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KNOWLEDGE OF RURAL WOMEN ABOUT SANITATION OF DRINKING WATER

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ABSTRACT

This study was conducted in Bikaner and Nagaur District of Rajasthan. Two Panchayat samities selected from each district and again two villages selected from each Panchayat samiti. This selection was done through the random sampling method. Both the district divided into group "A" and group "B" on the basis of complete sanitation program conclusion on the basis of research result shows that female of group "A" were more aware about sanitation and these ladies were more aware regarding health, whereas ladies of group "B" were less aware about it.

INTRODUCTION

Sanitation is one of the important aspects of life. Knowledge regarding health and correct sanitary practice is required for well being of all the family members. The house wife can make more effective contributions towards this; hence, they need to acquire knowledge, skill and abilities in the area of sanitation. Training in this area will help the women to adopt better sanitary practices.

The government policy towards sanitation has under gone a change and sanitation now includes a package of health related measures and not just the sanitary latrine. It covers aspects of environmental and household cleanliness, as well as personal hygiene, handling of drinking water. Proper sanitation, therefore, can be achieved only through a change in the attitude and practices of the people. Health education, leading to an understanding of the linkages between health and sanitation, is fundamental to the attainment of such a change.

Yet, a large proportion of households (20% according to MICS), particularly in rural areas, draws its drinking water from an unprotected well, river, canal or stream. Safety is more a visual issue (most people think that water that looks clean is safe to drink), only a small proportion think of germ-free water as safe. The link between water source and disease is felt, but not articulated, and contamination after collection is rarely perceived as an issue. Dipping glasses and fingers into the vessel in which drinking water is stored is common practice. The rural sector is home to 70 per cent of our people and nearly 80 per cent of our poor. The development in rural areas, however, has not kept pace with the overall progress in other facets of national life.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted in eight villages of Bikaner and Nagore districts from Rajasthan. Total 400 rural women were selected from two groups, group A and group B. Group A was consisted of district where T.S.C. was fully operational and group B was having district where the T.S.C. was yet to gain the proper working. Dungargarh and Bikaner panchayat samities were randomly selected from Bikaner district and Mundwa and Nagore panchayat samities were selected from nagore district.

The data were collecting through personal interview technique with a structured schedule prepared and pre-tested for the present study.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Handling of drinking water provides the most economical and permanent mean for prevention of diseases and preservation of health. Proper disposal of waste water is important component of environmental sanitation.

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Table 1. Distribution of the respondents on the basis of their knowledge and practices regarding handling of drinking water **n = 200**

S. No.	Handling of drinking water	Group A		Group B		Values of results		
		F	%	F	%			
	Knowledge	**A1**	**P1**	**A2**	**P2**	**P0**	**Q0**	**Z**
a)	Cleaning of pot before filling water	186	93	185	92.5	92.8	7.25	0.19
b)	Water filled from the clean source	200	100	198	99	99.5	0.5	1.42
c)	Proper carrying of water pot	196	98	190	95	96.5	3.5	1.63
d)	Use of proper utensil to take out water	180	90	168	84	87	13	1.78
e)	Cover drinking water with lid	195	97.5	180	90	93.8	6.25	3.10**
	Practice							
a)	Cleaning of pot before filling water	158	79	153	76.5	77.8	22.3	0.60
b)	Water filled from the clean source	188	94	180	90	92	8	1.47
c)	Proper pot for carrying water	140	70	135	67.5	68.8	31.3	0.54
d)	Use of proper utensil to take out water	150	75	148	74	74.5	25.5	0.23
e)	Cover drinking water with lid	160	80	159	79.5	79.8	20.3	0.12

F = Frequency, Non significant Z value up to 1.96, * Significant Z value 1.96 to 2.58; ** Highly significant Z value more than 2.58

Clean and safe drinking water is indispensable to life, for preserving good health consumption of contaminated water causes various diseases so cleanliness of drinking water is an important aspect of health and sanitation.

Respondents were asked in both group A and group B regarding their knowledge and practice about handling of drinking water, it was found that both the groups had good knowledge regarding major aspects of handling of drinking water for except covering water with lid where there was a significant different between group A and group B.

As regards practice there was no significant difference between the both groups since inspire of having good knowledge did not practice it. Except for filling water from a clean source where the practice was there in 94 and 90 percent respondents in group A and group B respectively.

Table 2. Distribution of the respondents on the basis of knowledge and practices regarding disposal of waste water **n = 200**

S. No.	Disposal of waste water	Group A		Group B		Values of results		
		F	%	F	%			
	Knowledge	**a1**	**P1**	**a2**	**P2**	**P0**	**Q0**	**Z**
a)	Proper drainage of waste water	175	87.5	168	84	85.8	14.3	1.00
b)	Disposal of waste water in soke pit	175	87.5	156	78	82.8	17.3	2.51*
c)	Proper maintenance of collecting system of waste water	184	92	183	91.5	91.8	8.25	0.18
d)	Disposal of waste water in kitchen garden	120	60	118	59	59.5	40.5	0.20
e)	Concrete platform used for collecting water	180	90	175	87.5	88.8	11.3	0.79
	Practice							
a)	Proper drainage of waste water	165	82.5	153	76.5	79.5	20.5	1.49
b)	Disposal of waste water in soke pit	188	94	180	90	92	8	1.47
c)	Proper maintenance of collecting system of waste water	140	70	135	67.5	68.8	31.3	0.54
d)	Disposal of waste water in kitchen garden	115	57.5	111	55.5	56.5	43.5	0.40
e)	Concrete platform used for collecting water	160	80	159	79.5	79.8	20.3	0.12

F = Frequency, Non significant Z value up to 1.96, * Significant Z value 1.96 to 2.58; ** Highly significant Z value more than 2.58

Respondents were asked in both group A and group B regarding there knowledge and practice about disposal of waste water. It was found that both the groups had knowledge regarding aspects of disposal of waste water and proper maintenance of collecting system of waste water where there was

a significance difference between disposal of waste water in soakage pit in group A and group B. Disposal of waste water in the kitchen garden where knowledge and practices were almost similar.

It can be concluded from above results and discussions that rural women are still following the traditional practices with regard to disposal of waste water.

CONCLUSION

From the above discussion, it can be concluded that majority of the respondents from group A possessed fair knowledge and practices about handling of drinking water as compare to group B, both the groups had good knowledge regarding major aspects of handling drinking for except covering water with lid where there was a significant different between group A and group B. As regards practice there was no significant difference between the both groups since both inspired of having good knowledge did not practice. Regarding there knowledge and practice about disposal of waster water that both the groups had knowledge, there was a significance difference between disposal of waste water in soakage pit group A and group B. As regards practice there was no significant difference between the both groups.

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