



A COMPARATIVE STUDY TO ASSESS THE AWARENESS REGARDING MEASLES AND RUBELLA (M.R.) VACCINATION CAMPAIGN AMONG THE SCHOOL TEACHERS AND PARENTS IN METROPOLITAN CITY

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ABSTRACT India is committed to the goal of measles elimination and control of rubella/ CRS (congenital rubella syndrome) by 2020. To achieve this goal, Measles Rubella (MR) campaign is being launched in the country covering all children of 9 months to below 15 years of age group. *The family and schools are the back bone for the growth and development of the children*, Their knowledge and awareness regarding MR campaign plays key roles in vaccination of their own children. Moreover, it is essential in the effective outcome of this campaign. *The purpose of this descriptive study was to identify the awareness of parents and school teachers regarding Measles and Rubella vaccination campaign in the metropolitan city.*

Materials and methods: *The sample size was 120, which comprises of 60 parents and equal numbers of teachers from the selected schools in urban area. The sample was selected using simple random sampling technique as per the inclusion criteria. The data was collected in the month of February 2019 using Structured Questionnaire. The analysis and interpretation of data was based on the objectives of the study and it was done with the help of inferential and descriptive statistics. The level of significance set for testing the hypotheses was at 0.05 levels. Pearson's correlation was applied to determine the correlation of awareness among the teachers and parents.*

Results: Majority of the teachers (50%) were from age group 21 -30 years and parents (38%) were belonged between 31-40 years. Majority teachers (47%) and parents (45%) were females. Nearly equal (48%) and 50% parents were Hindus and Muslims respectively and (51.67%) teachers were Hindus followed by Muslims (28.33%). As far as their education was concerned majority (60%) parents studied up to SSC and teachers (35Majority of the teachers (55%) scored excellent. As they are implementing the program through schools. Even the majority (56.67%) parents scored good awareness. This indicate the effect of IEC multimedia in creating awareness. there was association between the educational level and the level of awareness as the χ^2 test for unpaired sample, the calculated χ^2 values are less than the table χ^2 values which indicated null hypothesis (H_0) is accepted and alternate hypothesis (H_1) is rejected for demographic variables ($p \leq 0.05$). However, there was association between awareness on MR and their Education, their views on need of awareness campaign and own children's MR Vaccination ($p \leq 0.05$) Education plays a very important roles in inculcating the positive behavior.

Conclusion: *The study concluded that, the teachers and parents are aware about the Government of India's MR campaign. The effectiveness results because of public private partnership by including the school teachers.*

KEYWORDS : Measles and Rubella (M.R.) Campaign, Awareness, School Teachers and Parents

INTRODUCTION:

Measles is a highly infectious disease that continues to kill many of our infants and young children. Rubella Infection in pregnant women disables a child for life with congenital rubella syndrome (CRS) that may result in deafness, blindness and heart defects. Measles and rubella can, however, be prevented with a safe and effective measles-rubella (MR) vaccine that gives long term immunity. Measles immunization directly contributes to the reduction of under-five child deaths and with combination of rubella vaccine will control rubella and prevent CRS in country population, thereby reducing the disabilities. Government of India (GoI) introduced measles vaccine in its Universal Immunization Programme in 1985. Since then the disease burden due to measles in India has reduced significantly. The reduction was further accelerated by providing a second opportunity for measles vaccination since 2010 in the country. Based on recommendations from expert committees, the measles-rubella vaccine is being introduced in our country through a phased MR vaccination campaign in all the states covering 9 month to 15 years children. (Dr Arun Panda, MOHFW,GOI).

India is committed to the goal of measles elimination and control of rubella/ CRS (congenital rubella syndrome) by 2020. To achieve this goal, Measles Rubella (MR) campaign is being launched in the country

covering all children of 9 months to below 15 years of age group. India launched one of the world's largest vaccination campaigns against measles and rubella on 5 February 2017. The measles and rubella (MR) campaign is an ambitious public health initiative of the Govt. of India to eliminate measles by 2020 and control rubella/congenital rubella syndrome (CRS). It targets children in a wide age group between 9 months and 15 years. This campaign is a second opportunity for those children who were left out due to either vaccine failure or failure to vaccinate. High population immunity will then be sustained by follow-up campaigns and incorporation into routine immunization schedule at 9 months and 18–24 months. For the MR campaign to be effective, it is important that no child be left behind. The current campaign is implemented through fixed sites sessions in schools and outreach centers. Therefore, the teachers are relied on to convey the importance of vaccination.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

1. To find out the existing awareness regarding M.R. campaign among teachers and parents.
2. To compare the awareness between school teachers and parents regarding Measles and Rubella campaign.
3. To a certain the association of awareness with their demographic variable.

MATERIALS AND METHODS:

The purpose of this descriptive study was to identify the awareness of parents and school teachers regarding Measles and Rubella vaccination campaign in the metropolitan city. The sample size was 120, which comprises of 60 parents and equal numbers of teachers from the selected schools and urban area respectively. The sample was selected using simple random sampling technique as per the inclusion criteria. The data was collected in the month of February 2019 using Structured Questionnaire.

The analysis and interpretation of data was based on the objectives of the study and it was done with the help of inferential and descriptive statistics. The level of significance set for testing the hypotheses was at 0.05 levels. Pearson's correlation was applied to determine the correlation of awareness among the teachers and parents.

Study Results:

Section-I: Socio demographic Profile of parents and teachers

Table 1: Frequency distribution of the teachers and parents in metropolitan city

Variable	Groups	Parents n=60		Teachers n=60	
		Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Age	21-30	30	50.00	18	30.00
	31-40	22	36.67	23	38.33
	41-50	7	11.67	13	21.67
	51-60	1	1.67	6	10
Gender	Male	13	21.67	15	25.00
	Female	47	78.33	45	75.00
Religion	Hindu	29	48.33	31	51.67
	Muslim	30	50.00	17	28.33
	Christian	1	1.67	9	15.00
	Other	0	0.00	3	5.00
Educational Status	Up to SSC	46	76.66	0	0.00
	HSC	5	8.33	0	0.00
	Graduation	9	15.00	60	100

Section – II : Source of Information:

In the parents group source of information regarding Measles and Rubella (M.R.) vaccination campaign, majority (51.67%) of them received information from the health workers, 25% received information from the television, 15% from the newspaper, 8.33% from the mobile apps.

In the teachers group majority (46.67%) received information from the television, 11.67% from the newspaper, 10% from the mobiles and 31.67% from the health workers.

Table 3: Association of awareness with the selected demographic variables N=300

Variables	Groups	Awareness				Chi square	d. f.	p value	Significance
		Excellent	Good	Average	Poor				
Age	21-30	14	25	8	2	12.44	9	0.19	Not Significant
	31-40	14	27	3	1				
	41-50	13	6	2	0				
	51-60	4	2	0	0				
Gender	Male	11	15	2	0	1.53	3	0.68	Not Significant
	Female	33	45	11	3				
Religion	Hindu	21	32	6	1	12.37	9	0.19	Not Significant
	Muslim	13	25	7	2				
	Christian	8	2	0	0				
	Other	2	1	0	0				
Educational Status	SSC	1	22	10	3	39.65	9	0.00	Significant
	HSC	4	6	1	0				
	Graduation	17	12	1	0				
	Graduation & above	22	20	1	0				
Source of Information MR Campaign	Television	16	23	3	1	6.13	9	0.73	Not Significant
	Newspaper	9	5	2	0				
	Mobile	3	7	1	0				
	Health Workers	16	25	7	2				
	No	43	55	13	2				
Need to conduct awareness program	Yes	0	4	1	1	7.93	3	0.047	Significant
	No	44	56	12	2				
Their own children received M.R vaccination	Yes	9	16	4	3	9.23	3	0.03	Significant
	No	35	44	9	0				

Section-III: Awareness regarding MR campaign:

The question was asked regarding necessity to conduct Measles and Rubella campaign, majority of the parents and teachers 93.33% & 95% respectively responded positively. Again the question probed to elicit their responses regarding creating awareness regarding MR Campaign majority parents (91.67%) and teachers (98.33%) responded 'yes'. Moreover 76.67 % parents and 70 % teachers reported their children received MR Vaccine through this campaign.

Section – IV: Awareness of school teachers & parents regarding MR Campaign.

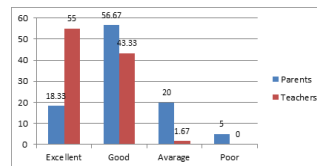


Figure :1 –Awareness of school teachers & parents regarding MR Campaign.

The above table depicted that, majority of the teachers (55%) scored excellent. As they are implementing the program through schools. Even the majority (56.67%) parents scored good awareness. This indicate the effect of IEC multimedia in creating awareness.

Section – V:

comparison of the awareness regarding Measles and Rubella (M.R.) vaccination campaign among the school teachers and parents.

Table 2: Comparison of the awareness among school teachers & parents (unpaired t test)

Awareness	Maximum Score	Mean awareness score	S.D.	t	p
Parents	60	17.35	3.58	5.34	0.000
Teachers	60	20.45	2.72		

The comparison of the level of awareness of parents and school teachers regarding MR Campaign was assessed by paired t test. The findings showed that the mean score for teachers (20.45) was more than the parents (17.35).The unpaired t test value was 5.34 with p value 0.000, which indicate that, there was significant difference in the awareness score of parents and school teachers, at 5% level of significance.

Section – V:

Association of the awareness regarding Measles and Rubella (M.R.) vaccination campaign with selected demographic variables.

The above table indicated that, there was association between the educational level and the level of awareness as the χ^2 test for unpaired sample, the calculated χ^2 values are less than the table χ^2 values which indicated null hypothesis (H_0) is accepted and alternate hypothesis (H_1) is rejected for demographic variables ($p \leq 0.05$). However, there was association between awareness on MR and their Education, views on need of awareness and their own children's MR Vaccination ($p \leq 0.05$). Which indicates Education plays a very important roles in inculcating the positive behavior.

DISCUSSION

This campaign will be the largest ever measles-rubella campaign launched in the world. About 41 crore children will be covered under this campaign and it will be a truly massive effort which will require partnership at all the levels. The determined efforts of the various Ministries, State Governments, partners, health managers and health personnel would guarantee safety and the success of this public health activity. The rubella vaccine, which is being introduced for the first time in India as Measles-Rubella (MR), prevents children being infected with the rubella virus. If women become infected during early pregnancy, they risk giving birth to babies with Congenital Rubella Syndrome (CRS), thus, with introduction of MR vaccine we will be protecting the future generation of the country too.

The present study titled the, "A comparative study to assess the awareness regarding Measles and Rubella (M.R.) vaccination campaign among the school teachers and parents in metropolitan city". Was aimed to assess the awareness of parents and school teachers. The finding indicates that, the teachers and the parents were well aware about the campaign. The Information education and communication plays a very important role in creating awareness. Moreover, they have immunized their own children through this campaign. The study findings suggest that there is significant association of education and level of awareness, thus, teachers group found to be more aware than the parents. Moreover, they were interested to know more about the MR.

RECOMMENDATIONS:-

1. A study can be conducted to assess the attitude and practices of school teachers and parents
2. Similar longitudinal study can be undertaken on large scale.
3. A comparative study can be undertaken on school teachers and parents in rural and urban area.
4. Disseminative study can be conducted to evaluate the effect of teacher's awareness.
5. The findings can be utilized by the government for further planning and evaluation of the National Health Programs and its effectiveness.

CONCLUSION:-

India having successfully overcome the challenges of diseases like polio, maternal and neonatal tetanus and yaws in the recent past, the country is making confident strides to triumph over measles and rubella. India, along with ten other WHO South-East Asia Region member countries, has resolved to eliminate measles and control rubella/congenital rubella syndrome (CRS) by 2020. To take this agenda forward, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, under the leadership of the Union Health Minister, Mr J.P. Nadda is introducing Rubella vaccine in its universal immunisation programme (UIP) as Measles-Rubella vaccine. Reflecting the government's commitment to improving the health status of its children, Prime Minister Mr Modi said, "Let no child suffer from any vaccine-preventable disease," while launching the Intensified Mission Indradhanush in October 2017.

This study aimed to draw out the awareness regarding Govt. measles rubella campaign for researching the effectiveness of Program. To address this, comparative study was undertaken to assess their level of awareness. This study revealed that the participants were aware about the MR Campaign with reference to their causes and transmission and reported good preventive practices for prevention of complications. There are various factors contributing to creating the awareness viz social media, television and news paper. Folk media and electronic media to be the partners in prevention campaign. It was recommended that the community participation is key to improve their awareness.

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