

International Journal of Scientific Research and Reviews

Construction of Questionnaire for Measurement of Knowledge about Family Planning Programme

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ABSTRACT

Now-a-days, population explosion is a severe problem. The world population as well as population of our country is rapidly increasing day by day. To check this explosion we need appropriate knowledge about family planning programme. Therefore, measurement of knowledge about family planning programme is essential. From this point of view, the present study aims to focus on the Construction of knowledge scale regarding family planning programme of Muslim women of Murshidabad District, West Bengal. In this study questionnaire was constructed for collection of the data. In the present study, self made questionnaire regarding knowledge scale was used as appropriate tool for collecting data in order to achieve the pre-determined objectives of this study. During construction of this knowledge scale/questionnaire items/statements were prepared on ten (10) dimensions viz. education, population, economic condition, equality, child and mother care, small family norm, Governmental facilities, superstitions, contraceptive method and religion. It was a "5-points Liker Scale". Although, initially there were thirty six (36) items/statements in the prepared knowledge scale/questionnaire but, finally twenty five (25) items/statements were retained. In this questionnaire there are twenty five (25) statements. Among them eighteen (18) are favourable and seven (7) are unfavourable statements. It is assumed that the scale was highly valid as the investigators selected the most differentiating statements for the final form of the knowledge scale through the opinion of experts in this field. The test-retest co-efficient of the scale was found as 0.94 which is significant.

KEYWORDS: Questionnaire, Family Planning Programme, Knowledge

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INTRODUCTION

One of the most fundamental problems of the world is population explosion. The world population was about 500 million in the middle of the seventeenth century and it increased to 1250 million by 1850. It increased from about 1.2 billion to 2-5 billion within 100 years. Fifty million peoples are added each year. Population of Asia is about 57% of the world's population¹. The population explosion creates great problem on social and economical conditions viz. job, shelter, food and various social facilities. The demand of the food, shelter, job, education, health, housing, water supply etc. has already been increased due to population explosion. As a result the expenditure regarding education, health, housing, water supply etc. increased and the economic condition of the family becomes lower^{2,3}.

In our country, majority of people are living below the poverty line. The population is increasing day by day due to lack of knowledge, awareness and attitude towards family planning programme. As most of the people have limited amount of physical, social and economical resources, which are inadequate for our children. Population explosion is the main reasons behind such social and economical constrains.

This study deals with sampling procedure, tools construction, and administration of tools and techniques of data collection. The study was conducted to estimate the knowledge about family planning programme of the Muslim women of Murshidabad district, West Bengal. In this connection different types of sample groups were necessary to satisfy the objectives of the study. It was not possible to conduct the study with the total population, so it was necessary to select representative sample from the population. In the steps of sample selection, initially purposive random sample technique was adopted. A comprehensive Liker type five point questionnaire was constructed and used for the collection of data. A general identification sheet was also prepared for collection of various information i.e. name, Address, area, cast-religion, literacy status, marital status, Educational qualification and age.

CONSTRUCTION OF KNOWLEDGE SCALE

There are different types and techniques for construction of tool i.e questionnaire, rating scale, check list, interviews etc. Questionnaire is the printed form of tool containing a set of structured statement for measuring knowledge towards family planning programme. Each statement of the knowledge scale is associated with five possibilities of responses viz. Strongly Agree (SA) Agree (A), Neutral (N), Disagree (DA), Strongly Disagree (SD). All favourable statements from

maximum to minimum as 5,4,3,2 and 1 and unfavourable statements from minimum to maximum in opposite order.

For construction of knowledge scale different dimensions/area was selected for inclusion in our present tool. Sufficient number of items/statements were prepared under each dimensions. The researcher include the following areas i.e. education, population, economic condition, equality, child and mother care, small family norm, Governmental facilities, superstition, contraceptive method and religion. These areas and items had also been authenticated by the expert's working in the field of education. Hence the researcher finally decided to develop the questionnaire on the said areas.

ITEM POOL FOR KNOWLEDGE SCALE

The researcher made a thorough review of the related Literature, consulted with the experts. Thus a draft pool of items for the Knowledge scale was prepared. These items were large in number than required for final form. As per the advice and suggestions of the expert, the items were altered, necessary changes were made and irrelevant items were excluded from the scale. List of the revised from of the item were again presented to the same experts and this time they were required to examine whether the language of the item were easily understood for the people of the rural area and where the item were meant for the respective purpose. Criticisms from the experts were received and necessary changes, additions, alteration and modifications were made by the investigator. Then prepared Knowledge test once again, given to the same experts for examine intensity, to check the meaning and appropriate in its vocabulary portion. Accordingly necessary changes had been done. At this stage, thirty six (36) items were retained in the prepared knowledge scale.

PRE-TRYOUT OF KNOWLEDGE SCALE:

The constructed Knowledge scale was administered on forty five (45) Muslim women of Murshidabad district, West Bengal to find out the difficulties of the Muslim women in responding to the items and understanding the language. After administration, screening and editing of the items had done on the basis of their judgment. Efforts were taken to upgrade/improve the language in understanding the items properly as far as practicable. To remove the ambiguity if any and to improve the language of the items/ statements opinion of the resource persons and experts were collected. To make it respondent friendly, every items/statements were checked and modified.

TRYOUT OF KNOWLEDGE SCALE:

The prepared knowledge scale was administered on one hundred forty (140) Muslim women of Murshidabad district, West Bengal. Before the administration of the knowledge

scale/questionnaire the women were requested to read carefully the instructions which were provided in the front page and then put a tick mark against each statement. Each statement of the knowledge part of the questionnaire is associated with possibilities of response viz. strong agreed (SA), Agreed (A), Neutral (N), Disagreed (DA) and strongly Disagreed (SD) All favourable statements were scored from maximum to minimum as 5,4,3,2 & 1 and all unfavourable statements from minimum to maximum i.e.1,2,3,4 & 5. The score of each respondent were computed by summing the weight age of the responses against each item.

ITEM ANALYSIS FOR KNOWLEDGE SCALE

The Item analysis of a test usually to produce two kinds of information i.e item difficulty and item discrimination. The index of item difficulty expresses how difficult an item is, whereas, the index of discrimination indicates that the extent to which an item discriminates the well- known persons from the poorly known persons.

Prepared knowledge scale was administered on 140 respondents for item analysis. These 140 respondents were the representative of the community in which the final study was conducted. The total number of correct answers given by a respondent out of 36 items was the knowledge score of that individual/respondent. At last, the final form of knowledge scale retains 25 items/statements.

RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY OF KNOWLEDGE SCALE

Reliability refers to the accuracy of the measurement or Score. A well made scientific tool should yield accurate results both at present as well as in future. According to Anastasi⁴ Reliability refers to consistency of score obtained by the same individuals when re-examined with test on different occasions, or with different sets of equivalent items, or under variable examining conditions. Test- retest method was applied to find out the reliability of the present test. In this method, same knowledge scale was administered twice on the same sample with a reasonable time gap, i.e. at least 15 days. This yields two independent sets of scores. The correlation between the two sets of score gives the value of the reliability co-efficient.

In the present study, the test was re-administered upon one hundred (100) Muslim women of Murshidabad district, West Bengal which were selected randomly from the entaire population.. To reduce the memory effect to a minimum, retest was held 15 days after the first administration of the original test. Reliability co-efficient between test score and retest score of 100 respondent was calculated. The SPSS package (16.0 versions) was used for calculation of the reliability coefficient between test-retest score of Knowledge about family planning programme of Murshidabad district. The test-retest coefficient of the scale was determined as 0.94 which is significant.

The term validity means truthfulness. Validity of a test is the accuracy with which it measures which it intends to measure for a particular group of people may be used in similar situation for a reasonable period of time. According to Garrett and Woods worth the validity of a test depends upon the fidelity with which it measures what it propose of measure⁵. The present test certainly ensures high content validity, because it adequately covers both the content and the objectives of the unit. In construction of the test the investigator did not work under any subjective influence. A good number of experts were engaged to assist the investigator to prepare the test. The dimensions and items were checked by them.

The test has a high reliability co-efficient. Therefore theoretically, it was highly valid. To find out the external validity of the test the investigator used statistical calculation and found out the internal consistencies of each item. On the basis of the results obtained from the criterion of internal consistency, the investigator selected the most differentiating statements for the final form of the knowledge scale. For these reasons, it is assumed that the test was highly valid.

FINAL FORM OF KNOWLEDGE SCALE:

Table No1: Distribution of items/statements under different dimensions of knowledge scale about family planning programme

SL No	Dimension	Serial No. of items	Total No of items
1.	Education	1,13,19, <u>21</u>	4
2.	Population	<u>2</u> ,7,23	3
3.	Economic condition	8, 12, 25	3
4.	Equality	<u>22</u> , <u>24</u>	2
5.	Child and mother care	4,5, <u>9</u> ,10	4
6.	Small family norm	<u>15</u> , 16, <u>18</u>	3
7.	Government facilities	3	1
8.	Superstition	11, 17	2
9.	Contraceptive method	6	1
10.	Religion	14, 20	2
Total			25

The final form of the knowledge scale consists of 25 statements under 10 dimensions. There are 18 favourable and 7 unfavourable (underlined) statements in the scale. The distribution of item among the 10 dimensions' presented in the following tables.

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