Research Article

Correlation of Anganwadi workers of integrated child development scheme

■ PRADIP JOSHI, VIDYA V. TAYDE AND V.M. WATTAMWAR

SUMMARY : The present study was conducted in forty villages of four taluka of Parbhani district of Marathwada region of Maharashtra State on 80 anganwadi workers with an object to study the personal, social and economical characteristics of anganwadi workers and to examine the relationship between the personal, social and economical characteristics of anganwadi workers and their communication behaviour. The data were collected by personally interviewing the anganwadi workers and analyzed statically. The result of study depicted that maximum respondents expressed in middle age group, most of the respondents were educated up to secondary school level, fifty per cent of the respondents were high cast, Majority anganwadi workers were married, while three fourth respondents were from joint family and 70 per cent respondents were from medium family income group. Further it was revealed that majority of the respondents had service experience between 6 to 10 years, 93.75 per cent respondents received both basic and revised trainings. Most of the respondents had favourable attitude towards ICDS. While 71.25 per cent of the respondent were moderately satisfied with their job and medium level of knowledge about their job components. Education, service experience, training received, job satisfaction, and knowledge about job components had positive and significant relationship with communication behaviour of anganwadi workers.

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

The ICDS has emerged as a most powerful programme for its holistic approach, empowering communities and families through trained local community based women anganwadi workers. The job of anganwadi workers is multidimensional and directly affects the effectiveness of programme in rural area to the great extent for effective implementation of programme, effective communication is necessary. While performing the assigned jobs, the anganwadi workers are expected to acquire contacts, participation in training, consulting literature. Similarly how they process the received information and disseminate the same through various methods like group discussion, home visits, arranging blameless, preparing charts, etc. So the present study deals with the various activities conducted by the anganwadi workers for communication in terms of input of information, processing of information and output of information. Keeping this view in mind, the present investigation was carried out with specific objectives to study the personal, social and economical characteristics of anganwadi workers and to examine the relationship between the personal, social and economical characteristics of anganwadi workers and their communication behaviour.

RESOURCES AND METHODS

The present investigation was carried out in Parbhani district of Marathwada region of Maharashtra State. A sample of 80 anganwadi workers was drawn by using probability by lottery method, randomly sampling method from 40 villages of selected district. An Ex-post facto research design was used for present study. The respondents were personally interviewed with the

Author for correspondence :

VIDYA V. TAYDE
Department of Extension Education, Anand Niketan College of Agriculture, Warora, CHANDRAPUR (M.S.) INDIA
See end of the article for authors' affiliations

help of structured interviews schedule. Data were analyzed by using statistical method, the summary of research findings of this study is presented below.

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

It was found that significant per cent of the respondents (70 per cent) were in middle age group, most of the respondents (83.75 per cent) were educated up to secondary school level, fifty per cent of the respondents were high caste, 83.75 per cent respondents were married, while 77.50 per cent of the respondents were from joint family and 70 per cent respondents were from medium family income group. These findings were in the line with findings of Deshmukh (1996), and Awasare (1997).

Further it was revealed that majority of the respondents (73.75 per cent) had service experience between 6 to 10 years, 73.75 per cent respondents received both basic and revised trainings. As regards attitude most of the respondents (98.75 per cent) had favorable attitude towards ICDS. While 71.25 per cent of the respondents were moderately satisfied with their job and 47.50 per cent of the respondents had medium level of knowledge about their job components.

As regards to over all communication behaviour of anganwadi workers (Table 2), it was noticed that, 63.75 per cent of respondents expressed medium level of communication behaviour. Whereas 18.75 per cent of respondents were located in high level category and 17.50 of the respondents were located in low level of communication behaviour. This finding is in conformity with the findings of Wattamwar (1991), Bordoloi *et al* (1994), Bhaltilak (2000).

Correlation analysis:

From Table 3, it was noticed the out of eleven independent variables education, service experience, training received, job satisfaction, and knowledge about job components had positive and significant relationship with communication behaviour of Anganwadi workers. While, family income had negative and significant relationship with communication behaviour at 0.05 level of probability. Whereas, age, caste, marital status, type of family, attitude towards ICDS did not show any relationship with communication behaviour of Anganwadi workers. It can be summarized from the data in pertinent tables that, variables like education, service experience, training received, job satisfaction, knowledge about job components were found to be positively and significantly related with overall communication behaviour. Whereas family income was negatively related with communication behaviour. The variables like age, caste, marital status, type of family, attitude towards ICDS did not establish any relationship with communication behaviour. Further, it was also noticed that the variables like education, training received and knowledge

Table 1 : Profile characteristics of Anganwadi worker

Sr. No.	Category	Number	Per cent
Age			
1	Young (up to 35)	10	12.50
2	Middle (36 to 45)	56	70.00
3	Old (46 and above)	14	Young (up to 35)
	Total	80	100.00
Education			
1	Secondary	67	83.75
2.	Higher secondary	12	15.00
3.	Graduation	01	1.25
	Total	80	100.00
Caste			
1	Low	28	35.00
2.	Middle	12	15.00
3.	High	40	50.00
	Total	80	100.00
Marital status			
1	Unmarried	00	0.00
2.	Divorced	07	8.75
3.	Widow	06	7.50
4	Married	67	83.75
	Total	80	100.00
Type of family			
1	Joint	62	77.50
2.	Nuclear	18	22.50
	Total	80	100.00
Family Income			
1	Low (Up to Rs. 79,000)	12	15.00
2.	Middle (Rs 79,001 to Rs. 1,24,000)	56	70.00
3.	High(Rs. 1,24,001 and above)	12	15.00
	Total	80	100.00
Service experience			
1	1 to 5 years	06	7.50
2.	6 to 10 years	59	73.75
3.	10 years and above	15	18.75
	Total	80	100.00
Training received			
1	Basic training received	05	6.25
2.	Both basic and revised training received	75	93.75
	Total	80	100.00
Attitude towards ICDS			
1	Unfavorable	01	1.25
2.	Undecided	00	00.00
3.	Favorable	79	98.75
	Total	80	100.00
Job satisfaction			
1	Less satisfied	14	17.50
2.	Moderately satisfied	57	71.25
3.	Highly satisfied	09	11.25
	Total	80	100.00
Knowledge of anganwadi workers about various job components			
1	Low	15	18.75
2.	Medium	38	47.50
3.	High	27	33.75
	Total	80	100.00

Table 2 : Distribution of respondents according to their overall communication behaviour

Sr. No.	Categories	Frequency	Per cent
1	Low	14	17.50
2.	Medium	51	63.75
3.	High	15	18.75
Total		80	100.00

about job components were found to be positively and significantly related with information input, information processing and information output behaviour of Anganwadi workers. Whereas, family income was positively and significantly related with information input behaviour where as negatively related with information output behaviour. Other variables like service experience and job satisfaction were

Table 3 : Relationship between personal, social and economic characteristics with communication behaviour

Sr. No.	Variables	'r' values
1.	Age	-0.019
2.	Education	0.311**
3.	Caste	-0.114
4.	Marital status	0.074
5.	Type of family	-0.098
6.	Family income	-0.254*
7.	Service experience	0.321**
8.	Training received	0.307**
9.	Attitude towards ICDS	0.072
10.	Job satisfaction	0.371**
11.	Knowledge about job component	0.403**

* & ** indicate significance of values at P=0.05 and 0.01, respectively

positively related with information output behaviour. In addition, age, caste, marital status, type of family, attitude towards IDCS did not have any relationship with information input, information processing and information output behaviour of Anganwadi workers. This finding is in contrary with the finding of Bhaltilak (2000).

Conclusion:

ICDS programme goals depends upon the effective working of the anganwadi workers, which in turn, depends upon their knowledge and attitude towards ICDS programme and how they communicated the information to ultimate users. The anganwadi worker monitors the growth of children, organize supplementary feeding etc. Communication behaviour includes information input, information processing and information output *i.e.* dissemination of information. Education, knowledge, attitude towards ICDS and training is important component for their improving job performance.

Authors' affiliations :
PRADIP JOSHI AND V.M. WATTAMWAR, Department of Extension Education, Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth, PARBHANI (M.S.) INDIA

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