

A Study Of Utilization Of Icds Services By Adolescent Girls At Anganwadi Centres

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Introduction

With the highest adolescent population in India, the real challenge for the nation is to provide nutrition, health and education in this segment, especially for girls, according to UNICEF report. The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), a countrywide programme of the Government of India, offers a fundamental intervention for addressing the nutrition and health problems and promoting early childhood education among the disadvantaged population of the country. The ICDS programme successfully works through a network of over 946,000 village level anganwadi center (AWCs) setup at the community level across 5,959 development blocks and urban slums. Based on the consistent reports from recent journals and articles related to ICDS services and their functioning throughout the country, it has come to light the fact that 81.4% adolescent girls are unaware of the ICDS programme in the country. Among the remaining 18.6% adolescent girls, the services provided to them were inconsistent and incomplete as they were also unaware of the various services. Keeping this in mind the following project is based on the services being provided by the individual anganwadi services concerning to mainly the girls of adolescent age group (10yrs-19yrs). So we have undertaken this project to highlight the service utilization by adolescent girls at anganwadi centres of urban slums of Bellary city and also the factors influencing the service utilization by adolescent girls.

Objectives

1) To study the service utilization by adolescent girls at anganwadi centres of urban slums of Bellary city. 2) To study the factors influencing the service utilization by adolescent girls.

Methods

Study settings

Urban slums of Bellary city. Study period: January 9th 2012 – April 13th 2012.

Study design

Cross sectional study

Study subjects

Adolescent girls (Age- 10yrs to 19 yrs) in the urban slum of Bellary city.

Exclusion criteria

- a. Locked houses
- b. Who did not give their consent.

Sample size

325 Sampling technique:
Systemic random sampling.

Method of data collection

Data was collected using a predesigned semi structure questioning by interviewing adolescent girls of age 10yr-19yr. Data analysis: Data was analysed using SPSS 17 and statistical tests used are proportion, mean and chi-square.

Ethical considerations

Permission was taken by respective authorities of the institution and written informed consent was taken by study subjects before collecting the data.

Results

Out of 325 adolescent girls interviewed, nearly 41% of them were in the age group of 14- 16years and 11% of them were married. Most of the adolescent (92.9%) had heard about anganwadi centres mainly through health personnel (79.1%). The registration at anganwadi was 140(43.1%) and nutritional services (67%) was the common service availed by the adolescent girls. A statistically significant difference was found between age groups and marital status and service utilization.

Conclusion

Service utilization at anganwadi centres by adolescent girls is only 43% and the common service availed by the registered adolescents was nutritional services and the common reason for not availing the services was lack of awareness.