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Abstract

Improving the public knowledge and changing their attitudes towards antibiotic use will be a crucial early strategy to contain the Antibiotic resistance. The current study was undertaken from November 2015 to June 2016. A cross sectional survey using a pretested questionnaire was conducted on 392 residents (330 male and 62 female) aged 18 and above. Participants were selected randomly. Data was analyzed using simple descriptive statistics; Chi-square test was used to determine any significant difference. Majority of participants (81%) were farmer in their occupation. Most of respondents (76%) were not able to define the difference between antimicrobials and antibiotics. Furthermore, (61%) of participants were not able to define what antibiotics and for what purpose they are used for. Thirty four percent of participants do not know the name of antibiotics they have used for their animals and for themselves. Nearly 68% have no knowledge about the disease they have been treated for. Majority of participants (73.5%) agree to complete their course of treatment even if they feel better. About 72.5% of participants disagree that antibiotics are safe and can be used to treat different diseases, without prescription. Most of participants (95%) treat their animals after diagnosis; more than 80% of them agree to not purchase veterinary drugs from local traders. This study showed that the participants have poor knowledge and good attitude with an average score of 41.3±16.1%, and 79.6±16, respectively. Knowledge and attitude are significantly correlated ($p<0.01$). The participants in this study had good attitude on the rational use of antibiotics. Whereas, they lack knowledge with regard to kinds of antibiotics and the diseases they are prescribed for. Therefore, further educational interventions are necessary to improve their understanding about antibiotics currently available and major bacterial diseases they are prescribed for.

Key words: *AMR, Knowledge, Attitude, perception*