Knowledge of farm women about integrated child development scheme (I.C.D.S.)

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ABSTRACT

The present study on knowledge of farm women about Integrated Child Development Scheme (I.C.D.S.) was conducted in Achalpur Panchayat Samiti of Amravati district., The main objective of all study was to find knowledge level of farm women about I.C.D.S. The findings of the study revealed that majority of farm women were of middle age having medium level of knowledge about I.C.D.S. and having medium level of annual income. However, the observations also showed that most of the farm women were from nuclear family having small size of family with unfavourable attitude and low social participation. Majority of farm women were educated up to middle school and having agriculture as their family occupation and also worked as labour. The relational analysis show that significant variables are age, education, family income, type of family, size of family, attitude, social participation, and only one *i.e.*, family occupation show non-significant relationship with knowledge level.

INTRODUCTION

Dr. Radha Krishnan said that Progress of our land cannot be achieved without active participation of our mothers, wives, sisters and daughters.

Mahatma Gandhi said that Women are the noblest of God's creation, supreme in their own sphere of activity.

At present there are many schemes run by the government for improving the status of women in terms of free education and self employment opportunities. The Integrated child development scheme (I.C.D.S.) was launched by the Government of India on 2nd October 1975. With an objective of improving the nutritional and health status of children and enhancing the capabilities of mother to look after the normal health and nutrition needs of the child. Under I.C.D.S. a package or services including supplementary nutrition, immunization, health check up and referral services is provided to children and nursing mother. The Anganwadi worker has been considered as a focal point for the delivery of knowledge.

The I.C.D.S. programme is one of the ambitious and has successfully completed near about 36 years. It is one of the best multidimensional welfare programmes to reach millions of children and their mothers who were caught in the grip of malnutrition, diseases, illiteracy, ignorance and poverty.

The utilization of these services by the tribal mothers and children have given improved health status to mothers and children, low incidence of infectious diseases. This has possibly been by adopting health education and utilizing modern medical facilities for treatment resulting in low death rates among children and mothers during pregnancy. All these clearly indicate that the I.C.D.S. scheme has certainly made a positive impact.

The I.C.D.S. scheme is becoming popular in the tribal areas with the spread of awareness and increased people participation.

METHODS

Achalpur Panchayat Samiti in Amravati district has been selected for this study. From Achalpur Panchayat Samiti 13 villages were selected by random method. A list of farm women beneficiaries of I.C.D.S. was obtained from Anganwadi Sevikas to make proportionate sample of 120 respondents. Thus all the 120 respondents were contacted personally and

interviewed of their places of residence or at Anganwadi centre. The Chi-square was computed for the purpose of description of data, descriptive statistics like mean, standard deviation and percentage were used. Chi-square is also used for the measurement of significance level of variables.

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

The findings of the study as well as relevant discussion have been summarized under following heads :

Distribution of respondents according to their personal socio-economic and physiological characteristics:

Table 1, shows that (61.67%) of farm women were

belonged to young age group while (30%) were from middle age group. Majority (36.67%) of farm women were found high school educated and most of the farm women had medium level of annual income. Majority (80%) of farm women were from nuclear type of family having small size of family (56.67%). Majority (45.84%) of farm women were engaged in agriculture and also work as labour. (63.33%) of farm women had unfavourable attitude towards I.C.D.S. and having (54.17%) low social participation.

Relational analysis:

To find which variables are significant and non-significant for knowledge level of farm women about I.C.D.S.

Table 1 : Personal, socio-economical and physiological characteristics			(n=120)
Sr. No.	Profile	No. of respondents	Percentage
1.	**Age**		
	Young	74	61.67
	Middle	36	30.00
	Old	10	8.21
2.	**Education**		
	Illiterate	3	2.5
	Primary School	19	15.83
	Middle School	27	22.5
	High School	44	36.67
	College	27	22.5
3.	**Family income**		
	Low	36	30.00
	Medium	70	58.33
	High	14	11.67
4.	**Family type**		
	Nuclear	96	80.00
	Joint	24	20.00
5.	**Size of family**		
	Small	68	56.67
	Medium	36	30.00
	Large	16	13.33
6.	**Family occupation**		
	Agriculture	28	23.33
	Agri. + Labourers	55	45.84
	Agri. + Business	28	23.33
	Agri. + Service	9	7.5
7.	**Attitude**		
	Unfavourable	76	63.33
	Favourable	38	31.67
	Highly favourable	6	5.00
8.	**Social participation**		
	Low	65	54.17
	Medium	38	31.67
	High	17	14.16

Table 2 : Relational analysis

Sr. No.	Variables	Calculated value (x^2)	Tabulated value (x^2)
1.	Age	27.28*	9.488
2.	Education	16.668*	15.507
3.	Family income	23.149*	9.488
4.	Type of family	8.13*	5.99
5.	Size of family	20.451*	9.488
6.	Family occupation	1.6735 NS	12.529
7.	Attitude	12.82*	9.488
8.	Social participation	10.195*	9.488

NS - Non-significant   * Significant variable (Significant at 0.05 per cent level)

Chi-square was calculated.

From above Table 2, it is clear that seven out of eight variables were significant to knowledge level. The significant variables includes age, education, family income, type of family, size of family, attitude, social participation. While family occupation was non-significant. The above distribution is supported by Kuhar and Singh (2007).

Conclusion:

From the findings of the present study, it is concluded that education, family income, attitude and social participation can increase knowledge level of farm women about I.C.D.S. The major problems faced by the farm women during vaccination to the children. Difficulties in getting nutritious diet and also most technical knowledge given by Anganwadi workers which was beyond their understanding. Also, they had no fixed time to listen Anganwadi worker.

Some other problems like, family, problems and illiteracy was also faced by farm women.

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