



AWARENESS REGARDING PREVENTION OF DIARRHEA AMONG MOTHERS OF UNDER-FIVE CHILDREN ATTENDING A RURAL PEDIATRIC OUTPATIENT DEPARTMENT IN MAHARASHTRA, INDIA: A CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY

Community Health Nursing

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ABSTRACT

Background: Diarrheal disease remains a major cause of morbidity and mortality among under-five children. **Aim:** To assess awareness regarding prevention of diarrhea among mothers attending a rural pediatric OPD. **Methods:** Descriptive cross-sectional study among 60 mothers using a structured questionnaire. **Results:** Fifty percent had average awareness, 27.7% good awareness and 23.3% poor awareness. Awareness regarding handwashing, ORS, safe drinking water, sanitation and breastfeeding was generally satisfactory. **Conclusion:** Continued maternal health education is required to improve preventive practices.

KEYWORDS

Diarrhea; Under-five Children; Mothers; Awareness; ORS; Prevention

INTRODUCTION

Diarrhea remains a major public health problem among under-five children. Maternal knowledge regarding hygiene, sanitation, breastfeeding, safe drinking water and ORS is essential to reduce morbidity and mortality.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Quantitative descriptive cross-sectional study conducted among 60 mothers attending the Pediatric OPD of Dr. Vitthalrao Vikhe Patil Pravara Rural Hospital, Loni (Bk). Convenience sampling was used. Data were collected using a structured questionnaire and analyzed using descriptive statistics and Chi-square test.

RESULTS

Major findings: 50% average awareness, 27.7% good awareness, 23.3% poor awareness; 86.7% knew handwashing prevents diarrhea; 80% had correct ORS knowledge; 83.3% knew safe drinking water importance; 76.7% sanitation awareness; 73.3% exclusive breastfeeding awareness.

DISCUSSION

The findings indicate moderate maternal awareness with remaining knowledge gaps requiring focused health education, especially in rural settings.

CONCLUSION

Hospital- and community-based educational programmes should strengthen maternal awareness regarding diarrhea prevention.

Declarations

Conflict of Interest: None

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Ethical Approval: Obtained from the Institutional Ethics Committee.