



Treatment Seeking Attitude And Concept of Health

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ABSTRACT

Health has always been a major concern of community development. It is a basic requirement not only for the fulfillment of human aspirations but also for the enjoyment of all mankind of a better quality of life. It is also indispensable for a balanced development of the individual within the family and as a part of the community and the nation. A critical review clearly indicate that hardly any study on health and nutrition based has been carried out in adolescent girls especially in Madhya Pradesh which are important for the effective planning of health education as well as health care programme aimed at improving health status of women. It has been noticed that studies concerning health awareness especially among college going youth of different categories i.e. General, other backward class, schedule caste and schedule tribe are very scanty. Present study has been conducted with an objective to know the health awareness.

KEYWORDS : Health, Treatment, Media

INTRODUCTION

It is well known that health care is only one of the several factors, which influence the health status of the population. Improvement in the health status of the population has been one of the major thrust areas for the social development programme of the country. This was to be achieved through improving, accessing, and utilization of Health,

Health and disease are a continuous process and are linked the health seeking behaviour of a community. A number of factors have been reported to influence the health seeking behaviour of individuals among which the socio-cultural pattern on the community is most important (Rosenstock, 1960; Pandey et al., 1999). Health can be defined as experiences of success of a man in its efforts to respond adaptively to environmental challenges. The health of a society is intimately related to its value system, its philosophical and cultural tradition and its social and political organization. Health and disease are related to biological and cultural resources of a community in a specific environment. (Behra, 1995). It was presumed that that all the developed nations will achieve the goal by 2000 AD while the developing countries might requires another ten years from 2000 AD to

reach it. (Nalini, 2000).

Health is the most important of all the social services, the sector that is directly co-related to the welfare for the human beings. Although the overall health scenario has improved significantly and at fore sent compared favorably with international level, but still with high economic growth, where a certain section of Indians are obviously benefiting from the health care access, most of the poorer sections of society are being left far behind. Our dysfunctional public health system that provides health care to only a small portion of the population, the rest of the population is forced to sack healthcare from the private sector and pay out of pocket at the time of ill health. 80% of our health care is met through individual household expenditure one of the highest internationally (Devdasan, 2006).

MATERIAL & METHOD

The study was conducted at Jabalpur city in the state of Madhya Pradesh. Information was collected through a detailed Structured Questionnaire on randomly selected 1000 girls consisting 250 girls from each category i.e. General, other backward class, schedule caste and schedule tribe.

RESULT & DISCUSSION

TABLE 1: Concept of Health and Treatment Seeking Behavior

Total girls	Concept of health				Cause of illness				Treatment is required when feeling		
	No fever	Appetite	No tiredness	Being cheerful	Infection	Unhygienic condition	Weak Ness	Tired-Ness	Fever	Unwell	Headache
Gen 250	12	50	28	160	50	200	66	16	140	8	20
%	4.8	20.0	11.2	64.0	20.0	80.0	26.4	6.4	56.0	3.2	8.0
OBC 250	24	16	20	190	46	204	54	12	148	22	14
%	9.6	6.4	8.0	76.0	18.4	81.6	21.6	4.8	59.2	8.8	5.6
ST 250	25	5	30	190	65	180	65	25	140	10	10
%	10.0	2.0	12.0	76.0	28.0	72.0	26.0	10.0	56.0	4.0	4.0
SC 250	18	6	33	193	70	180	49	9	162	18	12
%	7.2	2.4	13.2	77.2	28.0	72.0	19.6	3.6	64.8	7.2	4.8
TOTAL 1000	79	77	111	733	236	764	234	62	590	58	56
%	7.9	7.7	11.1	73.3	31.1	76.4	23.4	6.2	59.0	5.8	5.6

Gen.: General, OBC: Other Backward Class, SC: Schedule Caste, ST: Schedule Tribe.

Table 1&2 shows the concept of health and treatment seeking attitude of girls.

Category wise analysis shows that in general category shows 4.8% girls knew that no fever, 20% knew good appetite 11.2% girls stated

no tiredness and 64.0 % accepted that being cheerful is basic concept of health.20.0% girls knew that infection is the cause of illness, and 80.0% girls knew that unhygienic condition is cause of illness. None of them have mentioned that evil spirit and witchcraft can cause illness Regarding type of treatment preferred by students, 44.8% girls pre-

ferred allopathic treatment for illness. 12.0% girls preferred homeopathy, and 20.8% domestic treatment, 21.6 % ayurvedic and 0.8% girls preferred herbal treatment for illness. **(Table: 1,2).**

TABLE 2:PREFERRED TreatmentFOR ILLNESS

Total girls	Preferred treatment for illness						Consultation for common cough and cold			
	Superstition-remedy	Homeopathy	Domestic treatment	Ayurvedic	Herbal	Allopathic	By doctor	Self	Other	Family member
Gen (250) %	— —	30 12.0	52 20.8	54 21.6	2 0.8	112 44.8	80 32.0	50 20.0	— —	120 48.0
OBC (250) %	— —	40 16.0	32 12.8	50 20.0	— —	128 51.2	113 45.2	69 27.6	— —	68 27.2
ST (250) %	5 2.0	50 20.0	35 14.0	15 6.0	20 8.0%	125 50.0	130 52.0	75 30.0	— —	45 18.0
SC (250) %	— —	54 21.6	36 14.4	22 8.8	18 7.2%	120 48.0	78 31.2	67 26.8	3 1.2	100 40.0
TOTAL (1000) %	5 0.5	174 17.4	155 15.5	141 14.1	40 4.0%	485 48.5	401 40.1	261 26.1	3 0.3	333 33.3

Gen.: General, OBC: Other Backward Class, SC: Schedule Caste, ST: Schedule Tribe

In other backward class (OBC) category it has been found that 9.6% girls knew that no fever, 6.4% knew good appetite 8.0% girls stated no tiredness and 76.0% accepted that being cheerful is basic concept of health.18.4 % girls knew that infection is the cause of illness, and

81.6% girls knew that unhygienic condition is cause of illness. None of them have mentioned that evil spirit and witchcraft can cause illness. Regarding treatment seeking attitude 21.6% girls stated that treatment is required when some one feels weak. Regarding type of treatment preferred by students, 51.2% girls preferred allopathic treatment for illness. 16.0% girls preferred homeopathy, and 12.8% domestic treatment, 20.0% ayurvedic and no girls preferred herbal treatment for illness. **(Table:1, 2).**

In schedule tribe (ST) category it is found that 10.0% girls knew that no fever, 2.0% knew good appetite 12.0% girls stated no tiredness and 76.0 % accepted that being cheerful is basic concept of health. 72.0% girls knew that unhygienic condition and 10.0% have mentioned that evil spirit is cause of illness .56.0% girls feel one should go for treatment when individual suffers from fever.4.0 % girls knew unwell and 4.0% knew headache requires treatment. Regarding type of treatment preferred by students, 50.0% girls preferred allopathic treatment for illness. 2.0% girls preferred superstitious remedy. **(Table:1, 2).**

In schedule caste (SC) category it has been found that regarding concept of health 7.2% girls knew that no fever, 2.4% knew good appetite 13.2% girls stated no tiredness and 77.2 % accepted that being cheerful is basic concept of health.28.0 % girls knew that infection is the cause of illness, and 72.0% girls knew that unhygienic condition is cause of illness. None of them have mentioned that witchcraft and evil spirit can cause illness. Regarding type of treatment preferred by students, 48.0% girls preferred allopathic treatment for illness. 21.6% girls preferred homeopathy, and 14.4% domestic treatment, 8.8% ayurvedic treatment for illness and 7.2% girls preferred herbal treatment. **(Table: 1,2).**

TABLE 3: Awareness To Update Knowledge of Health Through Media

Total girls	Gazing TV health show			Reading health book or magazine			Name of magazine read by girls			
	Yes	No	No response	Yes	No	No response	Meri Saheli	Ayurveda	Sanjeevni	Arogyadham
Gen (250) %	142 56.8	98 39.2	10 4.0	126 50.4	110 44.0	14 5.6	45 18.0	15 6.0	10 4.0	20 8.0
OBC (250) %	122 48.8	124 49.6	4 1.6	108 43.2	142 56.8	— —	10 4.0	6 2.4	2 0.8	12 4.8
ST (250) %	112 44.8	92 36.8	46 18.4	115 46.0	115 46.0	20 8.0	10 4.0	— —	— —	15 6.0
SC (250) %	141 56.4	76 30.4	33 13.2	121 48.4	96 38.4	33 13.2	18 7.2	6 2.4	6 2.4	8 3.2
TOTAL (1000) %	517 51.7	390 39.0	93 9.3	470 47.0	463 46.3	67 6.7	83 8.3	27 2.7	18 1.8	55 5.5

Gen: General, OBC: Other Backward Class, SC: Schedule Caste, ST: Schedule Tribe

CONTINUED:

Total girls	Name of magazine read by girls									
	Ma-duri-ma	Grah shob-ha	Aar-og-ya	Health	Kaly-ani	Swadeshi	Oth-ers	Total re-sponse	No re-sponse	
Gen (250) %	5 2.0	12 4.8	9 3.6	20 8.0	— —	20 8.0	7 2.8	163 65.2	87 34.8	
OBC (250) %	2 0.8	2 0.8	8 3.2	6 2.4	6 2.4	5 2.0	3 1.2	62 24.8	188 75.2	
ST (250) %	3 1.2	5 2.0	4 1.6	5 2.0	— —	— —	8 3.2	50 20.0	200 80.0	
SC (250) %	6 2.4	6 2.4	3 1.2	3 1.2	— —	— —	6 2.4	62 24.8	188 75.0	
TOTAL (1000) %	16 1.6	25 2.5	24 2.4	34 3.4	6 0.6	25 2.5	24 2.4	337 33.7	663 66.3	

Gen.: General, OBC: Other Backward Class, SC: Schedule Caste, ST: Schedule Tribe.

Category wise analysis shows that in general category, 56.8% girls accepted that they watch television health based programme 39.2% do not see while 4.0% students did not give any response. It has been found that 50.4% girls read health concerned book or magazine.44.0%girls do not read while 5.6% have not given any response **(Table: 3).**

In other backward class (OBC), 48.8% girls accepted that they watch television health based programme 49.6% do not see while 1.6 %students did not give any response. It has been found that 43.2% girls reads health concerned book or magazine.56.8%girls do not read. **(Table: 3).**

In schedule tribe (ST) category, 44.8% girls accepted that they watch television health based programme 36.8% do not see while 18.4% students did not give any response. It has been found that 46.0% girls reads health concerned book or magazine.46.0%girls do not read while 8.0 % have not given any response. **(Table: 3).**

In schedule caste (SC) category, 56.4% girls accepted that they watch television health based programme 30.4% do not see while 13.2%

students did not give any response. It has been found that 48.4% girls reads health concerned book or magazine.38.4 %girls do not read while 13.2% have not given any response. **(Table: 3).**

CONCLUSION

The quality of life of the society greatly depends on the health status of its members. A society can never program with high morbidity rate and spreading of communicable diseases. The declaration of health for all by 2000 AD by WHO spurred the governments of all nations for the reconstruction of their health system, to introduce new programs and take effort to promote the health condition of the people.

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