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## Research Article

### A STUDY TO EVALUATE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF AWARENESS PROGRAMME ON KNOWLEDGE REGARDING POLICIES INITIATED BY THE GOVERNMENT TOWARDS CHILD WELFARE AMONG WOMEN AT PILLAIYARKUPPAM PUDUCHERRY

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#### ABSTRACT

Effectiveness of Awareness Programme on Knowledge regarding Policies initiated by the Government towards Child Welfare among women at Pillayarkuppam, Puducherry.

**Background:** The child protection field comprises both Government and Non-Governmental agencies providing a wide range of services. The main aim of this child protection is to help families to provide safe care for their children.

Each year, the awareness programme on child protection targets children with and without disability, mainly in the rural areas. According to Wikipedia's child protection policy, is a set of usually Government-run services designed to protect children and young people who are underage and to encourage family stability. The Government of India has launched many policies towards child welfare which many of the families are unaware. The objectives of the study was to assess the level of knowledge on child welfare among women and to evaluate the effectiveness of awareness program on knowledge among women regarding policies towards child welfare.

**Methodology:** Pre experimental research design was used in this study. 50 women from Pillayarkuppam were selected using Purposive Sampling Technique. A pretest was done to assess the level of knowledge of mothers on the various policies initiated by the Government towards child welfare. An awareness program on the various Policies (Integrated Child Protection Scheme, Ujjawala Scheme, Rajiv Gandhi Creche Scheme, National Policy for children etc.) was made known and after 7 days a post test was done.

**Findings:** The results revealed that the awareness programme was found to be highly significant at  $p < 0.001$  level.

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#### INTRODUCTION

The child protection field comprises both Government and Non-Governmental agencies providing a wide range of services. The main aim of this child protection is to help families to provide safe care for their children.

Each year, the awareness programme on child protection targets children with and without disability, mainly in the rural areas. According to Wikipedia's child protection policy, it is a set of usually Government-run services designed to protect children and young people who are underage and to encourage family stability. The Government of India has launched many policies towards child welfare which many of the families are unaware hence the researcher was interested in disseminating the various policies initiated by the Government of India with the objective of evaluating the effectiveness of awareness program on knowledge regarding child welfare among women.

#### MATERIAL AND METHODS

##### Research Approach & Design

A quantitative research approach was used and Pre-experimental one group pretest posttest design was adopted.



**O1-Pretest** → Assessment of the level of existing knowledge regarding the Government initiated policies related to child welfare.

**X-Awareness program** → A power point presentation on the various policies related to child welfare on the same day of pretest.

**O2-Posttest** → Assessment of the level of knowledge, regarding the Government initiated policies after the awareness program on the 7<sup>th</sup> day.

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Puducherry is a Union Territory comprising of four regions namely Puducherry, Mahe, Karaikal and Yanam. The administrative block of these four regions is in Puducherry. Pillayarkuppam is a rural area, located in Puducherry and the study was conducted in this area. 50 women from rural area by purposive sampling technique was included in the study.

### Description of the tool

The tool consisted of two parts:

Part A- Demographic variables.

Part B- Structured questionnaires for knowledge.

**Part A:** Demographic variables which included name, age, sex, religion, Educational status, residential area, occupational status, family income per month.

**Part B:** Structured questionnaire to assess the knowledge of women regarding the policies related to Child Welfare.

It consisted of 47 multiple choice questions. Women were asked to go through the questions and give their answer for each question.

### Scoring Technique

Score '1' was given for correct answer and score '0' was given for wrong answer.

### Score Interpretation

≤50% → inadequate knowledge

50-75% → moderate knowledge

≥75% → adequate knowledge

### Data Collection Procedure

The purpose of the awareness program was explained to all the participants with self introduction. Prior to the pretest, Anganwadi was selected in the community to conduct the study and subjects were made comfortable and relaxed. After the pretest nearly 40 to 45 minutes was spent to conduct the awareness program (Integrated Child Protection Scheme, Ujjawala Scheme, Rajiv Gandhi Creche Scheme, National Policy for children etc.) through PowerPoint Presentation. After a week, the posttest was conducted among the women.

### Statistical Methods

Descriptive (frequency and percentage), and inferential statistics (paired t test, and chi square) were used for analysis of the study.

## RESULTS

### Demographic Socio-economic characteristics

Out of 50 samples, with regard to age, 14(28%) of women were below the age of 20-30 years, 10(20%) were between 30-40 years, 19(38%) were 40 – 45 years and 7 (14%) were between 45 – 50 years. Majority 33(66%) of women were homemakers and 18(36%) women were working. Regarding the number of children, 27(54%) of them had one child, 15(30%) of them had two child and 8(16%) had more than two child.

**Table 1** Distribution of Level Of Knowledge of Women Regarding Policies Related to Child Welfare During Pretest And Post Test

Level Of Knowledge	Pre test		Post test	
	No. of Women	Percentage	No. of Women	Percentage
Inadequate knowledge	48	96	9	18
Moderately Adequate Knowledge	2	4	40	80
Adequate Knowledge	Nil	Nil	1	2

The above table depicts that the level of Knowledge during Pretest was 48(96%) had inadequate knowledge, 2(4%) had moderately adequate knowledge and no one had adequate knowledge.

Where as in Post test 9(18%) had inadequate knowledge, 40(80%) gained moderately adequate knowledge and 1(2%) had adequate knowledge.

The above indicates the effectiveness of awareness program on child welfare among women. The study revealed that the **Mean** was **14.86** with **Standard Deviation** of **15.38816** in pre-test were as mean value increased to **27.66** with **Standard Deviation** of **17.45347** in Post-test. After the awareness program, the "**t**" value was **-5.1859** which was statistical significant at "**P**" value **<0.001** and this can be attributed to the effectiveness of awareness program in increasing the level of knowledge among women.

**Table 2** Effectiveness of Awareness Programme on Knowledge among Women regarding Child Welfare

Knowledge	Mean	S.D (Standard Deviation)	't' value	df	P Value
Post Test	27.66	17.45347			

## DISCUSSION

In spite of all the efforts and programmes conducted by Government, many of the women are not having adequate knowledge regarding the policies related to child welfare as there is inadequate dissemination which needs to be strengthened.

This is evident in the pretest as, out of 50 samples most of them **48 (96%)** had inadequate knowledge, **2 (4%)** had moderately adequate Knowledge and none of them had adequate knowledge during pretest. Among the experimental group, it was found that, there is an Improvement in the level of knowledge, while conducting posttest.

Out of 50 samples, **1(2%)** gained adequate knowledge and **40 (80 %)** gained moderately adequate knowledge and **9(18 %)** gained inadequate knowledge Pre test and post test was compared using Paired 't' test. The study also revealed that the **mean value** of pretest score was **14.86**.and posttest Knowledge score was **27.66**.It was higher than the pre test. The **standard deviation** of pre test knowledge score was **15.38816** and post test knowledge score was **17.45347** '**t**' value **-5.1859** which was statistical significant at **p<0.001** level which implies the effectiveness of the teaching program.

## **CONCLUSION**

Women in the Urban and Rural area needs be empowered with essential health information as it can benefit them at large.

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