechanic, 1972) (p.148). Here in this study the health workers, Doctors, Nurses they labels a patients with Dengue and Corona at the same time clinically while being less concern about the type of social discrimination they will have to bear while being "Home Quarantine" as there were lack of medical infrastructure provided by the state authority and lack of medical seats for the patients.

Moreover the government hospital where the seats are in demand also does not admits the Dengue and Corona infected patients, it's a kind of psychological suffering by the patients as well as patients family members. Even the ambulance disagrees to carry the Dengue and Corona affected patients to the hospitals and even if they take these patients they demand a high carrying cost which again is difficult to pay by the patient's family. As during the "Lock Down" period many people lost their jobs. They are in financial strain specially the lower socio-economic strata.

Overall these patients suffer a psychological trauma due to "Medical Labeling", even in their work place, schools, offices etc. They are been thrown out of their livelihood in fear of be contagious nature of these two Dengue and Corona acting together. Patients are dying due to rejection on admission into the government hospital and the alternate route to private hospitals demand high price to diagnose the patients even after the states recommendation of a proper price guideline for the diagnose of the Dengue and Corona infected patients.

Here it is seen like that the medical decisions and judgement often decides the fate of the individuals which is seen by influencing their potentialities, opportunities limited to them. Well this influence directly affects the patient's confidence, attitude and the systematic discrimination and social exclusion from the community, friends and peer group.

Moreover due to the increased specialisation of the Doctors, the problem arises that they are not capable to deal other more diffuse kind of disease like when a patient is suffering from both "Dengue false positive Corona", as both of them have the same symptom of "Fever", well more knowledge and proper guideline and change of pre defined protocol or the amended protocol is framed by the Public Health Department in Kolkata to combat and prevent the spread of these two viral disease.

METHODOLOGY

In this study a total 11,060 news articles which include both news stories and editorials were surveyed for a period of 2 years 7 month (January 2018 till July 2020). Two most leading newspaper were use for "Media Content Analysis", in Kolkata which had a highest circulation.

The goal of this study is to descriptively analyse the cause and consequence of the "Medical Labeling" of the "Dengue false positive Corona" patients in Kolkata. Articles in this study were analysed on the basis of the "Medical Model".

Mixed Method Approach

Both Quantitative and Qualitative method was used to do the frequency count and the in - depth qualitative analysis of the news articles was undertaken.

Strategy Utilized to Extract Data

Here only the articles which include the exact keywords were included in this study, all the duplicating articles were removed from the study [see Figure 1]. A code book prepared(Eckler et al., 2016).

Table 1: Shows the operational definition of the categories

Categories	Description
Dengue Death	Articles showing number of Dengue Death
Dengue False Positive Corona	Articles showing number of Dengue False Positive Corona Death
Month	Months of a particular year
Medical Labeling	Articles showing social distancing by practicing (social exclusion, stigmatization, untouchability)

Source: Author

Keywords – Mosquito, Dengue, Dengue2, Fever, Mosquito Bite, Canal, Water Logging, Death, Dengue Death, Dengue Fever

Exact Keywords – Mosquito, Dengue, Dengue2, Fever, Mosquito Bite, Canal, Water Logging, Dengue Death, Dengue Fever

n - 11,060

Total number of articles from both the newspaper

n - 85

n - 53

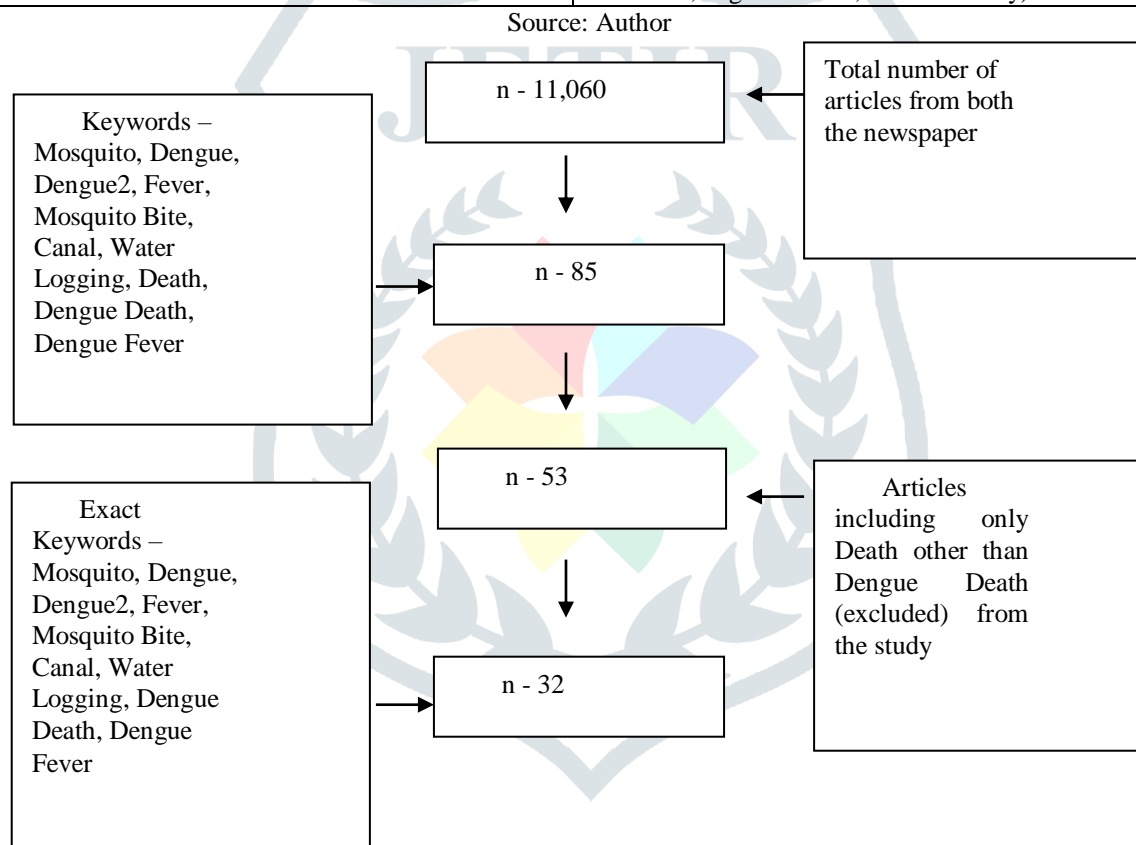Articles including only Death other than Dengue Death (excluded) from the study

n - 32

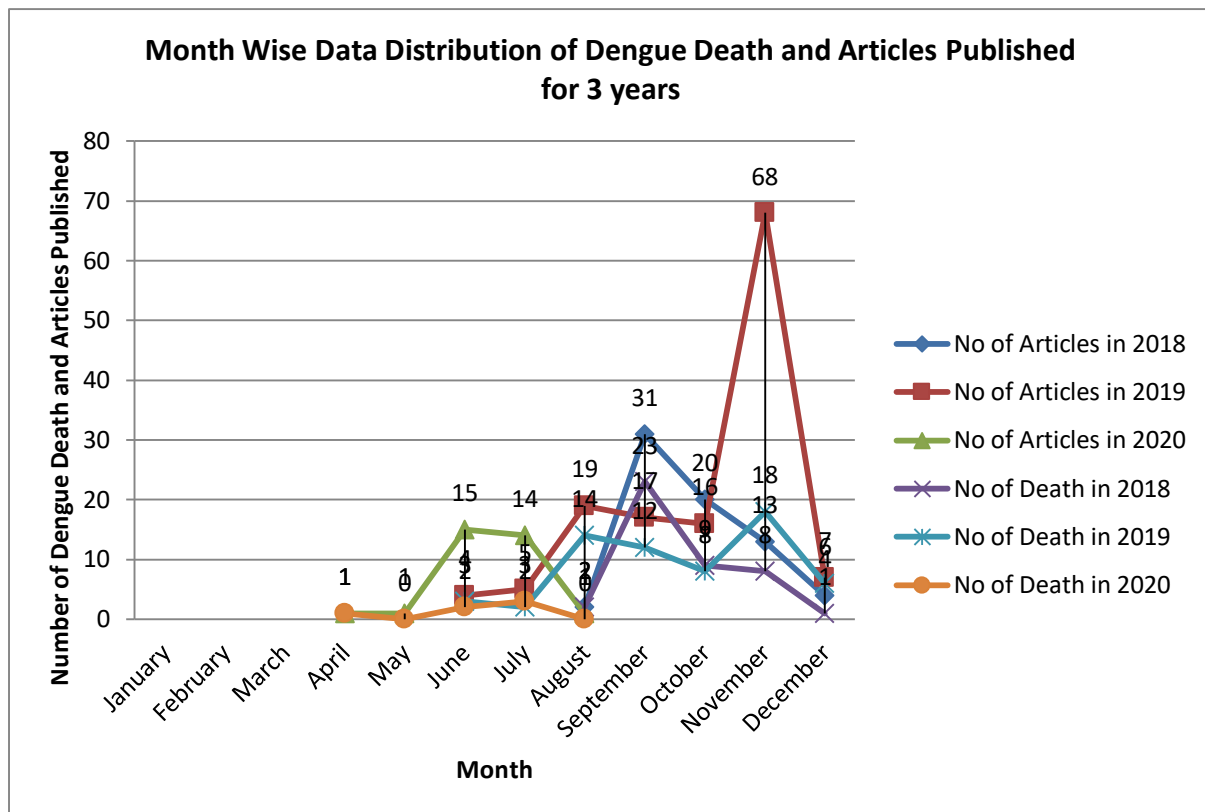Figure 1: The flowchart represents the sample selection strategy adopted
Source: Author

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

Regression test was conducted in "Microsoft Excel Version 2007", to find out the significant differences amongst the months of the year (2018, 2019, 2020) on the basis of number of articles published in each and every month and their corresponding Dengue death reported, taken separately with ($p < 0.01$) and ($p < 0.05$) respectively.

RESULTS

Generally in West Bengal in India with special reference to Kolkata. The pre-monsoon period is between (April and May), monsoon starts with (June and lasts till September) and post-monsoon period starts from (October till December). Every year with the onset of monsoon many people suffers from the deadly virus Dengue which is spread by the Aedes aegypti mosquito.

To answer the research question 1, a significant difference on the Dengue Death and the reported articles published in each and every months of the year 2018 on the basis of pre-monsoon, monsoon and post monsoon was found. The results showed $R^2 = 0.92$ and the ANOVA result showed [$F_{(1, 3)} = 35.216$, $p = 0.0095$] with 95% confidence. The result was statistically significant at ($p < 0.01$). Similar to (Chakravarti & Kumaria, 2005).

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
No of Articles in 2018								2	31	20	13	4
No of Articles in 2019						4	5	19	17	16	68	7
No of Articles in 2020				1	1	15	14	1				
No of Death in 2018								2	23	9	8	1
No of Death in 2019						3	2	14	12	8	18	6
No of Death in 2020				1	0	2	3	0				

Figure 2: Showing Month wise data distribution of Dengue Death and related Articles Published for 3 years (2018, 2019, and 2020)
Source: Author

In the year 2018 during pre-monsoon period (April and May) [see Figure 2] no articles were published, during monsoon period (June to September) in August 2 articles were published with 2 Dengue death reported and in September 31 articles with 23 Dengue death. During post-monsoon period (October till December) in the October 20 articles were seen with 9 deaths, 13 in November with 8 death and 4 in December with 1 death reported.

In the year 2019 during pre-monsoon period (April and May) no articles or death was reported [see Figure 2]. In the monsoon period (June till September) 3 death with 4 articles published on the month of June. On July 5 articles and 2 Dengue deaths reported. On August 19 articles with 14 deaths seen and in September 17 articles published with 12 deaths. During the post-monsoon period (October till December), on October 16 articles with 8 death found. In the month of November the highest 68 articles published with 18 Dengue death occurred and lastly on December 7 articles published with 6 death reported.

A significant difference on the Dengue Death and the reported articles published in each and every months of the year 2019 on the basis of pre-monsoon, monsoon and post monsoon was found. The results showed $R^2 = 0.70$ and the ANOVA result showed [F (1, 5) =11.71299, p = 0.0187] with 95% confidence. The result was statistically significant at (p<0.01).

In the year 2020 during the pre-monsoon period (April and May) 1 article with 1 Dengue death was found in the month of April [see Figure 2]. May month had only 1 article with no death reported. During the monsoon period (June till September), on June 15 articles published with 2 "Dengue False Positive Corona" death found. In the month July 14 articles with 1 Dengue death and 2 "Dengue False Positive Corona" deaths found.

A significant difference on the Dengue Death and the reported articles published in each and every months of the year 2020 on the basis of pre-monsoon, monsoon and post monsoon was found. The results showed $R^2 = 0.80$ and the ANOVA result showed [F (1, 3) =12.240, p = 0.0395] with 95% confidence. The result was statistically significant at (p<0.05).

CONCLUSION

The present study showed how according to the prevailing monsoon in Kolkata spread Dengue and Corona in the three consecutive year 2018, 2019 and 2020. Well we can see according to the [Figure 2], where maximum number of reported articles published on Dengue is the highest (68 articles published) during the month of November which again is in the post-monsoon season which signifies that the Dengue is quite active even after the monsoon season overs.

Again the reported Dengue death (23) is the highest in the month of September which is during the monsoon season in Kolkata. We can see a steady growth from the on set of monsoon till the post-monsoon season [see Figure 2], both reported articles and the number of Dengue death in Kokata the capital city of West Bengal in India.

Answering the research question 2, as the researcher in this study have already said that "Dengue False Positive Corona" is not doubt a contagious disease as both acting together in Kolkata in the year 2020 [published on 12-06-2020, 11-07-2020 and 30-07-2020 in ABP(Anandobazar Patrika) a Bengali local newspaper] which has become pandemic in nature. People due to fear of getting infected and also to maintain social distance from the "Dengue False Positive Corona" patients have labelled them and stigmatized with social exclusion and inturn transform it into untouchability.

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