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## Letter to the Editor

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### Barriers to dengue prevention activities—Can we use Health belief Model to explore?

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Dear Editor,

Dengue is known in India since 1940s, but has become a common health issue over the past two decades. It is becoming rampant in many states of India including Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. Nearly 4400 cases of dengue have so far been reported in this year (2017) in the state of Tamil Nadu. As of now, no specific treatments or vaccines are available against the disease. Therefore, mosquito control remains the cornerstone in the prevention of dengue. Government of India has taken various steps for prevention and control of Dengue in the country. These include mosquito fogging activities, establishing Laboratories and Sentinel surveillance hospitals for early detection and treatment of Dengue, providing diagnosis of Dengue to the community at free of cost, etc. Still, we understand that there is a need for community participation in the control of the disease.<sup>1</sup>

To know about the perception of the people towards Dengue, we can use the Health belief model which studies the perception under severity (How severe do you think Dengue is?), Susceptibility (How susceptible you think you are to Dengue), Self-efficacy (How self-efficacious they think they are regarding dengue prevention and barriers which they think are in the line of dengue prevention. Various factors which prevent people from dengue prevention activities –like Financial, Lack of awareness, Lack of motivation, Support from government etc. and

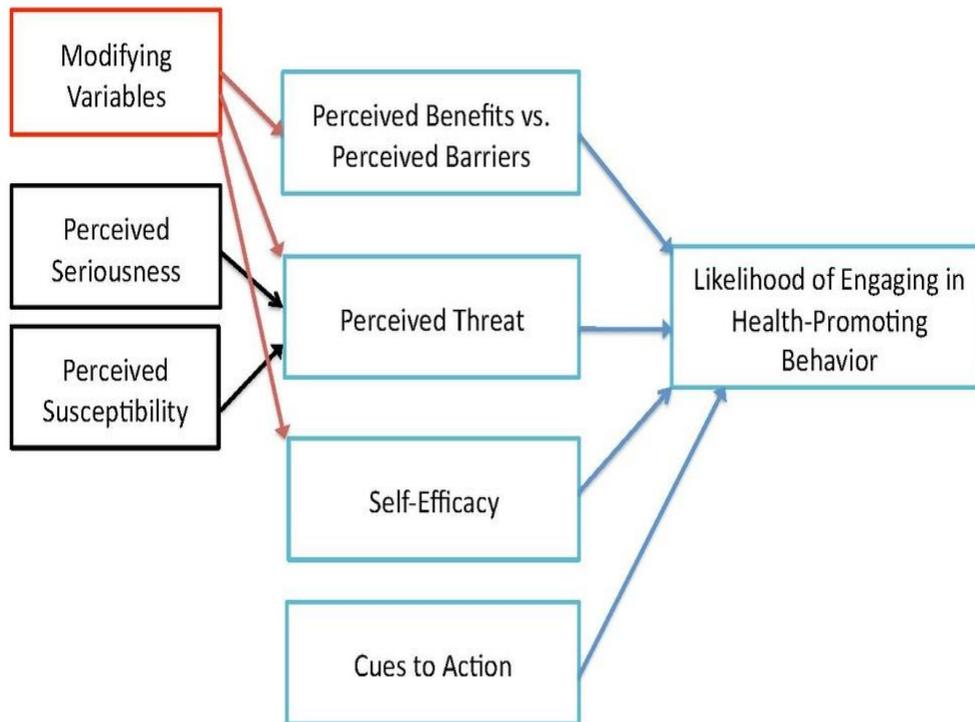
various dengue prevention activities they are involved with like Insecticide spraying, Removing water stagnation/taking care of vector breeding sites, using personal protective devices, Spraying oil, can be studied.<sup>2</sup>

Most people regard dengue as a serious condition which is good while also most does not realize the seriousness of the disease. We need to explore whether people – believe they have to take appropriate steps for control, have the self-efficacy to carry out dengue preventive measures (Fig. Health belief model), believe that there are barriers to the measures to control dengue. Overall with the health belief model we can see how people believe / see the domains when it comes to dengue while the presence of barriers has to be explored further.<sup>3</sup>

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# The Health Belief Model



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