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Knowledge of lady supervisors towards different ICDS activities

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Abstract

The present research enterprises was carried out in Samastipur district of North Bihar in order to assess the role expectation and role performance of lady supervisor under the ICDS programme. The study also aims to assess the role performance against their expected role of lady supervisors. The supervisor is the immediate senior official among the anganwadi workers and subordinate to the Child Development Project Officer (CDPO). The lady supervisors are the main agent for successful implementation of this programme at ground level. The findings of the study indicated that majority (72.41%) of the respondents have medium level of knowledge and only 20.69% of selected respondents were having low level of knowledge while only 6.9% of respondents posse high level of knowledge. Component wise level of knowledge of the lady supervisors shows the extent of knowledge of the selected respondents in different components of ICDS programme which indicates that the knowledge level of lady supervisors was highest in the area of child and pregnancy care. Further, the finding also indicates that the knowledge level of lady supervisors under ICDS programme in order of their importance were non-formal pre-school education, sanitation, administration, health checkup and referral services, immunization, supplementary nutrition management and girls education. This might be due to the fact that prenatal care is extremely important which reduces the risk of pregnancy related complication such as anemia, preterm birth, preeclampsia, complication of diabetes, or poor growth of the baby in uterus.

Keywords: lady supervisors, knowledge, ICDS activities

Introduction

The country has not only the second highest population in the world but it has also the second highest child population. As per estimate about two-fifth of its population are children up to age of 14 and 17 % under six years of age. Keeping this in view, India is concentrating seriously upon the welfare of children. The National policy for children was adopted by the Government of India in 1974. The policy recognized the children to be "Supremely important assets" of the nation and hence, the nation should have to look to their "nurture and solicitude". Under the policy all states Government have to provide adequate services for children both at the pre-natal and post-natal stage to ensure all-round development in all aspects. In Bihar, state also, ICDS Programme has been in the present study knowledge was operationalized as quantum of specific information possessed by the respondents about ICDS function that is supplementary nutrition management, sanitation, non-formal preschool education, girls education, child and pregnancy care, health checkup and referral services, immunization, administration etc. Knowledge one of the important components of behavior and as such plays vital role in the covert as well as overt behavior of an individual.

The present study was carried out in 20 blocks of Samastipur district of North Bihar. In each block of Samastipur district there is one CDPO and number of lady supervisors working under ICDS. Altogether in twenty blocks there were 116 lady supervisors working under the ICDS. Out of which 50 % of total population of lady supervisors i.e. 58 were constituted as the sample of the study following the purposive sampling procedure. Further, following procedures were adapted for developing the knowledge test during the study.

Material and Methods

The content of knowledge test is composed of questions called components. A large number of components with respect to smooth functioning of ICDS were collected through literature as well as consultation with home science specialist, home science extension workers, nutritional specialist and members of the advisory committee for formulating questions to test the extent of knowledge of the lady supervisors working under the ICDS programme. A large number of components were also obtained from subject matter specialist.

In all 73 components belong to ICDS functions was collected. These components covered with all major/important aspects of supplementary nutrition management, sanitation,

non-formal preschool education, girls education, child and pregnancy care, health checkup and referral services, immunization administration to ICDS function components were then put into questions in such a way that answers could be given in yes/no, fill up the blanks form.

The knowledge level interview schedule was pretested with a random sample of 20 similar types of respondents in Muzaffarpur district other than the sample of the study, in order to verify its suitability related with the knowledge level. The obtained frequencies were put with the suitable statistical analysis for exploring the "consistency" and "difficulty" across the different components of the study. On the basis of pre testing necessary modification/ correction/deletion of items were made in the interview schedule.

Finally, 60 items related with ICDS functions were finalized. In this knowledge test 15 sub-components were included related with different areas of sanitation, non-formal pre-school education, girls education, child and pregnancy care, health checkup and referral services, immunization and administration etc.

Results and Discussion

Since, knowledge is an important component of human behavior which has direct bearing on role performance of lady supervisors, hence effort was made to assess different levels of knowledge of lady supervisor, levels of knowledge in different

areas with respect to various components under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS). The findings are here through different tables.

In the table 1, results denote the overall knowledge level of lady supervisor across the different components of ICDS.

Table 1: The knowledge level of lady supervisors. (N=58)

Category	f	%	Mean	Range
Low (Up to 63.61)	12	20.69	78.59	0-60
Medium (63.61 to 93.55)	42	72.41		
High (above 93.55)	04	6.90		
Total	58	100.00		

It is evident from the table 1, that 72.41 % of lady supervisors had found to possess medium level of knowledge followed by 20.69 % of respondents who had low level of knowledge. The result further reveals that only 6.9% of lady supervisor were found to possess high level of knowledge pertaining to different component of ICDS. Similar results were also found by Kumari (2015) and Pasupuleti *et al.* (2004) in which they revealed that majority of lady supervisors were found to have medium level of knowledge.

During the study, further effort was made to determine the component wise level of knowledge of the lady supervisors related with ICDS. The findings are presented under different sub heads in Table 2.

Table 2: The knowledge level of lady supervisors on various component (N=58)

Category	f	%	Mean	Range
Supplementary nutrition management				
Low (Up to 33.33)	00	0	71.034	0-15
Medium (33.33 to 66.66)	10	17.24		
High (above 66.66)	48	82.76		
On Sanitation				
Low (Up to 33.33)	01	1.72	86.207	0-7
Medium (33.33 to 66.66)	13	22.42		
High (above 66.66)	44	75.86		
On Non-Formal Preschool Education				
Low (Up to 33.33)	02	3.45	88.506	0-9
Medium (33.33 to 66.66)	03	5.17		
High (above 66.66)	53	91.38		
On Girls Education				
Low (Up to 33.33)	04	6.90	70.259	0-4
Medium (33.33 to 66.66)	10	17.24		
High (above 66.66)	44	75.86		
On Child And Pregnancy Care				
Low (Up to 33.33)	02	3.45	88.621	0-5
Medium (33.33 to 66.66)	08	13.79		
High (above 66.66)	48	82.76		
On Health Checkup And Referral Services				
Low (Up to 33.33)	06	10.34	74.828	0-5
Medium (33.33 to 66.66)	08	13.79		
High (above 66.66)	44	75.86		
On Immunization				
Low (Up to 33.33)	01	1.72	73.276	0-6
Medium (33.33 to 66.66)	07	12.07		
High (above 66.66)	50	86.21		
With Regard To Administration				
Low (Up to 33.33)	01	1.72	79.119	0-9
Medium (33.33 to 66.66)	13	22.41		
High (above 66.66)	44	75.86		

Supplementary nutrition management

The main objectives of ICDS is to improve the nutrition and health status of the children in the age group of 0-6 year and this objective would be only achieved when the lady

supervisors have adequate knowledge related with supplementary nutrition management. Therefore, attempt was made to assess the knowledge of lady supervisors on the supplementary nutrition management.

A keen observation of the table, revealed that about 82.76 % of the selected lady supervisor have high level of knowledge followed by medium level (17.24%) and none of the selected respondents have low level of knowledge pertaining to supplementary nutrition management.

The mean level of knowledge on supplementary nutrition management was found 71.034 which clearly indicates that majority of the respondents had their knowledge higher than the mean level in this area. This happens because of higher qualification of lady supervisors as the minimum qualification for this post was only graduation.

Sanitation

The sanitation is the process of keeping places clean and hygiene, especially by providing a sewage system and a clean water supply. The objective of a sanitation system in ICDS is to protect human health by providing a clean environment and keeping them away from diseases. It generally refers to the facilities and services for the safe disposal of human urine and feces. The word 'sanitation' itself refers to the maintenance of hygienic conditions, through services such as garbage collection and wastewater disposal. In view of the same, it was thought proper to assess the knowledge level of lady supervisors regarding sanitation as they have to impart training to the other subordinate workers at the village level to keep anganwadi centre clean and hygiene.

Table demonstrate that 75.86% of lady supervisors having high level of knowledge in the sanitation followed by 22.42 % of lady supervisors who were having medium level knowledge while only 1.72% of lady supervisors were found to have low level of knowledge about sanitation.

Non-formal preschool education

Children in the age-group of 3-6 years are given education non-formally in anganwadis for their proper growth and development. Non-formal preschool education is also one of the important component of ICDS programme in which lady supervisors are expected to be well versed.

A perusal of the findings given in table revealed that 91.38 % of the selected respondents had high level of knowledge in the non-formal preschool education system followed by medium (5.17%) level of knowledge. The low level of knowledge regarding non-formal preschool education were found among the 3.45% of the lady supervisor participated in the study.

Girls Education

The rural girls are not getting ample opportunity for education whenever education of these girls would have positive impact on both economy and society. Education empowers a grown up girl to become economically independent. They would be able to stand up for their rights hence, each girls have all the rights to get educated.

It is clear from the table that 75.86% of lady supervisors were having high level of knowledge regarding the girls education and their right followed by 17.24% of lady supervisors who had medium level of knowledge for the same and only 6.90% of the selected respondents were found to have low level of knowledge regarding the girls education.

Child & Pregnancy Care

Pregnancy care consists of prenatal (before birth) and postpartum (after birth) healthcare for expectant mothers. It involves treatments and trainings to ensure a healthy pre-pregnancy, pregnancy & labor and delivery for mother and baby measures. Therefore, it is essential for lady supervisors to

be well trained in child and pregnancy care measures because they had to impart the training of child and pregnancy care to the rural women.

It is clear from table that majority of the lady supervisors were found to have high level of knowledge (82.76%) regarding child and pregnancy care followed by 13.79 and 3.45 % of the lady supervisors who had medium and low level of knowledge, respectively. In the findings of the study conducted by NIPCCD (2005) almost similar results were found regarding child and pregnancy care among the respondents.

Health checkup and referral services

It includes post-natal care of nursing mothers along with ante-natal care of expectant mothers, care of children under the age of 6 years. There is provision of giving iron and folic acid tablets to expectant mothers having their health check up at least 4 times during pregnancy period. In ICDS programme there is a provision to visit expectant mothers or mother having babies under 6 years at least one or two times in order to aware them for their health checkup especially in rural and tribal areas and to popularize the breast feeding and care of the babies.

From perusal of the results in table, it was found that 75.86% of the respondents were found to have high level of knowledge which is followed by medium level of knowledge (13.79%). The low level of knowledge in this component was found among 10.34% of the supervisors. The findings were in line with the findings of Bhowmik *et al.* (2001) in which it was observed that majority of respondent belonged to high level of knowledge on health checkup and referral services.

Immunization

The lady supervisors are expected to have the knowledge about different types of immunizations for protecting children from different diseases as they have to deliver the knowledge to the mothers as how protect their children from polio, tetanus etc. in order to fulfil the objective of Integrated Child Development Services Scheme to reduce the incidence of morbidity and mortality. Therefore, it was essential to assess the knowledge of lady supervisors regarding immunization.

A glance at the table clearly indicates that 86.21 % of the respondents had high level of knowledge which was followed by medium level of knowledge (12.07%). Only 1.72% of the selected respondents were in the category of low level of knowledge in this area.

This fact might be attributed because the lady supervisors are not directly involved in the immunization programme rather it is being performed by Primary Health Centre's employee. The role of the lady supervisors are only to motivate them and develop the liaison and linkages between Primary Health Centre employee and beneficiaries.

Administration

Under the ICDS project community development block is the administrative unit in rural areas. The main functionary for delivery of services under this scheme is trained local women known as AWWs. The Child Development Project Officer is in-charge of supervisors and AWWs. Each supervisor is responsible for 20 to 25 AWCs and assists the anganwadi workers in record keeping, organizing job training and visit to community and health professionals. Therefore, at the village level efforts are also made to have liaison between the anganwadi and other local level organizations like mahila mandals, panchayats, cooperatives, SHGs, schools etc.

Table 2 clearly indicates that 75.86 % of the respondents have high level of knowledge about the administration pertaining to

the ICDS scheme which was followed by medium level of knowledge (22.41%). Only 1.72 % of the respondents were found in the category of low level of knowledge pertaining to the administration for the smooth functioning of ICDS scheme. In this regard, NIPCCD (2003) also reported that majority of respondent belonged to high level of knowledge on administration.

Component wise knowledge ranking of lady supervisors

Further, efforts were made to assess the overall knowledge related with different components of ICDS Scheme. The results with this respect are presented in Table 3.

Table 3: Component wise level of knowledge of the respondents about the ICDS scheme. (N=58)

	Components	Rank
A	Supplementary nutrition management	VII
B	Sanitation	III
C	Non-formal preschool education	II
D	Girls education	VIII
E	Child & pregnancy care	I
F	Health checkup and referral services	V
G	Immunization	VI
H	Administration	IV

A perusal of table 3 indicates the extent of knowledge of the respondent across different components of ICDS programme. Table shows that the knowledge level of lady supervisors were highest in the area of child and pregnancy care. This was followed by Non-formal preschool education, Sanitation, Administration, Health checkup and referral services, immunization and supplementary nutrition management, respectively. This might be due to the fact that prenatal care is extremely important which is prime objective of ICDS. It reduces the risk of pregnancy-related complications such as anemia, preterm birth, preeclampsia, complications of diabetes, or poor growth of the baby in uterus. Consequently the lady supervisors were found to devote maximum time for these aspects hence; they had shown maximum level of knowledge in this particular area.

Conclusion

The study shown that the perceived role of lady supervisors about their knowledge under ICDS was considered very important. It was found that majority of the lady supervisors were aware about their roles and responsibilities.

The component wise level of knowledge of the lady supervisors showed that the extents of knowledge of the respondents in different components of ICDS programme shown that the knowledge level of lady supervisors was highest in the area of child and pregnancy care. The findings also suggested that the knowledge level of lady supervisors under ICDS programme in order of their importance were non-formal pre-school education, sanitation, administration, health checkup and referral services, immunization, supplementary nutrition management and girl's education. This might be due to the fact that prenatal care is extremely important in reducing the risk of pregnancy related complication such as anemia, preterm birth, preeclampsia, complication of diabetes, or poor growth of the baby in uterus.

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