

Title: Assessment of Knowledge of Community Health Officers (CHOs) on Screening and Basic Management of Mental Health ailment at AAM-SHCs in Sarguja District of Chhattisgarh

Introduction: Mental health is a critical component of overall health, yet it often receives inadequate attention in primary healthcare settings, particularly in rural and underserved areas. Community Health Officers (CHOs) play a vital role in early detection and management of mental health disorders at the grassroots level. This study focuses on evaluating the knowledge and attitudes of CHOs regarding mental health issues at Ayushman Aarogya Mandir Sub-Health Centers (AAM-SHCs) in Sarguja District, Chhattisgarh. The findings are essential for identifying educational gaps and improving mental health care services at the primary level.

Research Question

What are the knowledge of CHOs regarding the screening and basic management of mental health ailments as part of the ESP at AAM-SHC?

General Objective:

To evaluate the knowledge and attitudes of CHOs regarding the screening and basic management of mental health ailments as part of the ESP at AAM-SHCs in Sarguja, Chhattisgarh, India.

Specific Objectives:

1. To assess the level of knowledge among CHOs about CMD, SMD, C&AMD neurological, and substance use (MNS) disorder.
2. To determine the proportion of CHOs who correctly identify and use appropriate screening tools for MNS disorders
3. To evaluate the attitudes of CHOs towards patients with MNS disorders

Research design

The study adopts a cross-sectional design to assess the knowledge and attitudes of CHOs regarding the delivery of the Mental, Neurological, and Substance Use (MNS) package at AAM SHCs.

Study Setting

The research was carried out among the Community Health Officers (CHOs) stationed at various AAM SHCs in Sarguja district, Chhattisgarh, India, from April to May 2024. On average, these facilities cater to a population of 4000 people.

Sample Size

The sample comprised of Community Health Officers (CHOs) working in AAM-SHCs within Sarguja, Chhattisgarh. The exact number of participants is 71 out of a total of 129 CHOs in the district.

Sampling Technique

A convenience sampling approach was used to select participants, allowing for ease of access within the specified timeframe.

Research procedure

Participants were administered a structured questionnaire electronically via Google Forms. The questionnaire assessed the knowledge and attitudes of CHOs regarding the delivery of the Expanded Service Package-MNS. Closed-ended questions will be utilized for the assessment

Mode of data collection

Data was collected using a structured questionnaire administered electronically via Google Forms.

Study Duration

The study was conducted over a period of two months, April and May 2024. This timeframe encompassed data collection, analysis, and reporting activities within the specified duration.

Inclusion Criteria:

1. Community Health Officers (CHOs) working in Ayushman Aarogya Mandir Sub-Health Centres (AAM SHCs) in Sarguja District, Chhattisgarh.
2. CHOs who provide consent to participate in this research study.

Limitations of the study:

1. The study utilized a convenience sampling approach, which may have introduced selection bias.
2. The reliance on self-reported data collected via an electronic questionnaire introduced the risk of response bias.
3. The distinct attributes of the study population and environment constrain the generalizability of the findings to wider contexts.
4. The cross-sectional structure of the study precludes the evaluation of temporal changes.

Ethical Approval:

1. The permission for primary data collection was CMHOs office, Ambikapur, Sarguja, Chhattisgarh.
2. All appropriate patient consent were obtained.
3. There are no conflicts of interest.

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