

Health Information Awareness among the Villagers of Chalisgaon Tehsil

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ABSTRACT

This paper highlights the health organizations from Chalisgaon Tehsil to create awareness among the villagers. In this paper, data were collected from 09 Primary Health Centers (PHCs) and 01 Regional Hospital (RH) of the Chalisgaon Tehsil from the year 2011-2015. It also presents the information about awareness activities undertaken by the extension education for different awareness programs at grass root level.

KEYWORDS: Information, Health, Health information, Primary Health Center, Regional Hospitals.

INTRODUCTION

Chalisgaon lies between 20° 28' 0" North Latitude and 75° 1' 0" East Longitude. Chalisgaon is a small town located in the state of Maharashtra, near the Gautala Wildlife Sanctuary. Chalisgaon located on border of Dhule, Nasik and Aurangabad District and world famous Elora caves are located only 65 kilo meter away from Chalisgaon. Bhaskaracharya II (1114-1185), who is credited with finding the properties of zero, has come alive in Patna Devi village in Chalisgaon. It is one of the largest towns in Jalgaon district and an interesting place to visit, with unique local cuisine and wonderful atmosphere of the city. According to Census 2011 information the sub-district code of Chalisgaon tehsil is 03972. Total area of Chalisgaon is 1,211 km² including 1,187.40 km² rural area and 23.52 km² urban area. There are about 143 villages in Chalisgaon tehsil¹.

INFORMATION

‘Information’ is the data which is subject to verification of its accuracy. It is specific in nature and organized for a purpose. It is presented in the context that gives its meaning and relevance, which leads to increase the knowledge in order to understand and minimize its uncertainty.

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The value of information lies solely in its ability to affect a behavior including decision making or outcome. A piece of information is considered valuable, which leads to behavioral change of human life and if it is used properly and at the right time.

According to J.H. Shera “Information is that, which is transmitted by the act or processing of communication, it may be a message, a signal, a stimulus, it assumes a response in the receiving organism and therefore, possess response potential...its motivation is inherently utilitarian... it is instrumental and it usually is communicated in an organized or formalize pattern, mainly because such formalization increases potential utility².”

HEALTH

The WHO Constitution of 1948 defines ‘health’ as a state of complete physical, social, and mental well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.^{3,4} According to Oxford dictionary the meaning of health is the state of being free from illness and injury, but number of studies in the subject of health have been expanding the definition of health within the social science research gamut, by which the concept of health is expanded beyond the presence or absence of illness to incorporate the national wellbeing; including social, economic and psychological wellbeing.⁵

Koos (1954) captures the complex and mysterious nature of health in his statements that health is imponderable. In other words, the state of health is one of the mysterious of life.⁶

HEALTH INFORMATION

Information about health and health activities is health information. As we are going to study about health, it is very important to give some background about health information. Health information is a set of different observations about the health of public. The observation can be made time to time. Health information should be in meaningful form, it could be understood by any practioner to diagnose the disease, disease and patient’s problem and take decision accordingly. When the patient and the doctor meet frequently and the doctor may get new information every time about the patient. The health information can be a single observation, past history, blood pressure reading, temperature reading, and different types of reports. The health information field includes different terms such as electronic health records, electronic medical records, electronic patient’s records and the traditional way of record keeping all records like prescriptions, health reports in a file manually.

HEALTH INFORMATION AWARENESS

Awareness is the ability to perceive directly the information and knowledge to feel free from difficulties and problems; and as to be cognizant of events, more broadly. It is the state of being conscious of something⁷.

METHODOLOGY

For data collection methodology, the main source of questionnaires collected from Primary health centers and Regional Hospital of the Chalisgaon tehsil, who organized Health awareness, programs to aware the people.

OBJECTIVES

To study the facilities or programs provided by government organizations, to create awareness about medicinal problems, to create awareness among the villagers of Chalisgaon tehsil.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

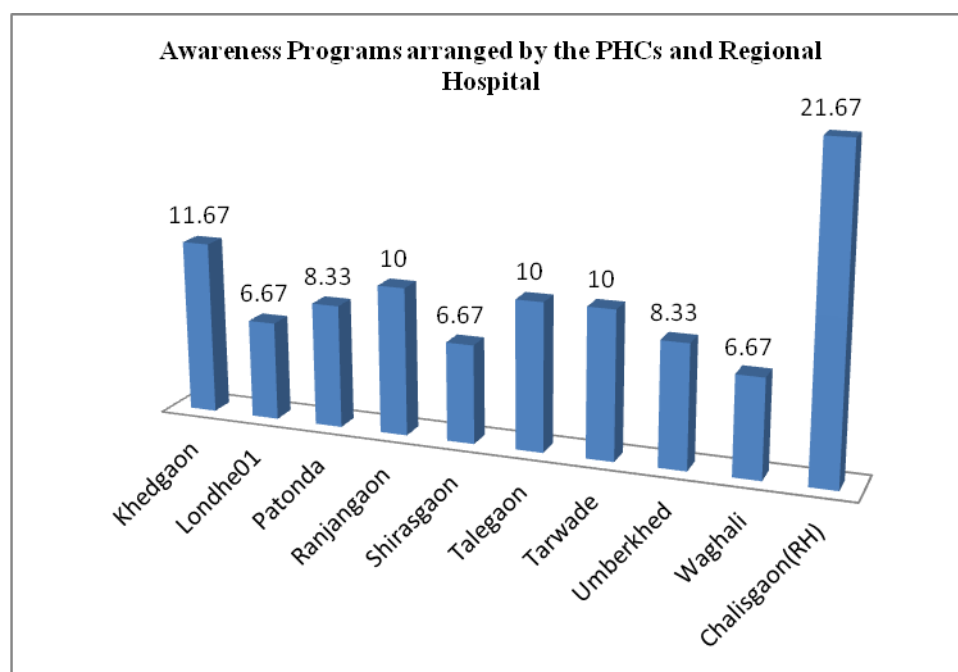
Primary health centers (PHC) and Regional Hospital (RH) in Chalisgaon tehsil has selected for the study. Data collected through questionnaires from 2011 to 2015. The following table presents Health Information Awareness programs (HIA) arranged by the PHCs and RH in the year 2011-2015 to aware the people about their health.

Awareness Programs arranged by the PHCs and Regional Hospital

PHC/RH	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total	%
Khedgaon	01	01	01	02	02	07	11.67
Londhe	01	01	01	00	01	04	6.67
Patonda	00	01	01	02	01	05	8.33
Ranjangaon	01	01	02	01	01	06	10.00
Shirasgaon	01	00	01	01	01	04	6.67
Talegaon	01	01	01	01	02	06	10.00
Tarwade	01	01	02	01	01	06	10.00
Umberkhed	01	02	01	00	01	05	8.33
Waghali	01	01	00	01	01	04	6.67
Chalisgaon(RH)	02	01	03	04	03	13	21.67
Total	10	10	13	13	14	60	100

Above table reveals the status about health information awareness programs to create awareness among the people organized by PHCs and RH through various sources. The survey reveals that 21.67% of awareness Programs have been organized by the Regional hospital of Chalisgaon. 11.67% health awareness programs have been arranged by Khedgaon PHC, 10% awareness programs have been arranged by Ranjangaon, Talegaon and Tarwade PHCs, 8.33% awareness Programs have been arranged by Patonda and Umberkhed PHCs and 6.67% awareness programs have been arranged by Londhe, Shirasgaon and Waghli PHCs. The detailed information about Information Awareness programs is graphically shown below.

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CONCLUSION

In this study it is observed that the 60 Health information Programs arranged by 09 PHCs and 01 Regional hospital in the year 2011-2015, and tried to create awareness among the villagers of Chalisgaon tehsil. It is also found that most of the health awareness programs arranged by Regional hospital of Chalisgaon i.e. 21.67% of total population and the poor contribution of the Londhe, Shirasgaon and Waghali PHCs. In the present study it is also observed that every year minimum 10 programs and maximum 14 HIA programs had arranged by health organizations in the Chalisgaon tehsil.

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