

A STUDY TO ASSESS THE KNOWLEDGE REGARDING SELECTED NATIONAL HEALTH SCHEMES AMONG ADULTS IN SELECTED AREAS OF PUNE CITY.

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ABSTRACT

India, with its extensive population and diverse healthcare demands, has implemented numerous national health programs aimed at delivering accessible, affordable, and high-quality healthcare. These programs, driven by the government's commitment to public health, strive to address various health issues and improve outcomes across the country. Key initiatives include the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY), National Health Mission (NHM), and Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA).

This research investigates the knowledge of selected national health schemes among adults in selected areas of Pune city. The study's objectives include assessing the level of knowledge and associating findings with demographic variables. Using a quantitative, non-experimental exploratory approach, the research was conducted among 200 adults using a non-probability purposive sampling technique. The research setting was selected areas of Pune city, focusing on adults aged 18 years and above who could understand Marathi or English. A structured knowledge questionnaire was the primary tool for data collection, validated through expert review and reliability testing using the test-retest method.

The findings revealed that the majority of respondents (62.5%) had good knowledge of national health schemes, while 38.5% had average knowledge, and no respondents exhibited poor knowledge. Demographic analysis showed that age significantly influenced knowledge levels, while other factors such as gender, education, and marital status did not have a statistically significant association. The study highlights a need for targeted awareness programs to address gaps in understanding and ensure more equitable access to healthcare knowledge and services. The study underscores the importance of continuous evaluation and public awareness initiatives to ensure effective healthcare delivery. By understanding and addressing barriers to healthcare knowledge, policymakers can make informed decisions to optimize resource allocation and enhance program effectiveness. This research contributes valuable insights into public awareness of national health schemes, essential for achieving universal health coverage and improving health outcomes in India.

(Keywords – assess, knowledge, national health schemes, adults)

INTRODUCTION

India, with its large population and varied healthcare needs, has rolled out several national health programs to ensure that healthcare services are accessible, affordable, and of high quality

for its people. These programs, fueled by the government's dedication to public health, tackle various healthcare issues and aim to enhance health outcomes nationwide. One of the key initiatives in Indian healthcare is the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY), introduced in 2018. PM-JAY aims to provide health insurance coverage of up to ₹5 lakh per family annually for secondary and tertiary hospital care to over 10 crore poor and vulnerable families. By offering financial protection against devastating healthcare costs, PM-JAY reduces the financial strain on families and supports equal access to healthcare services. Another key program is the National Health Mission (NHM), launched in 2013, which includes various initiatives aimed at enhancing healthcare delivery in both rural and urban areas. Within NHM, the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) and the National Urban Health Mission (NUHM) focus on the specific healthcare needs of different communities. NRHM prioritizes maternal and child health, immunization, and infrastructure development in rural areas, while NUHM addresses the health challenges of urban populations, especially the urban poor. The Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY), started in 2008, made a significant impact by providing health insurance to below-poverty-line (BPL) families. Although RSBY has now been integrated into PM-JAY, its contribution to expanding health insurance coverage for marginalized groups remains significant. By reducing out-of-pocket expenses and improving access to healthcare services, RSBY helped enhance health outcomes for vulnerable populations.

The Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA), started in 2016, focuses on maternal and child health by offering comprehensive prenatal care to pregnant women. PMSMA aims to lower maternal and infant mortality rates by providing timely and quality healthcare services during pregnancy, thus protecting the health of mothers and newborns.

NEED OF STUDY

Grasping the complexities of national health programs in India is essential for several reasons. These programs form the foundation of the country's healthcare system, aiming to provide affordable and accessible healthcare services to its large population. A thorough examination of these programs is important for policymakers, healthcare professionals, researchers, and citizens alike. Firstly, analyzing national health programs allows for a detailed evaluation of their effectiveness and impact on public health outcomes. By assessing factors such as coverage, accessibility, quality of care, and health results, researchers can identify the strengths and weaknesses of these programs. This information is crucial for policymakers to pinpoint areas needing improvement and make informed decisions on resource distribution and policy changes.

Knowing national health programs helps address disparities in healthcare access and coverage. India, with its diverse regions, has varying levels of healthcare infrastructure and resources. By examining these programs, researchers can identify areas or groups that are underserved and require targeted interventions. This insight is essential for creating strategies to ensure fair healthcare delivery and closing the gap between urban and rural healthcare facilities.

Additionally, studying national health programs provides valuable information on healthcare financing and sustainability. Many of these programs depend on government funding or insurance systems to pay for healthcare services. Understanding the financial mechanisms and challenges associated with these programs is crucial for ensuring their long-term viability.

Researchers can analyze trends in healthcare spending, revenue generation, and cost-effectiveness to guide future policy decisions and optimize resource use. Examining national health programs enables citizens to make informed choices about their healthcare options and rights. By understanding the eligibility requirements, benefits, and procedures of these programs, individuals can access the healthcare services they deserve and navigate the healthcare system more efficiently. This knowledge enhances health awareness and allows citizens to push for better healthcare delivery and policy changes.

AIM OF THE STUDY

The main of the study was to assess the knowledge regarding selected national health schemes among adults in selected areas of Pune city.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Using a quantitative, non-experimental exploratory approach, the research was conducted among 200 adults using a non-probability purposive sampling technique. The research setting was selected areas of Pune city, focusing on adults aged 18 years and above who could understand Marathi or English. A structured knowledge questionnaire was the primary tool for data collection, validated through expert review and reliability testing using the test-retest method.

RESULTS

1) Analysis of data related to demographic variables.

The distribution of samples based on demographic data for the study, with a total of 200 participants, is presented as follows. The majority of the participants (26.5%) were in the age group of 46–55 years, followed by 25% from both the 18–25 years and 26–35 years age groups, and 23.5% from the 36–45 years age group.

Regarding gender, 54% of the samples were female, and 46% were male, with no transgender participants.

In terms of occupation, 39% were housemakers, 28% were engaged in business, 24% were employed in jobs, and only 9% had government jobs.

When considering marital status, 69% of the samples were married, 24.5% were unmarried, 4.5% were widows, and 2% were widowers.

Regarding family education, 33.5% had secondary education, 21% had higher secondary education, 20.5% had primary education, 17% were graduates, and 8% had no formal education.

In terms of family structure, 41.5% of participants belonged to nuclear families, 41.5% to joint families, 12.5% to single-parent families, and 4.5% to extended families.

Concerning religion, 43% of the participants identified as Hindu, 29% as Muslim, 24% as Buddhist, and 4% as Christian.

Regarding awareness of government schemes, 24.5% of participants were aware of government schemes, with 35.5% unaware.

Among those who knew about government schemes, 22.5% were familiar with the Aushman Bharat Yojana, 9.5% with the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Yojana, and 8.5% with the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana.

2) Analysis of knowledge regarding selected national health schemes among adults

N=200

Level of knowledge	Frequency	Percentage	Mean	SD
Poor knowledge	0	0	19.94	1.97
Average knowledge	77	38.5		
Good knowledge	123	62.5		

Table no – 1 shows that, majority 62.5% of samples had good knowledge regarding selected national health schemes, 38.5% of samples had average knowledge regarding selected national health schemes and there were no sample having poor knowledge.

N= 200

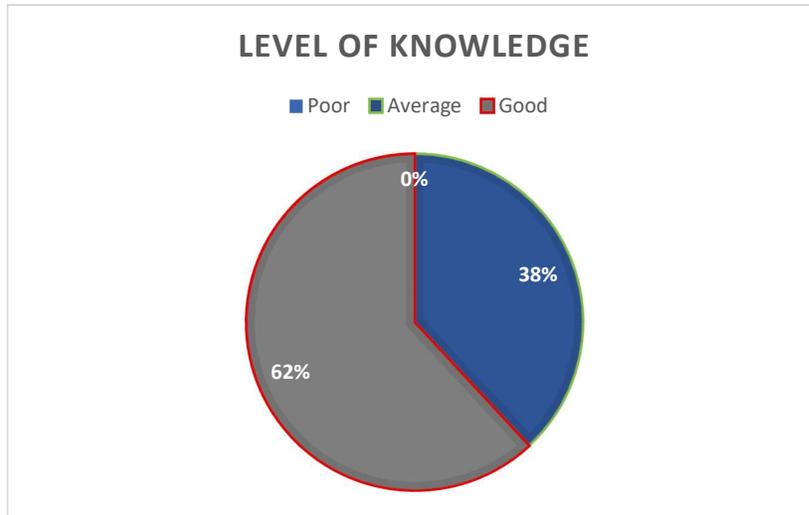


Figure no – 1

The pie diagram showing percentage wise distribution of knowledge regarding selected national health schemes.

DISCUSSION OF THE STUDY

This research aimed to assess the knowledge of adults regarding selected national health schemes in selected areas of Pune city. The study focused on the awareness and understanding of key government health programs like Ayushman Bharat, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, and Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana among adults. The results from the study contribute to understanding how well these programs are known and their impact on the public, while also exploring the role of demographic factors in shaping the level of awareness.

The high level of awareness regarding national health schemes among the adults in Pune city is promising, but the study also highlights several areas for improvement. Despite the overall positive knowledge levels, a substantial proportion of the population remains unaware of specific government schemes, particularly those targeting maternal health and female empowerment. This suggests that there is a need for more targeted awareness programs, particularly aimed at the younger population, which was less informed about these schemes.

The lack of significant association between knowledge levels and variables like gender, education, and family structure is intriguing. It challenges the assumption that more educated individuals or those from certain family types may have higher levels of awareness. This finding points to the possibility that factors such as access to information, media exposure, and

government communication strategies play a more significant role in influencing knowledge than demographic characteristics alone.

CONCLUSION

The research study aimed to assess the knowledge regarding selected national health schemes among adults in Pune city and explore the association between knowledge and selected demographic variables. The findings revealed that the majority of adults had good knowledge (62.5%) about these schemes, while a smaller portion (38.5%) had average knowledge. No participants demonstrated poor knowledge. The study also found that there was a significant association between knowledge levels and age, with younger adults being less knowledgeable compared to older adults. However, no significant associations were observed between knowledge and other demographic variables such as gender, occupation, marital status, education, family structure, religion, or awareness of government schemes. These results underline the importance of targeted awareness programs for specific age groups and highlight the need for continuous efforts to bridge knowledge gaps across different population segments.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

We, researchers, understand that conflict of interest refers to situations in which financial or other personal considerations may compromise our judgment in evaluating, conducting, or reporting research. We hereby declare that we do not have any personal conflict of interest that may arise from our application and submission of our research proposal.

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