Background

- Acute childhood diarrhoea: ↑ incidence & mortality cases (Government of West Bengal, 2006)
- Poor access to minimum healthcare services in Kamala (Government of West Bengal, 2006)
- ORS usage rate in under-five children in India: 26% (IIPS, 2007)
- No formal study on assessing the awareness of ORS among mothers of under-five children in Kamala

Aim

To assess the awareness of oral rehydration salt (ORS) among mothers of under-five children in Kamala village, West Bengal, India

Materials & methods

Study design Cross-sectional study

Study area Kamala village within Barpura Community Development Block of Bankura District, West Bengal, India

Study participants 24 mothers of under-five children interviewed

Ethical concerns

Ethical approval: ScHARR, The University of Sheffield’s Research Ethics Committee
Study approval: Barpura Block Development Officer

Data collection tool Pre-designed, translated (into Bengali) & pre-tested quantitative questionnaire

Data collection procedure Systematic door-to-door survey (3 consecutive days: 23rd, 24th & 25th August 2007)

Results

1. Awareness of ORS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Awareness of ORS</th>
<th>Correct</th>
<th>Wrong + No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ORS solution administration till a child drinks after an episode of acute diarrhoea (&e not if the child refuses it)

2. Sources of information about ORS

- Medical Doctors: 27%
- Female Health Workers: 21%
- Radio: 14%
- Television: 10%
- Newspaper: 2%
- Friends & Relatives: 26%

3. Association between awareness of ORS & socio-demographic characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Socio-demographic Characteristics</th>
<th>Aware of ORS (Yes/No) (Total n = 24)</th>
<th>P value (Fisher’s Exact Test, 2-sided)</th>
<th>Unadjusted Odds Ratio (95% Confidence Interval)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.57</td>
<td>2.5 (0.31-20.45)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below 35</td>
<td>15/4</td>
<td>0.45</td>
<td>1.0 (0.25-4.09)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 &amp; Above</td>
<td>9/2</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>0.8 (0.3-2.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>0.8 (0.3-2.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literate</td>
<td>8/3</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>0.8 (0.3-2.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iliterate</td>
<td>10/3</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>0.8 (0.3-2.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupation</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>0.8 (0.3-2.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stays at Home</td>
<td>11/4</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>0.79 (0.11-4.49)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>7/2</td>
<td>0.57</td>
<td>0.67 (0.25-1.69)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Status</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Enough</td>
<td>11/3</td>
<td>0.67</td>
<td>1.57 (0.25-10.09)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enough</td>
<td>7/3</td>
<td>0.67</td>
<td>1.57 (0.25-10.09)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Results: Statistically insignificant

No reliable evidence of an association between awareness of ORS & 4 socio-demographic variables

No difference detected in the odds of awareness of ORS between the 2 groups of each variable

Conclusion & Recommendation

- Awareness of ORS: Among many mothers of under-five children
- Exact knowledge of ORS solution preparation & administration: Unsatisfactory
- Effectiveness of relevant national health promotion programmes: ?
- Needs re-evaluation, implementation & strengthening of the content & method of imparting these programmes

Effective home management of acute childhood diarrhoea lies in the hands of well informed mothers & health promotion programmes need to ensure that the mothers are well informed.

Competencies Acquired

- Literature reviewing
- Using epidemiological research design
- Assessing effectiveness of health services

References


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For Further Information

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