

Research Paper :

Community participation in integrated child development service programme in Jammu district

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ABSTRACT

The present study was conducted to know the awareness of ICDS Services among community leaders and to analyze their participation in the ICDS programme. Sample of the study comprised of Sarpanch/Panch and President of Mahila Mandal subjected to their availability. Sample constituted of 60 respondents which were selected by using systematic random sampling technique in which 5 community leaders from each of the 12 projects of Jammu district were selected. Data were collected through the administration of interview schedule and observation and were subjected to quantitative as well as qualitative analysis. Results revealed that majority of the community leaders were in the age group of 30-40 years, qualified upto secondary level, belonged to general category, females, housewives and members of Mahila Mandal. 77% were aware of nutritional and educational services of ICDS. 63% participated in the meetings and rest of the sample was not able to participate due to lack of intimation, overload of work, lack of time and lack of presence of someone at home. Community leaders rendered help by motivating women to come to AWC, cooperating in organization of activities, providing raw material for supplementary nutrition and firewood for fuel and which further need to be enhanced to strengthen the programme.

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The Integrated Child Development Services Programme is a country wise programme which aims at total development of the child and seeks to deliver all basic essential services viz., health, nutrition and education services to children below six years of age, mothers and adolescent girls and provides services simultaneously to them in their own village/community (DWCD, GOI, 1986). ICDS is basically a community based programme and its success depends on active community participation.

Community which refers to a village or a group of villages with families inhabiting them, who are dependent on one another in their day to day transactions of mutual advantages. On the other hand, community participation is active involvement of people in ICDS programme which is for their well-being. Community participation is not just utilization of services and being passive users but it is voluntary and democratic involvement of elders, local and religious leaders, institutions and organizations. It includes community action and decision making in planning, implementing and monitoring of the programme which leads to self reliance, ownership and sustainability of the programme (NIPCCD, 2006).

Community participation in ICDS programme is important for the smooth functioning of the programme, reach and increase its utilization, accounts for success

and failure, reduce government intervention and create sense of ownership as well as sensitivity of the programme. It has been studied that community leaders were not aware of ICDS service and did not spare time and work outside the household for long hours (Lal *et al.*, 1995). It has also been found that 53.3% provided free accommodation for AWC and 42.6% assisted in implementing health activities and contributed in terms of raw food for supplementary nutrition and fuel for cooking. In rural areas, free accommodation for the AWC was the most common form of contribution to the ICDS programme (Nayer *et al.*, 1999). Negligible evidences concerning the issue are available with respect to the Jammu district. Through this study an attempt has been made to know the awareness of ICDS services among community leaders and to analyze the participation made by community leaders in the ICDS programme.

METHODOLOGY

Sample for the present study consisted of community leaders who were Sarpanch/Panch, President of Mahila Mandal subjected to their availability. Five community leaders from each of the 12 projects of Jammu district including Akhnoor, Bishnah, Dansal, Jammu, Khour, Kot Bhalwal, Marh, Purmandal, R.S. Pura, Samba and Vijaypur were selected for the study. The total sample

comprised of 60 respondents. Systematic random sampling technique was used to select the sample and interview schedule and observation were used to collect the data. Data gathered through the administration of tools were subjected to both quantitative and qualitative analysis.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Majority of the community leaders (45%) were in the age group of 30-40 years, qualified up to secondary level (50%), belonged to general category (38%) and 70% were females, housewives and members of Mahila Mandal in the Jammu district. Majority of the community leaders (60%) were made aware about the AWC by the AWW whereas 40% came to know about it from their neighbourer.

Table 1 : Awareness of services among community leaders (n = 60)

Person	Nutritional and educational services		Nutritional, health and educational services	
	n	%	n	%
Project				
Akhnoor	3	60	2	40
Bishnah	4	80	1	20
Dansal	5	100	-	-
Jammu	2	40	3	60
Khour	5	100	-	-
Kot Bhalwal	4	80	1	20
Marh	4	80	1	20
Purmandal	3	60	2	40
R.S. Pura	4	80	1	20
Samba	3	60	2	40
Satwari	5	100	-	-
Vijaypur	4	80	1	20
Average		76.67		23.33

Table 1 depicts that all the community leaders (Dansal, Khour and Satwari) were aware of nutritional and educational services including supplementary nutrition, nutrition and health education and pre-school education service of ICDS programme whereas 60% of the community leaders (Jammu) were aware of all the services of ICDS programme including nutritional, health and educational services. On the other hand, on an average, majority of the community leaders (76.67%) were aware of nutritional and educational service of ICDS. More awareness concerning nutritional, health and educational service needs to be generated among community as lack of awareness leads to under-utilization of services among them. It is consistent with the findings of study conducted by Lal, *et al.* (1995) which revealed insufficient awareness of services of ICDS among community.

Table 2 reveals that all the community leaders of ICDS project Jammu regularly participated in the meetings whereas 60% (each Purmandal and Satwari) did not participate regularly. On an average, majority of the said leaders (63.33%) participated regularly in the meetings. On the other hand, out of the community leaders (36.67%) who were irregular in the meetings, 40% (each Marh and Purmandal), 20% (each Akhnoor, Bishnah, Dansal, Kot Bhalwal, Satwari and Vijaypur), 20% (each Khour, Purmandal, R.S. Pura and Satwari) and 20% (each Akhnoor and Kot Bhalwal) revealed that they were not intimated on time, lack of presence of someone at home and lack of time at the respondent's disposal.

Table 3 reflects that majority of community leaders (80%, each Jammu and Samba) helped in motivating women to come to AWC to avail services as well as

Table 2 : Frequency of participation of community leaders in meetings (n = 60)

Meeting	Participation				Reasons for irregular participation							
	Regular		Irregular		Lack of time		Overload of work		Lack of presence of some one at time		Lack of intimation	
View	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Project												
Akhnoor	3	60	2	40	1	20	-	-	-	-	1	20
Bishnah	4	80	1	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	20
Dansal	3	60	2	40	-	-	1	20	-	-	1	20
Jammu	5	100	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Khour	3	60	2	40	-	-	1	20	1	20	-	-
Kot Bhalwal	3	60	2	40	1	20	-	-	-	-	1	20
Marh	3	60	2	40	-	-	2	40	-	-	-	-
Purmandal	2	40	3	60	-	-	2	40	1	20	-	-
R.S. Pura	3	60	2	40	-	-	1	20	1	20	-	-
Samba	4	80	1	20	-	-	1	20	-	-	-	-
Satwari	2	40	3	60	-	-	1	20	1	20	1	20
Vijaypur	3	60	2	40	-	-	1	20	-	-	1	20
Average		63.33		36.67		3.33		16.67		6.67		10.00

Table 3 : Help rendered by community leaders to Anganwadi centres (n = 60)

Help	Motivation of women to come to AWC				Organisation of activities				Provision of raw material for SN				Provision of firewood for fuel			
	Yes		No		Yes		No		Yes		No		Yes		No	
View	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	N	%	n	%	n	%
Akhnoor	3	60	2	40	3	60	2	40	1	20	4	80	1	20	4	80
Bishnah	2	40	3	60	3	60	2	40	1	20	4	80	-	-	5	100
Dansal	3	60	2	60	2	40	3	60	-	-	5	100	-	-	5	100
Jammu	4	80	1	20	4	80	1	20	3	60	2	40	-	-	5	100
Khour	2	40	3	60	3	60	2	40	1	20	4	80	-	-	5	100
Kot Bhalwal	3	60	2	40	2	40	3	60	1	20	4	80	1	20	4	80
Marh	2	40	3	60	3	60	2	40	1	20	4	80	-	-	5	100
Purmandal	3	60	2	40	2	40	3	60	-	-	5	100	-	-	5	100
R.S. Pura	3	60	2	40	3	60	2	40	1	20	4	80	-	-	5	100
Samba	4	80	1	20	4	80	1	20	2	40	3	60	-	-	5	100
Satwari	3	60	2	40	3	60	2	40	1	20	4	80	-	-	5	100
Vijaypur	3	60	2	40	2	40	3	40	-	-	5	100	1	20	4	80
Average	58.33		41.67		56.67		43.33		20.00		80.00		5.00		95.00	

organizing activities including immunization, health check-up and awareness camps. On the other hand, 60% (Jammu) and 20% of community leaders (each Akhnoor, Kot Bhalwal and Vijaypur) helped by providing raw material for supplementary nutrition food including sugar, green leafy vegetables (GLVs) and other vegetables and firewood for fuel, respectively. On the other hand, on an average, majority of community leaders helped by motivating women to come to AWC (58.33%) and cooperating in organization of activities (56.67%) in the district, 20% and 5% of the community leaders helped by providing raw material for supplementary nutrition (SN) and firewood for fuel, respectively. No monetary help was reported in the district which is consistent with the results of the study conducted by Nayer *et al.* (1999) who revealed no monetary contribution is rendered in the implementation the ICDS programme.

It is concluded that majority of community leaders were aware of few services. More awareness covering all services need to be generated among community. More than half of sample of community leaders participated in meetings whereas lack of intimation, overload of work, lack of time and lack of presence of someone at home were the factors in minimizing their participation. Community rendered help which further needs to be

enhanced to strengthen the programme.

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