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Contributing Towards "Clean And Green Pakistan" Through Health Awareness Activities Elementary School Education: Teachers' Perspectives

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ABSTRACT

Pakistan is focusing on and striving extremely hard to ensure necessary measures for the development and awareness about these parameters. Lack of awareness, poor diet, water pollution and hygiene problems are the main health issues that lead us to communicable and non-communicable diseases. Despite improvement in the basic health issues and nutrition over time, the state of health is very miserable. Young children are open to the risks of various infections and diseases. It is the responsibility of the school to make students aware about healthy and hygienic behavior. The students need to take it as their first and foremost duty to guide the students and inspire them to adopt fruitful health practices. Therefore, this study had been planned to see the level of health awareness in elementary schools of Islamabad and Rawalpindi. Survey research had been conducted. Through random sampling, male and female elementary level students at public schools had been selected who were studying in class 8 in the year 2022-23. 600 Male and female elementary teachers had been selected randomly who had taught class 8 students in Rawalpindi and Islamabad. Some recommendations were made for the teachers of Science subjects at elementary school to improve the teaching methodology in a way that they may involve Health awareness activities to focus on students' health awareness. It was also recommended that the refresher courses for science teachers may be organized to nurture them in holding such activities.

Introduction

Clean Green Pakistan (CGP) was a flagship five-year campaign of the Government of Pakistan. It was a campaign by the WaterAid (a UK based Charity Organization) and the Government of Pakistan, which aimed to improve sanitation (cleanliness), promote hygiene (awareness about diseases, personal hygiene awareness specifically drinking water awareness, and balanced diet awareness), and awareness about environmental issues, particularly among youth. It envisioned a people-led movement to achieve a sustainable and safe environment. This study undertook Clean and Green Pakistan comprising the aspects as ahead:

Safe Drinking Water Awareness for Clean Pakistan (Clean from diseases)

Awareness to keep Environment Clean

Hygiene Practices Awareness for Clean Pakistan (Clean from diseases)

Plantation of Trees to keep Environment Green

Health awareness is a concept which shows a person's willingness to do something to his/her own health. It is to have mindfulness about health. It is state of complete physical prosperity. Health Awareness activities involve all those activities that are part of textbook course and require active participation and direct experience of the students for their awareness about health, neatness/cleanliness, plantation of trees and taking care of them.

The said campaign design involved these pillars and were undertaken in this study as well:

Safe drinking water

Waste management

Total Hygiene

Tree plantation.

Broadly three things were expected from the campaign:

- Develop a very comprehensive behavior change strategy and its implementation in Pakistan.
- Introduce rules and regulations associated with clean component to accelerate and sustain the achievement of SDG 6.
- Strengthen institutions and allocate resources at each level to address issue of water quality and its easy access.

These activities were suggested in the said campaign:

- Support ministry for developing strategy and 5-year roadmap.
- Provide support for three campaigns (the plastic ban, No Litter & Water Conservation) in Islamabad specifically in university campuses and in schools.
- Support developing WASH models in Islamabad.
- Implement training of school children on WASH behaviors in Islamabad.

campaign through Health Awareness activities in elementary schools.

• Implement the Clean Green campus campaign in Islamabad. In light of above this project was undertaken to contribute in "Clean and Green Pakistan"

Statement of Research Problem

In many science classes students are taught through traditional teaching methods ignoring health awareness activities. They do not take interest in practicing health awareness activities in and outside the classrooms. As the only focus is on academic achievements hence health awareness is neglected at elementary level in Pakistan. To link the said two, this research was conducted to see the extent of health awareness activities' contribution towards Clean and Green Pakistan as perceived by elementary level teachers.

Objective of the Research

This research was conducted to achieve following objective:

To determine effectiveness of textbook (HA) activities for awareness in terms of "Clean & Green Pakistan" as perceived by elementary school teachers.

Research Question

To what extent textbook (HA) activities are effective for hygiene practices awareness among elementary school students, as perceived by elementary school teachers?

Literature Review

Many factors are responsible for the learning process and the development of children. The most important of them is the health status of the children. The strong relationship that is existing between health and the performance of the student's stirred planners and educators to launch health awareness programs. The same relationship between health and performance of students was cited in the report of UNESCO (2017). So the concept of school-based health programs is not new. Currently many countries have taken grave steps to make school health programs. Therefore, this study had been planned.

The task of providing health education is challenging. Health education is the task of promoting and motivating child for good eating habits (Bannon & Schwartz, 2006). In this connection, schools make use of different tools to give awareness to the learners. Health awareness play the significant role to fulfill the purpose. Rapid expansion in food industry has been taken place in recent decades. It resulted in improved control of the food marketplaces, and modification of foodstuffs (World Health Organization, 2015).

Kids are confronting fast turn of events – intellectually and truly – along these lines great eating routine is significant. Dietary patterns in kids are commonly evolved since childhood. This remains continue till adulthood. Along these lines, nourishment instruction ought to be passed on to kids since the beginning. The school has been recognized as a reasonable spot to execute nourishment training programs since it has a deliberate situation. Nourishment instruction in schools could improve kids' dietary patterns. This is due to the reason that school provides such platform where practically all children can reach and they make interactions with others like with their peers and students (Willeford et al., 2000).

The quick change in financial status has brought about changes in way of life, including dietary patterns and nourishment admission. Changes in dietary patterns and driving stationary or latent ways of life are known to be a portion of the elements contributing towards expanding pervasiveness of constant infections, for example, diabetes, cardiovascular illnesses and hypertension in the populaces (Ismail, et al., 2002).

In data of past years it is quite visible that dengue fever increased rapidly. Around 30 fold, this figure is alarming for general public health. (WHO, 2009) There are several methods that can help to reduce the incident of dengue through community educational interventions. The situation can be changed by overcoming the rapid growth of larva in the suspected sites.

School education is the basic element of community education, so the transformation of knowledge at this level is essential for disseminating the information to general public. It is vital to create a source of reduction at common household level as preventive measure for mosquito borne diseases. Research conducted in some other countries have represented that there is remarkable success rate to enlighten elementary school children about giving them knowledge about prevention and control of dengue fever. It highlighted the role of young children as active community member to raise awareness about disease and preventive. Children spend many hours of day at school so

the school environment can increase the tendency of transmission of illness. In health promotion facilities school can play pivotal role to define disease prevention activities. Unorganized education programs and less awareness have adversely added to the dengue incidences during school timing which resulting in increased ratio of vector receptivity (Gunaathilaka et al., 2019).

Method and Procedure

The details regarding method and procedure are as under:

Design

It is Survey Research. It is descriptive and quantitative in nature. With the help of one questionnaire, numerical data was gathered in the study that helped to describe and understand the phenomenon. After analysis, the results of this study were generalized over a large population.

Sample

As a random sampling technique, it was resolved that at least two schools, one female and one male school, would have been selected from each Tehsil. From the comprehensive lists of schools, provided by the respective Deputy District Education Officers of each Tehsil, 15 schools (8 female and 7 male schools) were selected through a person having no relevance of any sort with this study. The sample was the male and female elementary level teachers who had taken class 8 in the year 2023.

Instrument

For conduction of this study one survey questionnaires were taken as the instrument. It was piloted. The questionnaires were based on 5-point Likert Scale i.e., 1 = Strongly Disagreed (SD), 2 = Disagreed (D), 3 = Undecided (U), 4 = Agreed (A) and 5 = Strongly Agreed (SA).

Data Analysis

The assistance of a research assistant and the faculty of the respective schools had been taken to administer and fill up the questionnaires. Researcher guided and trained them how to deal with students and teachers in collection of data.

Table 4.5 Teachers' Perceptions about Personal Hygiene Awareness

Sr#	Statement of Questions	SD %	D %	U %	A %	SA %	Total	Mean
1	The health awareness		70	70		70		4.63
	activity helps students for enhancing the health awareness	5.5	10.9	10.6	27.6	45.3	100	
2	The health awareness							4.44
	activity is supportive to avoid epidemic in students.	7.4	3.8	10.1	35.3	28.4	100	
3	The health awareness							4.26
	activity is helpful to avoid any disease in students other than epidemic.	1.0	13.2	11.2	32.4	42.5	100	
4	The health awareness activity is helpful to avoid germs in students							4.29
		11.8	3.8	11.8	45.0	27.6	100	
5	The health awareness							4.62

		activity is helpful to avoid any viral disease in students	2.0	2.5	2.5	49.4	43.2	100	
1	6	The health awareness							4.47
		activity is helpful to avoid malaria and dengue in students	2.3	3.9	2.6	42.1	49.1	100	

The majority of the teachers, (72.9%), agreed with this statement 1. The mean of the responses was calculated to be 4.63. The statement 2 provides the results as (63.7%) agreed with the statement, while (11.2%) disagreed. Meanwhile, teachers (10.1%) had no clear stance on the matter and were considered undecided. The mean response to the survey was 4.44, indicating that the overall sentiment among them was mixed but majority agreed with statement.

The statement 3 shows that teachers (74.9%) are in agreement of the statement 3 and that (11.2%) remained undecided in this regard. Whereas (2.2%) were against this statement. Moreover, the mean of the responses is 4.26. The statement 4 shows that teachers (72.6%) are in agreement of the statement and (11.8%) remained undecided in this regard. Whereas (15.6%) were against this statement. Moreover, the mean of the responses is 4.29.

The statement 5 shows that teachers (92.6%) were in agreement of the statement and that (2.5 %) remained undecided in this regard. Whereas (4.5%) were against this statement. Moreover, the mean of the responses is 4.62. Since most of the teachers agree on this notion seconded by their observation which is a favorable stance for health awareness learning process, so this is a case of Positive effects.

The statement 6 shows that (91.2%) were in agreement of the statement and that response of teachers was in a positive way. The teachers (2.6%) remained undecided in this regard. Whereas the teachers (5.4%) were against this statement. Moreover, the mean of the responses is 4.47. Since maximum number of the teachers are in favor of this statement, so this is a case of positive influence of health awareness activity for developing health awareness.

*Table 4.6*Teachers' Perceptions about Safe Drinking Water & Balanced Diet Awareness

Sr#	Statement of Questions	SD %	D %	U %	A %	SA %	Total	Mean
7	The health awareness activity causes awareness about malnutrition in students.	1.4	2.0	10.5	43.5	42.6	100	4.38
8	The health awareness activity causes awareness about nutrition in students.	0.2	7.4	2.5	46.5	43.2	100	4.18
9	The health awareness activity causes awareness in students about balanced diet.	2.5	2.5	5.0	44.9	45.1	100	4.20

10	The health awareness							4.05
	activity causes	0.4	0.3	1.7	49.4	48.2	100	
	awareness in students							
	about diet choices.							
11	The health awareness							4.01
	activity causes	3.2	10.8	2.0	43.5	40.5	100	
	awareness in students							
	about healthy food							
12	The health awareness							4.03
	activity causes	4.4	5.2	25.0	25.0	41.4	100	
	awareness in students							
	about junk food.							

The statement 7 presents the results of a survey regarding the agreement of teachers surveyed, (86.1%) expressed agreement with the statement, (10.5%) stated that they were unsure. On the other hand, some disagreed with the statement. The average of the responses was 4.38. The statement 8 provides the results of a survey conducted among the teachers regarding their opinion on the statement that exhibits a preference for activity to develop health awareness. The data shows that 89.7% of the teachers, concur with this statement. On the other hand, 2.5% of them, have not formed a definitive opinion on this matter and remain neutral. Additionally, 76% of the teachers, disagree with the statement. The mean of the responses, calculated as 4.18, indicates that the overall opinions of the teachers are inclined to agree. The statement 9 shows that the teachers (90%) are in agreement of the statement and that (5.0%) remained undecided in this regard. Whereas some teachers (5.0%) were against this statement. Moreover, the mean of the responses is 4.20. Since most of the teachers are in practice of carrying out such practice which is a favorable stance for health awareness.

The statement 10 presents the results of a survey where teachers were asked about their opinions on the impact of their health awareness activity practices. Out of the total respondents, maximum teachers (97.6%) agreed and that little percentage (0.7%) disagreed with this statement, while (1.7%) were neutral or undecided. The mean of the responses, calculated as 4.59, suggests that overall, the teachers were inclined to be agreed with the statement, indicating a mixture of opinions. This implies that the heath awareness teaching practices is neither fully positive nor fully negative, but a combination of both.

The statement 11 shows that maximum teachers (84.0%) are in agreement of the statement and that some teachers (2.0%) remained undecided in this regard. Whereas some teachers (14.0%) were against this statement. Moreover, the mean of the responses is 4.01. The statement 12 reveals that maximum teachers, (66.4%) agreed with the statement that they encourage their students to practice with textbook activity in the classroom. However, some (25%) were uncertain about this statement, and a little portion (9.6%) disagreed with it. The average response score was 4.03, indicating a positive stance on the matter.

Table 4.7 Teachers' Perceptions about Water and Sanitation Awareness

	Statement of Questions		SD %	D %	U %	A %	SA %	Total	Mean
13	The	health							4.33

	awareness activity causes awareness about washing hands	1.8	2.1	14.7	53.8	38.6	100	
	in students.							
14	The health							4.06
	awareness activity	0.8	3.4	7.1	42.5	46.2	100	
	causes awareness in students about using							
	soap							
15	The health							4.14
	awareness activity	1.9	2.0	2.4	48.1	45.6	100	
	causes awareness in							
	students about							
16	trimming nails The health							4.09
10	awareness activity	3.5	2.9	2.4	40.6	50.6	100	7.07
	causes awareness in	3.3	2.7	2.1	10.0	30.0	100	
	students about							
	haircut.							
17	The health							4.53
	awareness activity	0.7	0.2	0.2	53.8	45.1	100	
	causes awareness about brushing teeth							
	in students.							
18	The health							4.26
	awareness activity	0.4	3.4	9.9	40.1	46.2	100	
	causes awareness in							
	students about							
	bathing regularly							

The statement 13 shows that majority of teachers (92.4%) are in agreement of the statement that they do important activities, from the textbook. A few teachers (2.1 %) remained undecided in this regard. Whereas a few teachers (5.5 %) were against this statement. Moreover, the mean of the responses is 4.33. Since most of the teachers do carry out such practice which is a favorable stance for healthy teaching learning process, so this is a case of positive effect.

The statement 14 presents the results of a survey on the teaching practices of a group of teachers. Of the total participants, (88.7%) indicated that they agreed to the said statement. Some (7.1%) were unsure about their approach. However, (4.2%) disagreed with this statement. The mean was 4.06. The statement.15 shows that a number of teachers (93.7%) are in agreement of the statement and that some teachers (2.4%) remained undecided in this regard. Whereas there were some teachers (3.9%) who were against this statement. Moreover, the mean of the responses is 4.14. Since majority of teachers do this practice which is a favorable sign for health awareness activity.

The statement 16 reveals that out of total teachers, maximum (91.2%) agree with the statement and that there were some teachers (2.4%) who were uncertain about their stance on this issue, while the remaining teachers (6.4%) disagreed with the statement. The mean score of the responses was found to be 4.09. This indicates that a significant number of teachers are involved in this practice of health awareness.

The statement 17 presents the results of a survey asking teachers about their agreement with the statement. Out of the total number of teachers surveyed, 98.9% agreed with this statement, 0.2% were unsure, and 0.9% disagreed with it. The average response was 4.353. Given that the majority of teachers hold this view, which is considered to be positive for the overall teaching-learning process with health awareness activities.

The statement 18 shows that maximum number of the teachers (86.3 %) are in agreement of the statement and that some of them (9.9%) remained undecided in this regard. Whereas some teachers (3.8%) were against this statement. Moreover, the mean of the responses is 4.25.

Table 4.8Teachers' Perceptions about Neat and Clean Environment

S.	Statement	SD	D	U	A	SA	Total	Mean
No.		%	%	%	%	%		
19	The health awareness activity							4.24
	causes awareness in students about	2.6	3.6	11.8	39.1	42.7	100	
	planting trees.							
20	The health awareness activity							4.52
	causes awareness in students about	1.8	1.6	1.6	50.6	44.4	100	
	clean environment							
21	The health awareness activity							4.33
	causes awareness in students about	3.0	2.3	1.2	44.7	48.8	100	
	using dustbin.							
22	The health awareness activity							4.50
	causes awareness in students about	0.6	1.1	2.1	54.7	41.5	100	
	water saving for environment.							
23	The health awareness activity							4.35
	causes awareness about caring	5.9	5.7	1.6	43.6	43.2	100	
	plants.							

The statement 19 shows that teachers (81.8%) are in agreement of the statement. A few teachers (11.8%) remained undecided in this regard. Whereas some teachers (6.3%) were against this statement. Moreover, the mean of the responses is 4.24. The statement 20 displays the results of surveyed teachers, Out of all the teachers surveyed, (95.0%) concurred with this statement, while teachers (1.6%) remained neutral in their response. However, the few of the teachers, (3.4%), disagreed with this statement. The average of the responses received was 4.52.

The statement 21 shows that teachers (93.5%) are in agreement of the statement and (1.2%) remained undecided in this regard. Whereas teachers (5.3%) were against this statement. Moreover, the mean of the responses is 4.33. The statement 22 shows that maximum teachers (96.2%) are in agreement of the statement and teachers (2.1%) remained undecided in this regard. Whereas some teachers (1.7%) were against this statement. Moreover, the mean of the responses is 4.50. The statement 23 shows that maximum teachers (86.8%) are in agreement of the statement and teachers (1.6%) remained undecided in this regard. Whereas some teachers (11.6%) were against this statement. Moreover, the mean of the responses is 4.32.

Findings

From the analysis of data following findings were observed

In this research study, while analyzing the data, table 4.1 to table 4.8(08 tables) had been made for section 2 of student's as well as teachers' questionnaires. These findings were observed from the analyses of data:

It has been found that up to a significant extent textbook (HA) activities are effective for hygiene practices awareness among elementary school students, as perceived by their teachers. It has been found that up to a significant extent textbook (HA) activities are effective for clean drinking water and balanced diet awareness among elementary school students, as perceived by their teachers. It has been found that up to a significant extent textbook (HA) activities are effective for sanitation awareness among elementary school students, as perceived by their teachers. It has been found that up to a significant extent textbook (HA) activities are effective for hygiene tree plantation awareness among elementary school students, as perceived by their teachers.

Conclusions

Conclusions made from the findings of research and from the analysis of data are as follows.

It has been concluded from the findings that Health awareness activities may contribute towards awareness about "Clean Pakistan" significantly. Similarly, it is also concluded from the findings that Health awareness activities may contribute towards awareness about "Green Pakistan" significantly as perceived by elementary level school students in twin cities of Pakistan, that is, Rawalpindi and Islamabad.

Recommendation

The following suggestion is made in the light of the findings and conclusions of this study.

1. Health awareness activity is helpful in making concepts better. They help to comprehend the topics and guide students towards practical nature of things. Therefore it is recommended that Health awareness activities may be adopted at all levels to teach sciences in Pakistan.

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