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Evaluation of knowledge, attitude and practices of selected Anganwadi workers concerning waste management

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Abstract

India's population has been increasing tremendously and with the increase of population the loads and loads of waste is also increasing tremendously. In the present scenario the problem of waste has become a boiling issue which has to be controlled. The issue of waste management is bothering not only urban regions but it has become a matter of concern for rural regions too. In India Anganwadis are working to uplift the life of rural people by providing knowledge and awareness in various fields i.e. health, sanitation, nutrition etc. The anganwadi workers are popular in rural areas and people also see them as their well-wishers and friends. In the present study 129 anganwadi workers were selected as sample. The purpose of the study was to know the knowledge, attitude and practices of anganwadi workers. It had been discovered that anganwadi workers need some training to improve their knowledge, attitude and practice concerning waste management.

Keywords: Waste management, knowledge, attitude, practice, rural

Introduction

Throughout most of history, the amount of waste generated by humans was insignificant due to low population density and low societal levels of the exploitation of natural resources. Common waste produced during pre-modern times was mainly ashes and human biodegradable waste, and these were released back into the ground locally, with minimum environmental impact. Today humans and their activities have always generated unmanageable waste. This was not a topmost issue when the population was somewhat lesser and drifting. The situation became grim with rapid urbanisation and the progression of large metropolises. Poor management of waste can lead to contamination of water, soil and atmosphere that can have a major impression on the health of the folks.

As science and technology developed, the management of an ever increasing volume of waste became a very organised, specialised and complex activity. The physiognomies of waste material progressed in line with the change of lifestyle, and the number of new biochemical materials existing in the various waste streams increased dramatically.

Man is behind every development endeavour the large scale production and improper disposal of waste has become a source of pollution and further accumulation of garbage has resulted in serious deteriorating in quality of life and the ecological balance many disease like cholera and gastro-enteritis have been reported due to lack of proper collection and disposal of solid waste, insanitary condition and unsafe drinking water (Marudachalam, 1990).

An emphasis need to be given on the need of systematic waste management, cost effective methods, environ- mentally and procedurally safe and acceptable at low maintenance level. (Ruchi, Avinash, Kamal Raj, 2007). At the same time it's essential to acquire the information about the knowledge and understanding of waste, their attitude towards waste and practices they follow to manage their waste.

Justification of the study

Household waste management is a great problem now a days. Since solid are the product of human activities, it is almost normal to come across some form of waste from all types of human activities.

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It indicates that production of waste is inevitable and its proper disposal is essential. Especially in the rural areas of India, people are very ignorant about waste management. There is a need for effective and economical waste management.

The word Anganwadi means "courtyard shelter" in Indian languages. They were started by the Indian government in 1975 as part of the Integrated Child Development Services program. A typical Anganwadi Centre provides basic health care in Indian villages. It is a part of the Indian public health care system. Basic health care activities include contraceptive counseling and supply, nutrition education and supplementation, as well as pre-school activities.

Anganwadi workers are the one who can reach at the grass root level. In many ways an Anganwadi worker is better equipped than other individual in reaching out to the rural population. Since the worker lives with the people she is in a better position to identify the cause of their problems and henceforth counter them. She has a very good understanding of her region. Secondly though Anganwadi workers are not as skilled or qualified as professionals they have better social skills thus making it easier to interact with the people. Moreover, since these workers are from the village, they are trustworthy which makes it easier for them to help and understand the people of their area. Last but not the least, Anganwadi workers are well aware of the ways of the people, are comfortable with the local language, know the rural folk personally etc. This makes it very easy for them to figure out the problems being faced by the people and ensure that they are solved. Therefore, it was decided to take Anganwadi workers as samples. Hence, the workers from Anganwadi centre of Vallabh Vidyanagar were selected for the present study.

Objectives

- To identify their existing knowledge about types of waste.
- To find the attitude of anganwadi workers towards waste management.
- To assess the waste management practices of anganwadi workers.

Methodology

- a) **Selection of tool:** A comprehensive review of literature related to the problem has been undertaken before selecting the tool for the present research study. It had been realized that a personal interview with the help of questionnaire is appropriate for the respondents therefore, a close ended questionnaire was prepared. Primary data was collected through interview of the Anganwadi workers and secondary data was gathered from various sources of information like research studies on internet, dissertation, periodicals, books and newspaper.
- b) **Sample selection:** The population for the present study was Anganwadi workers from Vallabh Vidyanagar training center. Total 129 Anganwadi workers were selected as sample for the present study. The sampling procedure for the study was purposive sample technique.
- c) **Study area:** The ANGANWADI WORKERS TRAINING CENTER (A.W.T.C.), Vallabh Vidyanagar started on 2nd April 1983. It is recognized (approved) by the Ministry of Education and Social welfare both at the state and Central level, New Delhi (Approved No: 4-10/82 TE-AT). New Approved No: ICDS-TRN-2006-GOI-22-B dated 13-6-2006. AWTC has total 785 Anganwadi workers & helpers who were trained. In Mamata workshop with 230 supervisors of ICDS were also trained. Time to time many eminent personalities also visits the training centres.



A.W.T.C. - Vallabh Vidyanagar

- d) **Data analysis:** For data analysis coding of the data was prepared. Then percentage and frequency were checked out. Tables and graphs were prepared to show the findings of the present study.

Results and Discussion

The results revealed of the present study were presented in different sections i.e.

Demographic data of the respondents

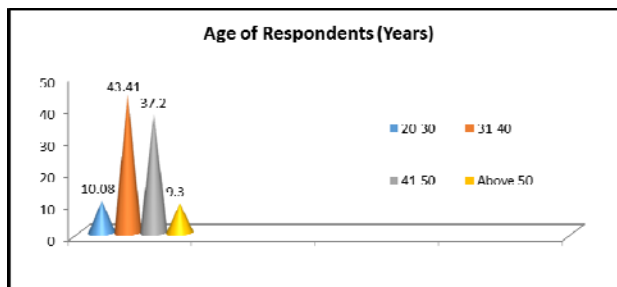


Fig: 1

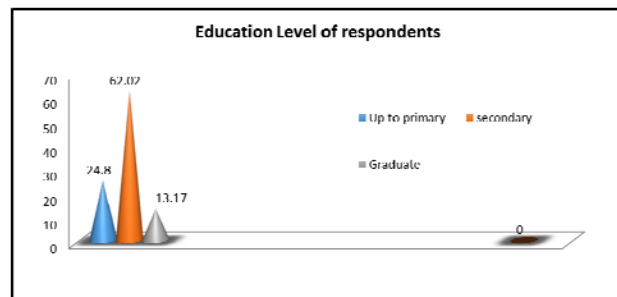


Fig: 2

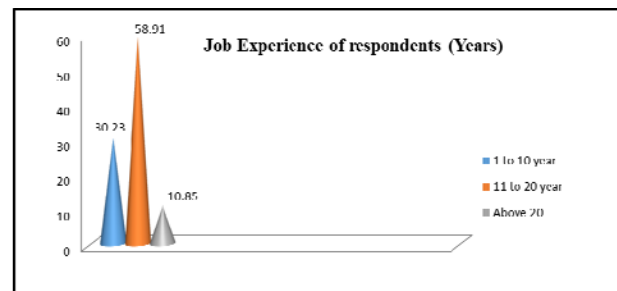


Fig: 3

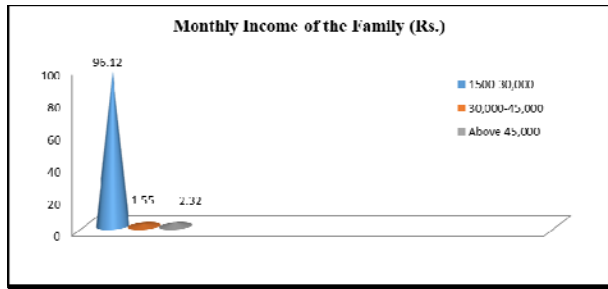


Fig: 4

II- Knowledge of the respondents about types of Waste

The knowledge of the respondents were measured through multiple choice questions. The analysis was carried out in the following manner:

Answers	Score	Frequency (N)	Percentage (%)
Right Answer	1	89	68.99
Wrong Answer	0	40	31.00
Total	-	129	99.99

It had been discovered from the analysis that nearly 69 percent respondents possess the knowledge about types of waste.



Fig: 5

Attitude of the respondents towards waste management

To find the attitude of the respondents three point Likert scale was prepared with 20 statements where 13 statements were positive and 7 were negative. The score given were:

- (i) Positive statement=13
- (ii) Negative statement=07
(Agree=3, Disagree=1, Neutral=2)
(Agree=1, Disagree=3, Neutral=2)

Table 1: It can be seen from the table that 78.29 % respondents believe that there should be separate dustbin for wet and dry waste.

Statement	Agree		Disagree		Neutral		Total = N
	(N)	(%)	(N)	(%)	(N)	(%)	
I believe that there should be separate dustbin for wet & dry waste.	101	78.29	21	16.28	07	5.42	129

Table 2: shows that 47.28 % respondents were disagree that they are not responsible for their household waste whereas 44.19 % were agree to the statement.

Statement	Agree		Disagree		Neutral		Total =N
	(N)	(%)	(N)	(%)	(N)	(%)	
I am not responsible for my household waste.	57	44.19	61	47.28	11	8.52	129

Table 3: From the table it becomes clear that bulk of the respondents believe that some kind of training should be given to make them understand about proper waste management.

Statement	Agree		Disagree		Neutral		Total = N
	(N)	(%)	(N)	(%)	(N)	(%)	
I believe that for proper waste management training should be given.	108	83.72	11	8.52	10	7.75	129

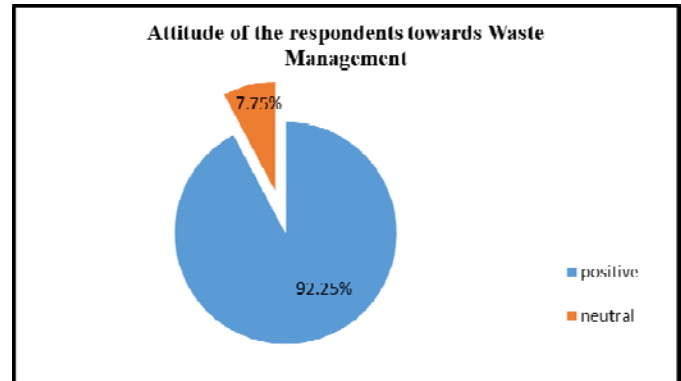


Fig: 6

The responses on attitude shows that the majority of the anganwadi workers i.e. 92.25% were found to have positive attitude & 7.75% had neutral attitude towards waste management. None of them had negative attitude.

Practice of the respondents towards waste management: A three point Likert scale was prepared to assess the waste management practices of the respondents. The scale consisted of 19 statements, where 11 statements were positive and 8 statements were negative. The score given were:

- (i) Positive statements =11
- (ii) Negative statements =8
(Always=1, Sometime =2, Never=3)
(Always=3, Sometime=2, Never=1)

Table 4:

Statement	Always		Sometime		Never		Total = N
	(N)	(%)	(N)	(%)	(N)	(%)	
I use old towel as mop.	91	70.54	32	24.86	06	4.65	129

The above table shows that almost 71% respondents use old towel as mop, whereas only 4.65 % respondents never use old towel as mop.

Table 5:

Statement	Always		Sometime		Never		Total=N
	(N)	(%)	(N)	(%)	(N)	(%)	
I don't use old glass bottles for refilling.	28	21.70	63	48.83	38	29.46	129

From table no.5 it is revealed that 63% respondents sometimes use old glass bottles for refilling.



Fig 7

The results of the study found that 68.21% of the respondents possess good practices, while 31.78% were found to have moderate practices towards waste management. This indicates that they need to improve their practices concerning waste management.

4. Conclusion

The present study was undertaken to analyse the knowledge attitude and practices of anganwadi workers regarding waste management. It had been realized that women are still unaware of waste and waste disposal practices. They need training in the relevant field for proper waste disposal practices and change of their attitude is necessary. The result of this research indicates that anganwadi workers do face barriers when it comes to managing their waste. Improvement of knowledge in waste management is still required. The research also shows that household waste management is important to anganwadi workers and they would manage waste more competently if the facilities available would be more effective and meet their needs.

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