

Knowledge, Perceptions, and Practices with Respect to the Prevention of Dengue in a Mid-Pacific Coastal Village of Costa Rica

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Community involvement is of critical importance in the success of Dengue prevention, and continual evaluation is necessary to make more immediate, long-term behavioral changes in society, and to maximize the economic resources spent on Dengue prevention. This study evaluated the Dengue-related education of 320 community members, and polled opinions on how to better educate and mobilize the community in Dengue prevention in Quebrada Ganado, Costa Rica in March through May, 2013. In addition, property inspections were used to find relationships between knowledge or opinions and presence of breeding sites. Ninety-eight percent of the study sample knew basic facts of Dengue, however only forty-five percent knew *Aedes* prefers to reproduce in clean water. Participants interviewed in homes with preceding property inspections were more likely to know what kind of water the mosquito prefers, and this finding supports the educational benefits of inspections by the Ministry of Health. Two factors were found to have a linear relationship with the number of breeding sites positive for *Aedes* larva/pupa: education level and rating of importance for actions on Dengue prevention. Through reporting what education needs more emphasis and which community members to target, this study will help the Ministry of Health in their ongoing work in Social Communication.

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