

Epilepsy awareness through “*Ek Naya Din*” show: Study on 2453 subjects

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Letter to the Editor

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Sir,

Myth and misconceptions regarding management of epilepsy have been prevalent throughout the World^{1, 2}. Epilepsy is still thought to be linked to evil Spirit possession by some, and spiritual rituals and religious healing are commonly believed to be effective treatments². In the present study, author conceptualized a real life time storey of a patient suffering with epilepsy, and produced a 63 minutes educative film “*Ek Naya Din*” for epilepsy awareness. Film highlights the most basic issues relating to epilepsy management like importance of drug intake, issues regarding the management during the time of attack, importance of family care.

A study was conducted in the subsequent film shows in various parts of Northern India, with 2453 subjects taken in study in 323 film shows. Subjects were of evenly

distributed age group, with maximum in 14 – 22 years age (72%), and 82% of the total subjects were educated. All the subjects were given questionnaire based profarma with 13 different issues regarding epilepsy, before and after the film show. 2012 subjects (84%) accepted that myths and misconceptions were busted regarding epilepsy. 73% subjects understand the film made an important impact in giving message that epileptics should be treated, and not hated.

Although, Epilepsy have been neglected by public health authorities³, this is the first effort of a real life storey based film anywhere in world, in which subject received the message of epilepsy management in simple words. To erase the stigma surrounding epilepsy, the 2012 Institute of Medicine committee³ made recommendations in two areas: (a) informing the media and (b) coordinating public awareness. In accordance with such recommendations, this film and its show will be of great help in creating awareness about this disease.

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