



▼ FACULTY ABSTRACTS

F - 21 : EVALUATION OF A CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING PROGRAM ON INFANT ORAL HEALTH CARE FOR PRIMARY HEALTH CARE WORKERS: A FIELD TRIAL

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Introduction: In India, Early childhood caries which occurs within 72 months of age affects all children but disadvantaged children from lower social-class are found to be most vulnerable and hence early intervention is necessary especially for the underserved and the unreached population of rural areas, which can be initiated by primary health care workers who are at the grassroots level. Adequate knowledge on infant oral health care is important for them for the prevention of common oral diseases in children. Hence a training program was planned and we aimed to evaluate that Capacity Building training program on Infant Oral Health Care (IOHC) for primary healthcare workers.

Method: 5 rural ICDS (Integrated Child Development Services) regions were selected, 25 workers were selected from each region and training was given on

providing oral health education on Infant oral health care by the use of pamphlet. A pre-validated 18-item questionnaire was used to assess the improvement in knowledge before and after training.

Results: A total of 118 Anganwadi workers completed the study. Pre-training knowledge score was 10.48 ± 2.45 and post knowledge score was 14.26 ± 1.89 , the difference was found to be statistically significant using Paired t-test ($p < 0.001$).

Conclusion: Capacity Building training by a simple means of using pamphlet was found to be effective in increasing the knowledge of primary health care workers. Capacity building of grassroots level health care workers is an important area for the prevention of dental diseases in rural areas of the nation.