

SYNOPSIS

1. TITLE:

Assessing Knowledge and Competency of CHOs (Community Health Officers) Post-MNS (Mental, Neurological, and Substance Use Disorders) Training Under Ayushman Bharat-AAM

2. INTRODUCTION:

Community Health Officers (CHOs) are pivotal in delivering primary healthcare under the Ayushman Arogya Mandir (AB-HWC) initiative. The introduction of the **Mental, Neurological, and Substance Use (MNS) Disorders Training Module** equips CHOs with the knowledge and skills to manage mental health at the community level. This training is designed to bridge the vast treatment gap in India due to myths, stigma, lack of awareness, and shortage of trained personnel. However, the effectiveness of this training module in enhancing CHOs' knowledge and competencies in mental healthcare delivery remains underexplored.

This study aims to evaluate the knowledge and competency of CHOs in identifying, managing, and referring mental health conditions post-training and to identify gaps that may necessitate re-training or enhancement of the existing module.

3. RESEARCH QUESTION:

To what extent are Community Health Officers (CHOs) have knowledge and competency in addressing mental health needs after completing the MNS module training, and are there identifiable gaps that call for re-training?

4. OBJECTIVES:

- To assess current knowledge of CHOs in managing mental health issues after MNS training.
- To assess CHOs' competency in managing mental health issues after MNS training.
- To determine the need for further training or re-training among CHOs for better mental health service delivery.

5. HYPOTHESIS:

- **Null Hypothesis (H₀):** There are no significant gaps of knowledge and competency among CHOs post-MNS training, and no further training is required.
- **Alternative Hypothesis (H₁):** There are significant gaps in CHOs' competency post-MNS training, indicating a need for re-training.

6. MATERIAL AND METHODS:

STUDY DESIGN: Cross-sectional descriptive study

SETTING: Selected Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (AAMs) in Jaipur 1 & 2 and Ajmer block level.

STUDY POPULATION: CHOs who are selected through AAM portal.

Inclusion Criteria:

- CHOs who have completed the MNS training module.
- CHOs who are updating the report on AAM portal for mental health issues.

Exclusion Criteria:

- CHOs who haven't undergone MNS training.
- CHOs who are not updating the report on AAM portal for mental health issues.

DURATION: 3 Months

SAMPLE SIZE: 30 CHOs

SAMPLING TECHNIQUE: Purposive sampling

DATA COLLECTION:

- Structured questionnaire assessing knowledge, practical application in MNS care.
- In-depth interviews with CHOs to gain qualitative insights into and perceived competency, training effectiveness, challenges, referral processes, and patient interactions.

OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS:

- **Competency:** CHOs' ability to identify, counsel, manage, and refer MNS cases using knowledge from the training module.
- **Training Effectiveness:** The practical impact of MNS training in improving CHO service delivery.
- **Training Gaps:** Knowledge or skill areas where CHOs feel underprepared or lack confidence.

DATA ANALYSIS PLAN:

- **Software:** Microsoft Excel
- **Quantitative:** Descriptive stats (mean, SD, frequencies); Chi-square for categorical variables
- **Qualitative:** Thematic analysis of interview responses

7. ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS:

- Informed written consent
- Confidentiality and anonymity maintained throughout the study

8. IMPLICATIONS OF RESEARCH:

This study will provide critical insights into the current knowledge as well as competency of CHOs in managing mental health conditions post-MNS training and assess whether the training has effectively translated into practical skills. By identifying specific gaps in knowledge or performance, the findings will highlight the need for targeted re-training or refresher courses. The results will also inform improvements in the existing training module, ensuring it better

equips CHOs to deliver quality mental health services at the primary care level under the Ayushman Bharat initiative.

9. REFERENCES:

- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. *Training Manual on Mental, Neurological and Substance Use (MNS) Disorders Care for Community Health Officer. 2021.*
- National Health Systems Resource Centre. *Training* Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. SASHAKT - Assessment of Healthcare Providers' Training.
- *Modules for CHOs at AB-HWC.*
- Health Systems Transformation Platform. *Competency Assessment for CHOs in Primary Healthcare.*
- CHO Saathi. *Mental Health Module.*
