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“A Study on Awareness among Anganwadi Workers towards Children With Intellectual Disabilities”

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Abstract:

Anganwadi workers are playing a key role in providing preschool education to the age group of 3-6 years under ICDS project. They need to be aware towards children with intellectual disabilities in order to equip themselves with the required skills of screening, early identification and management of children with intellectual disabilities. Whole population of anganwadi workers of district Karauli Rajasthan was taken as the sample for the study. The study on awareness to children with intellectual disabilities among anganwadi workers was conducted for this sample. T test was taken from the sample to evaluate the effect of awareness program. the investigation involved t-test the finding revealed that there is a significant improvement in the level of awareness among the anganwadi workers of district Karauli Rajasthan after awareness program.

Key Word: Intellectual Disabilities, Anganwadi workers, Investigation, Sample

Introduction:

According to Batshaw (1970) intellectual disability is characterized both by a significantly below average score on a test of mental ability or intelligence and by limitations in the ability to function in areas of daily life, such as communication self care and getting along in social situations and school activities , intellectual disability is some times referred to as a cognitive or intellectual disability.

Children with intellectual disability can learn new skills, but they develop more slowly than children with average intelligence and adaptive skills . There are different degrees of intellectual disability, ranging from mild to profound. A person's level of intellectual disability can be defined by their intelligence quotient (IQ), or by the types and amount of support they need .

People with intellectual disability may have other disabilities as well. Examples of these co-existing conditions include cerebral palsy , seizure disorder , vision impairment , hearing loss and

attention deficit/ hyperactivity disorders (ADHD). Children with severe mental retardation are more likely to have additional disabilities than are children with mild intellectual disability .

According to the Persons with Disability (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act 1995. "Intellectual disability means a "condition of arrested or incomplete development of mind of a person which is specially characterized by sub - normality of intelligence" .

Statement of the problem:

The problem of the study is to identify the level of awareness on children with intellectual disabilities among the Anganwadi workers and improve awareness among the society.

Objectives of the study :

- To determine the level of awareness about the children with intellectual disability among the Anganwadi workers of Karauli Rajasthan.
- To compare the difference in awareness among Anganwadi workers about intellectual disability related factors such as education age and experience level.

Hypothesis :

There will be a significant influence on the level of awareness about the children with intellectual disability among the anganwadi workers in related to education age and experience level of Hindaun city Karauli District in Rajasthan.

Variables :

- **Independence variables** : Knowledge on indicator of intellectual disability.
- **Depended variables** : Awareness among anganwadi workers.

Operational definition:

- Awareness**: "Awareness implies vigilance in observing some things or experience and alertness in drawing inferences from what one observes."
- Anganwadi Workers**: staff of anganwadi peoples is the focal point for deliver of the package to children (0 to 6) and mothers at their door steps in the village under integrated children development scheme (Ministry of Human resource development).
- Intellectual disability** : Intellectual Disability is a generalized, triarchic disorder, characterized by sub average cognitive functioning and defects in two or more adaptive behaviours with onset before the age of 18. Once focused almost entirely on cognition, the definition now includes both a component relating to mental functioning and one relating to the individual's functional skills in their environment".

Research design:

This study is to find out the level of awareness among the anganwadi workers of Karauli (Dist) Rajasthan by using survey design. The sampling method used was purposive and non probability sampling.

Sampling method :

The sample consisted of Anganwadi workers of Karauli from Rajasthan but three of them included for the sample as they were on three personal level.

Data analysis :

After obtaining the data by mean of demographic data forms, t-test tools, the researcher analyzed the response of the subjects with regards to their awareness for children with intellectual disability and cross analyzed them with variables likes age, education and experience of the anganwadi workers. The inter factor correlation between different areas of questionnaire and correlation between different areas and whole questionnaire of the t-test responses also has been done.

Table 1: Mean scores of Anganwadi workers on awareness towards Intellectual Disability with respect to Qualification.

| S.N. | Qualification | N | Mean | S.D. | T value |
|------|---------------|----|-------|------|-------------|
| 1 | SSC | 44 | 21.11 | 4.26 | 0.404 NS |
| 2 | +2, B.A. | 16 | 21.56 | 2.39 | |

In the table 1 shows the mean scores of Anganwadi workers on awareness towards intellectual disability with respect to qualification. In the table anganbadi workers who have a qualification of SSC have a mean score of 21.11 and Anganbadi workers who qualified +2 and BA have a mean scores of 21.56. The standard deviation is 4.26 for SSC passed Anganbadi workers and 2.39 for + 2, BA Passed Anganbadi workers. The mean scores show no difference. To find out the level of significance an independent t test was carried out. The t value is 0.404, which is not significant. So there is no difference in the Anganwadi workers awareness towards intellectual disabilities with respect to qualification.

Table 2: Mean scores of Anganwadi workers on awareness towards Intellectual Disability with respect to Age.

| S.N. | age | N | Mean | S.D. | T value |
|------|-------|----|-------|------|------------|
| 1 | 20-27 | 37 | 20.75 | 4.57 | 1.25 NS |
| 2 | 28-35 | 23 | 22 | 1.27 | |

In the table 2 shows the mean scores of Anganwadi workers on awareness towards intellectual disability with respect to age. In the table anganbadi workers who have an age of 20-27 have a mean score of 20.75 and Anganbadi workers who have an age of 28-35 have a mean scores of 22. The standard deviation is 4.57 for Anganbadi workers with the age group 20-27 and the standard deviation is 1.27 for Anganbadi workers with the age group 28-35. The mean scores show no difference. To find out the level

of significance an independent t test was carried out. The t value is 1.24, which is not significant. So there is no difference in the Anganwadi workers awareness towards intellectual disabilities with respect to age.

Table 3 : Mean scores of Anganwadi workers on awareness towards Intellectual Disability with respect to Experience.

| S.N. | Experience | N | Mean | S.D. | T value |
|------|------------|----|-------|------|---------|
| 1 | 5-9 | 36 | 20.88 | 2.26 | 0.662 |
| 2 | 10-20 | 24 | 21.70 | 1.02 | NS |

In the table 3 shows the mean scores of Anganwadi workers on awareness towards intellectual disability with respect to experience. In the table anganbadi workers who have an experience of 5-9 years have a mean score of 20.88 and Anganbadi workers who have an experience of 10-20 years have a mean scores of 21.70. The standard deviation is 2.26 for Anganbadi workers who have an experience of 5-9 years and the standard deviation is 1.02 for Anganbadi workers who have an experience of 10-20 years. The mean scores show no difference. To find out the level of significance an independent t test was carried out. The t value is 0.66 which is not significant. So there is no difference in the Anganwadi workers awareness towards intellectual disabilities with respect to experience.

Summary

A study on awareness among Anganwadi workers towards children with intellectual disability of Karauli District in Rajasthan is sequentially divided into six chapters :

1. Introduction to intellectual disability and anganwadi workers and related review of literacy of the study.
2. Statement of the Problem, objective and hypothesis of the study
3. Methodology
4. Data analysis and interpretation of the result
5. Discussion
6. Summary and Conclusion

The first chapter deals with introduction, concept of intellectual disability definition of intellectual disability identification of persons with intellectual disability causes and prevention of intellectual disability management of person with intellectual disability. Pre school activities provide by anganwadi workers, role of Anganwadi workers in disability management and the review of related literature. in this chapter the need for a review has been established.

The second chapter deals with statement of the problem, purpose of the study, objective of the study and the hypothesis of the study.

The third chapter deals with introduction sample design, the methodology used in developing the tools and procedure in distribution collection of data and the procedure of data analysis. The sample design has been tabulated accordingly and is placed on record and is numbered sequentially.

It deals with the analysis of the data. A) Overall performance wise B) education wise C) Age wise and D) Qualification wise of anganwadi workers. While analyzing the inter correlation, inter correlation between different area of the questionnaire and correlation between the different areas and total questionnaire was done. The data has been tabulated and presented in graphical format in this chapter.

Anganwadi workers perception, causes and prevention of intellectual disability :

- A. Majority of the sample disagreed that intellectual disabilities is an infectious disease.
- B. Most of sample responded positively to it individual with poor and deficit adaptive behaviours are known as changes of having a child with disability.
- C. Majority of the anganwadi workers have disagreed that faith healers can cure intellectual disabilities.
- D. Most of the sample have responded positively that if the mother's crying age is 18 or above 35 years, there are more chances of getting a child with disability.
- E. Majority of the sample have agreed that normally timely immunization is necessary for prevention of disability.

The perception of anganwadi workers with regard to basic concepts on special education to children with intellectual disabilities.

- A Majority of the sample viewed that to teach the children with intellectual disabilities
- B Most of the sample agreed that mirror is a useful aid for training children with intellectual disabilities.
- C Most of sample agreed that training person with intellectual disabilities in early years is more beneficial.
- D Majority of the sample stated that it is important to keep mind of the persons with intellectual disabilities requires multidisciplinary support.

Anganbadi workers perception on management of person with intellectual disability

A Majority of the Anganwadi workers is disagreed to the statement that putting the person with intellectual disability into a hospital will be the ideal solution for managing the person. with intellectual disability.

B most of the sample viewed that marriage can cure disability. it means the viewed that by marrying a person with intellectual disability we can bring so much of positive in their life.

C The view expressed by majority of the sample is that faith heelers cannot cure intellectual disability.

- D** Majority of the sample stated it is important to keep mind of the persons with intellectual disability requires multidisciplinary supports.

Conclusion:

In the analysis the researcher has found that there exists a great need to orient the anganwadi workers on special education to children with intellectual disability greater stress should be given for collaboration between the departments like primary education social welfare and ICDS for the welfare of the persons with intellectual disability.

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