

Awareness of Child Health Information in Nashik District of Maharashtra State

Vaishali Nanaji Aher¹; Dr. T. R. Borse²

Research Scholar, K.B.C. North Maharashtra University, Jalgaon¹; Ex. Librarian and Head Dept. of Library and Information Science, K.B.C. North Maharashtra University, Jalgaon.²

vaishalinaher@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

This paper investigates the awareness of Health Information pertaining to child health in Nashik District. It also presents the information about awareness activities undertaken by the extension education persons for the different programs of vaccinations and outreach of practical information at grass root level i.e rural areas of Nashik district.

KEYWORDS: Information Awareness, Dissemination, Child Vaccination, Rural Areas, Villages, Extension, Education, Asha Worker.

INTRODUCTION

Nashik District is geographically located between 18.33⁰ and 20.53⁰ latitudes and 75.16⁰ East longitudes at Northwest part of the State of Maharashtra, and about 565m above mean sea level. The District has rich legacy and mythological importance. The city is also known as Mini Maharashtra, because of the climate and local blend of social, economical, political and behavioral traits of people of various faiths. Nashik district has 15 talukas namely Chandwad, Deola, Dindori, Igatpuri, Kalwan, Malegaon, Nandgoan, Nashik, Niphad, Peth, Satana, Sinner, Surgana, Triambak, and Yeola. Few of these including the Nashik city have a good number of health centers and facilities run by Non-Government organizations, Government institutes and organizations^{1,2}.



Source: - <https://nashik.gov.in/about-district/map-of-district/> Date 30/09/2019³.

HEALTH

The term 'Health' describes the physical and mental state of human being, free from any kind of illness or disease. Healthy physical body assures harmony between all the systems, organs and parts of the human body. Absence of a disease does not qualify one as healthy. Health in reality an elusive word that indicates the physical conditions of human body. Health is a holistic concept that is related with a person's physique as a whole and is not only related with the absence of disease or healthy organs or bearing positive thoughts. The health awareness programs are organized to help the children and their parents in adopting the good health and the healthy environment (Great Britain: National Audit Office, 2012, pp.134-141)⁴.

HEALTH AWARENESS

The main objective of Health Awareness is to provide health related knowledge to the people for preventing themselves from different diseases. The definition of health connotes a number of variance, as it depends on physical conditions of every individual. For example, few women like to show off their precious and expensive jewellery to other women who cannot afford it. There are some people who are completely irresponsible, they do not know their responsibility, and some men regard their wives as their servants. These people do not have any known disease but yet they cannot be considered healthy. Health seems to be a cluster of aspects of human body including physical health, mental health and emotional health (Wall, 2009, pp.120-133)^{5,6}.

OBJECTIVE OF STUDY

The objective of this study is to find out the outreach and spread of information awareness related to child health and possible solution to the problem.

The word health and awareness are also an adjectives. These refer to a person with unbiased judgment. In other words, personal opinions or feelings do not influence a person's judgment or decisions. One of the objectives of this research is to study the work activities of asha workers and health information extension persons, working with Government and Non-Government organizations in this regard. The objective aims at finding out, whether the children and their parents have been made aware of the child health information and their practice of good health.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Survey Method, questionnaires and interview methods, are used to carry out this research study⁷.

The researcher has collected the information through the questionnaires, sent to the parents from the taluka and villages of Nashik district. The questionnaires were sent to the 120 parents and 59% responses for the questionnaires were received and recorded.

Information awareness about vaccination and child immunity in Nashik district.

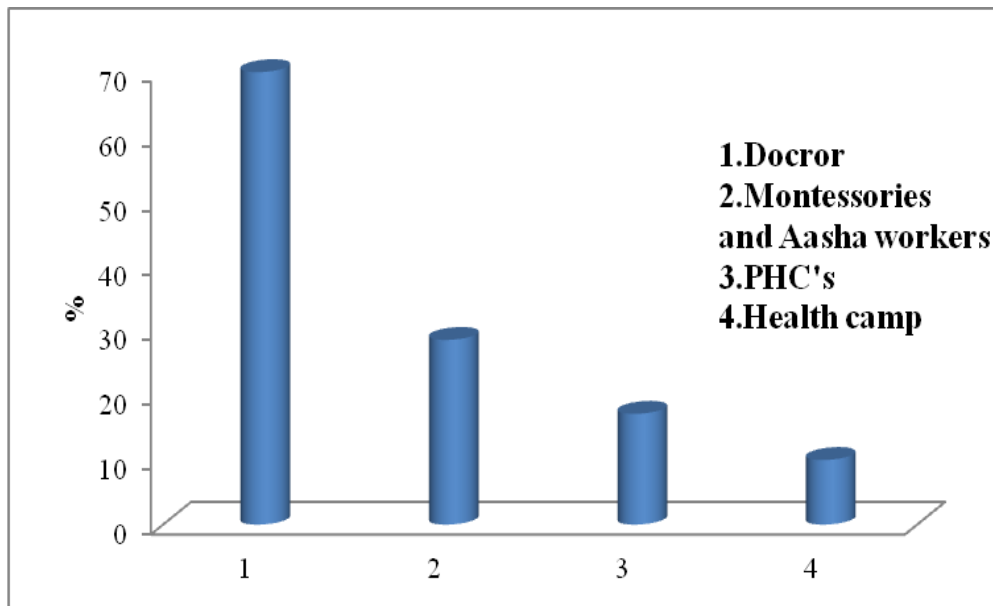
In Nashik District, the Government organizations including 106 PHCs (Public Health Centers) under Health department of Zillah Parishad are working on child health, vaccination and child immunity programmes. Among these 106 PHCs, 53 PHCs are working in tribal area and 53 PHCs are in non-tribal area. Also 592 sub-centers are working under Nashik Zillah Parishad. Thus the spread of Information awareness about vaccination and child

immunity is ensured at the grass-root level and rural areas of the district. The Asha workers and Montessories and other health workers and officers of Zilha parishad of Nashik undertake work of extension education. These extension workers educate the children and their parent, about commonly occurring health problems, the remedies and practical ways to ensure good health⁸.

Table No.1:- Information provided by different organizations and extension workers to the Parents.

Sr. No.	Name of Taluka	No. of Doctors	No. of Montessories and Aasha workers	No. of PHCs	No. of Health camps
1	Nashik	03	02	02	-
2	Niphad	06	02	-	-
3	Yeola	06	01	-	-
4	Dindori	05	02	02	01
5	Kalvan	06	03	04	-
6	Deola	04	01	02	02
7	Malegaon	02	01	-	01
8	Sinnar	07	02	-	01
9	Trimbak	06	02	-	01
10	Chandwad	04	04	02	01
11	Total(70)	49	20	12	07
	%(100)	70	28.57	17.14	10

Table No.1 reveals the status of awareness of information about vaccination and immunity system of children. The parents receive the information regarding vaccination of their children through various sources. The survey reveals that 70 % (49) cases received the information through doctors, 28.57% (20) cases received the information through Montessories and Aasha workers, 17.14% (12) cases received the information through PHCs and 10%(07) through health workers. The detailed information about “child health information awareness” is shown graphically below.



Graphical Representation

CONCLUSION

From the research undertaken, it is observed and found that most of work of extension education regarding child health and information diffusion is made by the Doctors and with poor contribution from health camps. Thus it is safe to infer and state that doctors are axis of extension education in health information awareness.

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