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Regional variation in knowledge and practice regarding common zoonoses among livestock farmers of selective districts in Nepal

Kosh Bilash Bagale, Ramesh Adhikari, Devaraj Acharya
Tribhuvan University Nepal

The majority of the Nepalese people are involved in the farming. However, due to limited knowledge on zoonoses and poor preventive practices on the parts of livestock farmers, vulnerabilities to zoonoses are very high. The main objective of this study was to assess the regional variation on zoonoses related knowledge and preventive practices of livestock farmers in different geographical region of Nepal. Descriptive cross sectional quantitative research design was followed in the study. The total sample size was 380 livestock farmers. The data were calculated using descriptive statistics. Of the studied six zoonotic diseases, most of the respondents (95.8%) knew about zoonotic bird flu; 90.7%, of them about rabies; and 54.2% knew about swine flu. However, a few respondents knew about bovine tuberculosis, neurocysticercosis, and brucellosis. Ecologically, the highest respondents in Nawalpur had a knowledge on rabies (95.3%), and swine flu (61.6%) whereas 98.3% of them had knowledge on avian influenza in Tanahun; and 12.5%, neurocysticercosis in Manang. Regarding zoonoses preventive practices such as regular hand washing with soap water, mask wearing, gloves, boots the respondents' representation of 60.8%, 6.6%, 1.8%, and 1.3% respectively in such practices shows that although these are easy and cost-effective, personal protective equipment (PPE), such preventive practices were extremely underperformed. Livestock farmers are not as much knowledgeable about many common zoonotic diseases and preventive practices are poor, with significant regional variation in the study. This has invited various zoonosis threat for them. Therefore, it is recommended that the interventional programs related to common zoonoses be conducted.

Biography

Mr. Kosh Bilash Bagale is a PhD scholar in Health Education under the Graduate School of Education (GSE), Tribhuvan University, Nepal. Currently he is working in public health sector in Nepal and contribution on research and publication. He is interested in zoonotic control field based on One Health Approach. He has published neatly dozen of papers in high impact factor Q1 ranking international journals.