

AWARENESS OF COMMUNITY ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF VARIOUS SCHEMES BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA FOR THE DISABLED POPULATION

Dr. S. Vijaya Vardhini

Assistant Professor, Department of Education, Dravidian University, Kuppam, Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh



ABSTRACT

This study aims at to find out the awareness of community on the implementation of various schemes by the government of India for the disabled population. A sample of 1516 people covering 30 villages from Kuppam revenue Mandal selected for the study. Findings revealed that age has significantly influenced the community awareness on education and health & nutrition schemes. On the other hand the community with below 30 years possessed better knowledge followed by 30-45 years and 45-60 years and above

age group; educational status has significantly influenced the awareness of community on the schemes related to education, employment and schemes as a whole. On the other hand it has not significantly influenced on the schemes related to health & nutrition, vocational rehabilitation and transportation; social status has not significantly influenced the awareness on the schemes related to education, employment, vocational rehabilitation, and schemes as a whole. Contrary to this it has significantly influenced the community on the schemes related to health & nutrition and transportation; and occupation has not significantly influenced the awareness of community on the schemes related to education, vocational rehabilitation, transportation on the other hand it has significantly influenced the awareness of the community on the schemes related to health & nutrition, employment and schemes on a whole.

KEYWORDS

Kuppam, Mandal, Implementation, Various Schemes, Disabled Population.

INTRODUCTION

People with disabilities arguably a minority population not only in India but in the world too. They should be provided the same opportunities as the majority of population participated fully in society and in the world of work. Therefore, there has been a growing global consciousness in integrating and mainstreaming persons with disabilities. The UNO declared International year for the disabled in 1981. The Asia and Pacific decade of the disabled persons (1993-2002) has also emphasized the integration of this most marginalized section of the society, into the mainstream, socially and economically.

In view of certain disadvantages of the particular disabled group, the government lunched exclusive

schemes not only for their welfare, but also to bring them into the mainstream. Like any other schemes even in the case of implementation of the schemes for PWD, there are several bottle necks, which includes the identification of the beneficiaries, strategies developed for implementation of the schemes, accessibility of the PWD to the benefits external by the government for them, lack of commitment on part of the agencies or the individual in the welfare of the disabled.

Little has done and lot has to be done. Lot cannot be done unless there is action support from the community i.e. a parent of PWDs Go's NGO's and financial institutes. The basic problems are lack of awareness, motivation, orientation and negative attitude of the community to PWDs have persisted across generating despite improved case, legislative support and a move sophisticated medical understanding with regard to the causes and origin of these disabilities. Recently government has attempted to include public acceptance of PWDs through educational and medical cam pains, and by building awareness.

Historically persons with disabilities have been confronted with not only the physical and mental independent of their disability, but also with the accompanying, social stigma and negative social attitudes. A persistent negative attitude and social rejection of PWDs evident throughout history and across continents. Ancient Roman and Greek cultures viewed PWDs as burden on society and they treated them as less than human. The people with mental illness were viewed as either immoral souls punished by God or as being possessed by demonic spirit requiring religious interventions. In the middle age the handicapped or differently able were exploited and were used for amusement purpose.

In ancient Indian literature we can find that disabled persons were treated with great compassion and a large portion of the state income was set as ode foe their maintenance during the reign of the great emperors like Ashoka and Harsha. During the period of Marathas the Hearing impaired people were sometimes used as spies and even confidential correspondence was also made by them.

NEED OF THE STUDY

The word all includes people with disabilities as well. A large number of these people has to be brought into the mainstreaming is the challenging task before us today. Integrating a disabled person, which flows from philosophy of equal rights for all citizens with an intention that the disabled people are like ordinary citizens with special needs, the delivery of the services to meet these needs must take place in the most effective manner. Emphasis on human rights of the people with disabilities, universalization of education, and integration are to be considered in a top priority. There is a lack of awareness in the community with respect to various welfare schemes like education, health and nutrition, employment, vocational rehabilitation, transportation, which are implemented by the government of India for the benefit of the disabled population. Due to lack of awareness among parents, teachers, educated, uneducated persons in the community with regard to the people with disabilities and their needs, the disabled people are suffering a lot, even through the government is implementing various welfare schemes which are specially designed for them.

Therefore, it is high time to know the awareness of the community with respect to various welfare schemes and programmes for the disabled population, so as to generate the same through well planned awareness campaigns by involving the local community.

The present study aimed to assess the situation and how for the community have awareness on various welfare schemes implemented by the government for the disabled population. The study also delves into the effect of community's independent variables on their awareness in various schemes (education, health & nutrition, employment, vocational rehabilitation, and transportation) related to the disabled population.

OBJECTIVES

1. To find out the level of awareness of community of various schemes implemented by the Government of India for the disabled population.
2. To study the significant difference if any, in the awareness of community on various schemes implemented by the government of India for the disabled in terms of age, educational status, social status, and occupation.

HYPOTHESES

1. There is no significant difference in the awareness of community on various schemes implemented by the Government of India for the people with disabilities with regard to age, educational status, social status, and occupation.

METHODOLOGY

Normative survey method has been used for this study. The investigator has selected Kuppam Mandal which is one of the backward Mandal of Chittoor District consists of 64 revenue villages which are classified into 31 gram panchayats. Randomly 15 gram panchayats are selected. From each gram panchayat 2 villages are randomly selected. From each village 50 people are selected by using simple random sampling technique. Thus the total sample consists of 1516 people covering 30 villages from Kuppam revenue Mandal.

TOOL

The investigator developed a rating scale to study the awareness of community on the implementation of various schemes by the Government of India for the disabled population.

ANALYSIS OF DATA

The awareness level of community has been divided into three groups which are low, moderate, and high. Based on this criteria the awareness statements having mean scores 2.37 and above fall under the category of high awareness level, mean score from 2.29 to 2.36 come under moderate awareness and mean scores 2.28 and below fall under low level of awareness.

Table 1: Level of Awareness of Community Based on their Corresponding Mean Scores on Various Schemes for the Disabled

Schemes	Mean Scores	Level of Awareness
Education	2.319	Moderate
Health & Nutrition	2.335	Moderate
Employment	2.304	Moderate
Vocational Rehabilitation	2.284	Low
Transportation	2.396	High

From Table-1, the community possesses low awareness on schemes related to vocational rehabilitation (2.284). Their awareness is moderate with the schemes related to education (2.319), health & nutrition (2.335) employment (2.304). On the other hand the community exhibited high awareness on transportation (2.396). It can be concluded that the community exhibited low level of awareness on schemes related to rehabilitation; this is because they are unaware of these aspects fully. It reveals that they

are lacking behind in majority of the aspects which are related to Rehabilitation specifically. Therefore, more thrust should be given to create better awareness, on the above said aspects. To sum up, the community awareness is low on 25% of the statements related to Rehabilitation, schemes and exhibited high awareness on transportation. Therefore, it can be said that, this trend evidently reflect the need for more focus on Rehabilitation schemes, to promote awareness in this area which is very much essential to the disabled population.

Table 2: Awareness Scores of the Community on Various Schemes for the Disabled Based on Age

Schemes	Below 30 years (N=823)		30-45 years (N=576)		45-60years (N=117)		F
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	
Education	27.99	3.78	27.53	3.83	26.68	3.54	7.21
Health & Nutrition	11.79	2.10	11.58	2.10	11.35	2.15	3.25
Employment	11.47	2.02	11.40	2.16	11.49	2.26	0.21
Vocation Rehabilitation	11.46	5.52	11.53	2.17	11.39	2.17	0.15
Transportation	19.27	6.89	19.23	2.81	19.14	2.75	0.03
Overall Awareness	97.9	12.15	97.22	9.75	96.09	9.63	1.92

From Table-2, the F-values 7.21 and 3.25 are significant at 0.05 level. This shows that the community awareness on the schemes related to education and health & nutrition are significantly differed with regard to age.

Table-2 also indicates that the F-values 0.21, 0.15, 0.03 and 1.92 are not significant at 0.05 level. It reveals that the community awareness on the schemes related to employment, vocation rehabilitation, transportation, and overall awareness are didn't differ significantly in terms of different age groups.

Table 3: Awareness Scores of the Community on Various Schemes for the Disabled Based on Educational Status

Schemes	Illiterate (N=823)		Literate (N=693)		t-value
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	
Education	27.37	3.98	28.12	3.53	3.80
Health & Nutrition	11.64	2.25	11.73	1.92	0.86
Employment	11.30	2.15	11.61	2.01	2.84
Vocation Rehabilitation	11.25	5.54	11.58	2.13	1.47
Transportation	19.18	6.9	19.32	2.51	0.46
Overall Awareness	96.95	13.25	98.26	7.84	2.29

From Table-3, the t-values 3.80, 2.84 and 2.29 are significant at 0.05 level. This shows that the community awareness on the schemes related to education, employment and overall awareness are significantly differed with regard to educational status.

Table-3 also indicates that the t-values 0.86, 1.47 and 0.46 are not significant at 0.05 level. It reveals that the community awareness on the schemes related to health & nutrition, vocation rehabilitation and transportation are didn't differ significantly with respect to educational status.

Table 4: Awareness Scores of the Community on Various Schemes for the Disabled Based on Social Status

Schemes	OC (N=256)		BC (N=712)		SC/ST (N=539)		F
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	
Education	27.61	3.47	27.85	3.34	27.59	4.02	0.08
Health & Nutrition	11.88	1.95	11.76	2.02	11.48	2.27	4.01
Employment	11.58	2.24	11.52	2.06	11.25	2.05	2.85
Vocation Rehabilitation	18.75	2.83	19.41	19.26	19.26	2.62	1.44
Transportation	16.07	2.72	16.04	16.11	16.11	2.78	0.08
Overall Awareness	97.52	8.81	97.92	97.07	97.07	11.95	0.90

From Table-4, the F-values 0.08, 2.85, 1.44, 0.08 and 0.90 are not significant at 0.05 level. This shows that the community awareness on the schemes related to education, employment, vocation rehabilitation, transportation and overall awareness are not significantly differed with respect to community.

Table-4 also reveals that the F-value 4.01 is significant at 0.05 level. It shows that the community awareness on the schemes related to health & nutrition is significantly differed with respect to community.

Table 5: Awareness Scores of the Community on Various Schemes for the Disabled Based on Occupation

Schemes	Laborer (N=731)		Business (N=534)		Employee (N=251)		F
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	
Education	27.75	3.61	27.48	3.97	28.12	3.91	2.45
Health & Nutrition	11.53	2.06	11.69	2.09	12.09	2.23	6.80
Employment	11.35	2.08	11.41	2.12	11.78	2.02	3.93
Vocation Rehabilitation	11.33	2.21	11.38	2.12	11.69	9.44	0.56
Transportation	19.34	7.25	19.15	2.74	19.18	2.86	0.20
Total Awareness	97.15	11.12	97.32	9.74	99.20	13.51	3.35

From Table-5, the F-values 2.45, 0.56 and 0.20 are not significant at 0.05 level. This shows that the community awareness on the schemes related to education, vocation rehabilitation and transportation are not significantly differed with respect to occupation.

Table-5 also indicates that the F-values 6.80, 3.93 and 3.35 are significant at 0.05 level. It shows that the community awareness on the schemes related to health & nutrition, employment and overall awareness are significantly differed in terms of occupation.

MAJOR FINDINGS

- * Age has significantly influenced the community awareness on education and health & nutrition schemes. On the other hand the community with below 30 years possessed better knowledge followed by 30-45 years and 45-60 years and above age group.
- * Educational Status has significantly influenced the awareness of community on the schemes related to education, employment and schemes as a whole. On the other hand it has not significantly influenced on the schemes related to health & nutrition, vocational rehabilitation and transportation.
- * Social status has not significantly influenced the awareness on the schemes related to education, employment, vocational rehabilitation, and schemes as a whole. Contrary to this it has significantly influenced the community on the schemes related to health & nutrition and transportation.
- * Occupation has not significantly influenced the awareness of community on the schemes related to education, vocational rehabilitation, transportation on the other hand it has significantly influenced the awareness of the community on the schemes related to health & nutrition, employment and schemes on a whole.

SUGGESTIONS

The all round development of people with disabilities mainly dependent on the policies and the support that the Ministries of Social Justice & Empowerment extend to them besides the cooperation from their families. The mobilization of the support of the community, voluntary organizations and the public at large are also play a vital role. The finding of the present study revealed that, the community exhibited low level of awareness with respect to the schemes meant for the people with disabilities mainly on vocational rehabilitation scheme. It may be because lack of awareness in majority aspects which are related to vocational rehabilitation. In this context, it is not the responsibility of the government simply launching the programmes, the department of welfare and rehabilitation while planning the rehabilitation programmes, simultaneously they have to organize awareness programmes to the target group. Further the public relations officer at district level should also be involved in the awareness improvement programme to be lauded by the state governments.

CONCLUSION

From the results obtained in the study it is found that the community is lagging behind in majority of the vocational rehabilitation aspects. The community exhibited positive attitude towards, transportation schemes and other to sum up it can be said that more thrust should be given to organize awareness programs related vocational rehabilitation to disabled population which is by identical and crucial for them.

REFERENCES

1. Blatt. B, & Morris, R.S. (1984). Perspectives in special Education: Personal Orientations, Glenview, IL: Foresman.
2. Ceeil R. Reynolds & Elaine Fletcher-Janzen (Eds) (2003). Encyclopedia of Special Education, Vol. 1-3. New York: John Wiley & Sons.
3. James E. Ysseldyke (1998). Special Education a practical approach for Teachers. New Delhi: Kanishka Publishers.
4. Kavita Jain. (2004). Special Education, New Delhi: Neelkamal Publications, Pvt. Ltd.
5. Saraswathi Narayana Swamy, Jyotsna Kansara & Rangasayee, R. (2006). Family, Community and the Hearing Impaired Children - DSE(HI) Manual in association with RCI: New Delhi: Kanishka Publishers.