

# Awareness of oral rehydration salt (ORS) among mothers of under-five children in Kamala village, West Bengal, India: A cross-sectional study

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## 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 Barjora Community Development Block of Bankura District, West Bengal, India

**Study participants** 24 mothers of under-five children interviewed

### Ethical concerns

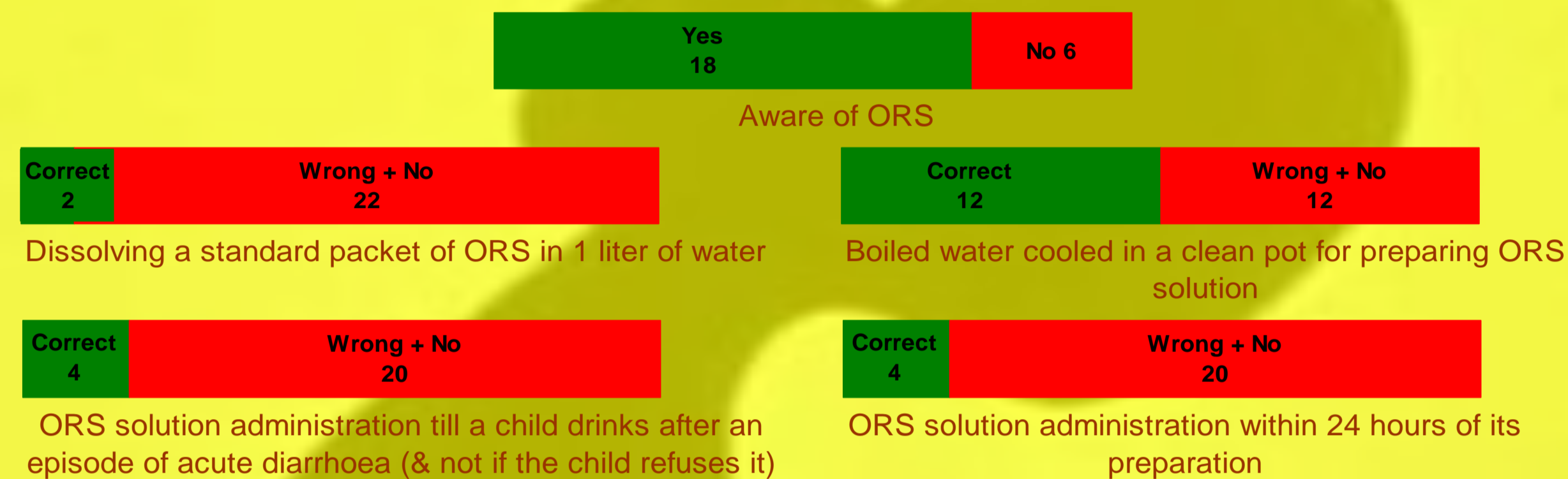
Ethical approval: ScHARR, The University of Sheffield's Research Ethics Committee  
Study approval: Barjora Block Development Officer

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

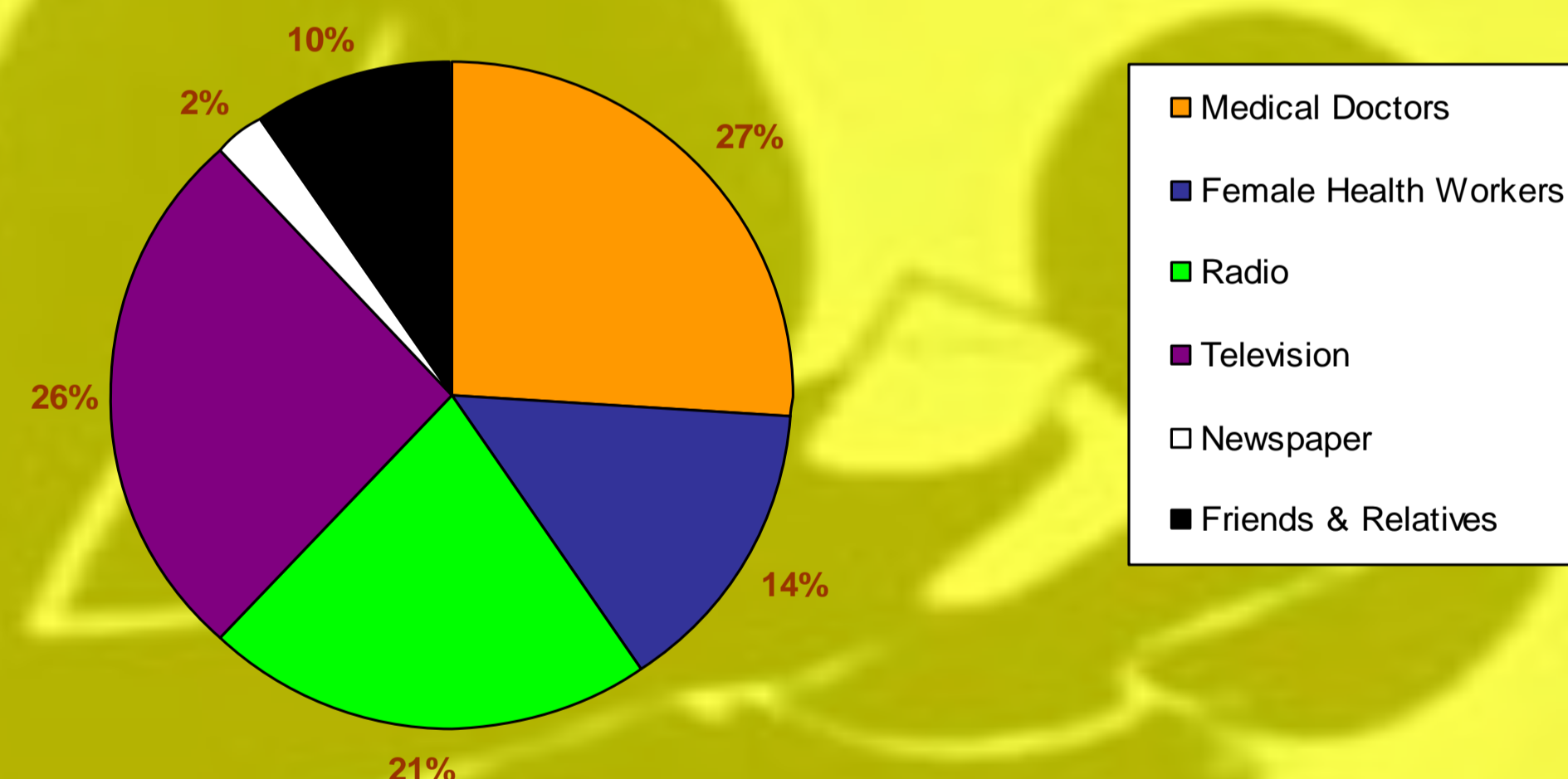
**Data collection procedure** Systematic door-to-door survey (3 consecutive days: 23rd, 24th & 25th August 2007)

## Results

### 1. Awareness of ORS



### 2. Sources of information about ORS



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

Socio-demographic Characteristics	Aware of ORS: Yes/No (Number) (Total n = 24)	P-value (Fisher's Exact Test, 2-sided)	Unadjusted Odds Ratio (95% Confidence Interval)
Age			
Below 30	15/4	0.57	2.5 (0.31-20.45)
30 & Above	3/2		
Education			
Illiterate	8/3	1	0.8 (0.13-5.09)
Literate	10/3		
Occupation			
Stays at Home	11/4	1	0.79 (0.11-5.49)
Agriculture	7/2		
Economic Status			
Not Enough	11/3	0.67	1.57 (0.25-10.09)
Enough	7/3		

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

- Government of West Bengal (2006), District Human Development Report Bankura, India.
- IIPS (2007), NFHS-3 2005-06: India, Volume: II, International Institute for Population Sciences & Macro International, India.

## Acknowledgement

J Haluszka, E Kaltenthaler, J Karnon, P Mukherjee, S Pal, S Mondal, People of Kamala, Family & Friends



## For Further Information

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