

## Knowledge about diarrhoea and its prevention among the urban working and non-working women in Varanasi district

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■ **ABSTRACT** : Nearly two third working mothers (68.00%) had knowledge of diarrhoea, but 64.00 per cent of these mothers had knowledge of providing food during diarrhoea, knowledge of ORS, its' method of preparation in the house and preventive measures of diarrhoea. On the other hand less than three fifth non-working mothers (56.67%) had knowledge of diarrhoea, 56.0 per cent had knowledge of providing food during diarrhoea; 48.67 per cent had knowledge of ORS and 42.67 per cent had knowledge of the method of its' preparation in the house alongwith its preventive measures. The statistical analysis envisaged that the knowledge of working mothers was significantly better than their counter parts in non-working category regarding various aspects of diarrhoea such as knowledge of ORS ( $\chi^2=7.168$ ,  $P<0.01$ ), its preparation in the house ( $\chi^2=13.714$ ,  $p<0.001$ ); while giving food during diarrhoea was similarly known to working and non-working mothers ( $P>0.05$ ; NS). The difference occurred due to high educational and awareness status of the working mothers.

■ **KEY WORDS** : Diarrhoea, Non working mothers, Awareness, ORS

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**A**cute diarrhoeal disease, with its accompanying dehydration has still remained a challenging problem to the medical profession and the community in the third world countries specially in the pediatric cross section under the age of five years. It is a major preventable factor standing on the way towards obtainment of matching figure for infant mortality and morbidity as compared to the developed world. On a rough estimate, every year around 100 million children under five years of age suffer from 300 million episodes of diarrhoea of which about 10 per cent develop dehydration and 1 per cent (3 million) children require hospitalization imbalancing the bed and patient demand ratio. The diarrhoeal diseases on the other hand claim around 1.5 million lives in this age group.

### ■ RESEARCH METHODS

The methodology of the present study consists of the following components:

- Selection of the area of study.
- Tools and techniques

- Sampling
- Designing of the questionnaire consisting
- Presenting of the questionnaire.
- Recording of the Data.

### Selection of the area of study:

The basis of the selection for area of study was mainly the consideration of distance which had to be covered in travel easily from the Faculty of Home Science, Agrasen Kanya P.G. Autonomous College at Parmanandpur, Shivpur and Orderly Bazar are approximately within 6 km radius from the centre.

### Family structure:

Nuclear / Joint

### Religion:

As stated by the respondents.

### Occupation of the family:

Broadly four occupation categories were mentioned: