



ISSN: 2230-9926

Available online at <http://www.journalijdr.com>

IJDR

International Journal of Development Research

Vol. 13, Issue, 10, pp. 63977-63978, October, 2023

<https://doi.org/10.37118/ijdr.27029.10.2023>



RESEARCH ARTICLE

OPEN ACCESS

KNOWLEDGE REGARDING RASHTRIYA BAL SWASTHYA KARYAKRAM (RBSK) SCHEME AMONG NURSING STUDENTS

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ARTICLE INFO

Article History:

Received 17th July, 2023

Received in revised form

14th August, 2023

Accepted 21st September, 2023

Published online 30th October, 2023

KeyWords:

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare,

Study investigates,

Questionnaire consisting.

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ABSTRACT

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, under the National Health Mission launched the Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK), an innovative and ambitious initiative, which envisages child health screening and early intervention services, a systematic approach of early identification and link to care support and treatment. This study investigates the level of knowledge among Nursing students about the Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) at a selected Nursing college in Puducherry. Method This study utilized a quantitative research approach. A self-structured questionnaire consisting of 30 questions were used to collect data. The study population consists of 100 Nursing students. The study was conducted at a selected Nursing college in Puducherry. Data collected were analysed using frequency and percentage distribution. Result The study results revealed that out of the 100 Nursing students, nearly 55% of the Nursing students had only adequate level of knowledge regarding RBSK. **Conclusion:** Researchers conclude that the Nursing students had inadequate level of knowledge regarding the RBSK. Since the student nurses are going to take the roles as School health nurse, Community health nursing officer in future and they all actively take part in creating awareness to the public and teachers regarding the benefits of RBSK scheme in reduction of health problems among School children.

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Citation: Dr. T. Nanthini, Sivasankari Bon and Chitra, S. 2023. "Knowledge regarding rashtriya bal swasthya karyakram (rbsk) scheme among nursing students". *International Journal of Development Research*, 13, (10), 63977-63978.

INTRODUCTION

Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) is an important initiative aiming at early identification and early intervention for children from birth to 18 years to cover 4 'D's viz. Defects at birth, Deficiencies, Diseases, Development delays including disability. It is important to note that the 0-6 years age group will be specifically managed at District Early Intervention Centre (DEIC) level while for 6-18 years age group, management of conditions will be done through existing public health facilities. DEIC will act as referral linkages for both the age groups. Out of every 100 babies born in our country every year, 6 to 7 babies have a birth defect. This will mean 1.7 million birth defects occur annually and will also account for 9.6% of all neonatal deaths. Under nutrition or nutritional deficiency affecting the preschool children ranges from 4 to 70% in our country. Developmental delays are also common in early childhood affecting at least 10% of our children. Special Newborn Care Units (SNCU) Technical Reports have estimated that approximately 20% of babies discharged from SNCU are found to suffer from developmental delays and/or disabilities at a later life. These delays, if not intervened early, may lead to permanent disabilities in cognition, hearing and vision.

Development during the early stage of life i.e, in the first 1000 d is crucial in determining the psychosocial productivity of a child in the future. Frontline workers (FLWs) are not trained to detect developmental delays (DDs) in children under the national programme of Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) in India. People of current generation are not aware about the RBSK scheme. It is a necessity to educate people about the RBSK scheme which benefits larger parts of the society. This can be done by initially assessing their knowledge and orientation about the RBSK scheme.

Statement of the Problem

A descriptive study to assess the knowledge regarding Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) scheme among nursing students in a selected nursing college in Puducherry.

Objectives of the Study

- To identify the level of knowledge about RBSK scheme among Nursing students.
- To educate Nursing students about the benefits of RBSK scheme.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The quantitative research approach was followed to conduct the study. A non-experimental descriptive research design was used to assess the knowledge RBSK scheme. The study was conducted in Nursing students in Puducherry. Totally 100 Nursing students (B.Sc Nursing IIIrd & IVth year) in Mother Theresa Post graduate and Research Institute of Health Sciences, Puducherry. After self-introduction, the purpose of the study was explained to the subjects and requested their willingness and co-operation to participate in this study. The demographic data was collected and the level of knowledge towards RBSK scheme was assessed.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Demographic data of the Subjects: The major finding of the study was summarized as follows, Finding related to demographic variable, The majority 48 (96%) of them were belongs to 19 to 20 years age. 36(72%) of them were belongs to 21 to 22 years of age. 16(32%) of them were belongs to 23 to 24 years of age. The majority of the person were female 80(80%) and rest of them were male 20 (20%). The majority of them were final year 52 (52%). And rest of them were third year 48(48%). The majority of them gained the information regarding Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) through class room 56(56%). 38(38%) of them gained through community postings and only 6(6%) of them known through mass media.

Table 1. Frequency and percentage wise distribution of level of knowledge about RBSK scheme among nursing students

N=100		
Level Of Knowledge	Frequency	Percentage
Inadequate knowledge	35	35
Moderate knowledge	10	10
Adequate knowledge	55	55

Table no 1 reveals that out 100 nursing students, only 55% of them especially final year students only having adequate level of knowledge regarding Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK).

CONCLUSION

The findings of the present study evident that B.Sc Nursing final year students have adequate knowledge regarding the RBSK comparing with third year as final year students only studying about the Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) Scheme as part of their curriculum requirement. Researchers conclude that the Nursing students had inadequate level of knowledge regarding the RBSK. Since the student nurses are going to take the roles as School health nurse, Community health nursing officer in future and they all actively take part in creating awareness to the public and teachers regarding the benefits of RBSK scheme in reduction of health problems among School children.

Recommendations

Based on the finding of the study, the investigators propose the following recommendations for the future study:

- A similar study may be conducted in large scale in different setting to validate the generalization of the finding.

- A similar study can be conducted in a hospital setting among nursing professional.
- A similar study can be done to access knowledge on RBSK scheme in selected areas (college) can be conducted.

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