

Original article

**Awareness and Utilization of services under Smt. Prayagakka Karad Arogya Suraksha Yojna: A Cross-Sectional Study from MIMSR Medical College, Latur, Maharashtra.**

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**Abstract**

**Introduction:** Majority of the health schemes in India are dedicated to health of mother and child health. Maternal health defines women's health during pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum. There are several programs and schemes which are run by the different ministries of Government of India for welfare of elderly like Ayushman Bharat, Annapurna Scheme, etc., are few of the centrally sponsored schemes, which provide benefit to population with below poverty line. **Objectives:** To study Awareness and pattern of utilization of services provided under Smt. Prayagakka Karad Arogya yojana (SPKASY). **Methodology:** A cross-sectional study was conducted in our hospital during November and December 2023 involving 60 beneficiaries from 211 villages having Smt. Prayagakka Karad Arogya scheme (SPKASY) health cards by systematic random sampling method. The questionnaire consists of details regarding sociodemographic characteristics, awareness and utilization of the Smt. Prayagakka Karad Arogya scheme and their impact on their family. **Results:** Total 60 participants are involved in this study of which majority of the participants were from age 31 to 40 years i.e. 30% of which 68.3% were females. Awareness about free bed facility was 6.7% only. 13.3% and 33.3% are aware about minor and ortho surgeries. 60% were aware about 50% discount in 2D ECHO, 28.3% and 38.3% participants are aware about normal and caesarian section available free of cost. 6.7% were aware about availability of free food in IPD, 43% aware about discounted rates in NICU, 45% for Color doppler, 56.7% and 41.7% are aware of CT scan and MRI charges concession. 18.3% people utilized free bed charges. 40% and 50% utilized for minor and ortho surgery, 50% Normal Delivery, Caesarian 53.3%, 18.3% free food in IPD, 55% Color doppler, 66.7% 2D ECHO, 65% NICU, CT and MRI are 56.7% and 48.3% utilized by the participants in this scheme. **Conclusion:** Awareness about the facilities under this scheme is low and majority of the participants have utilized the services under the scheme especially CT scan, MRI, 2D ECHO, NICU.

**Key words:** Awareness, Utilization, health schemes etc.

**Introduction**

Majority of the health schemes in India are dedicated to health of mother and child health. Maternal health defines women's health during pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum.<sup>1</sup> Improvements in maternal health indicate women's empowerment and socio-economic development in society. However, an estimated 800 women die daily due to pregnancy and childbirth complications. Safe motherhood continues to be at the forefront of national and global health policies, where the reduction of maternal mortality is placed as one of the key

monitoring indicators in Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Despite this, the global progress of maternal mortality has been slow and uneven, <sup>2,3</sup> where a majority of maternal deaths were noted to occur in developing and under-developed regions of Sub-Saharan Africa (68 per cent) and South Asia (19 per cent). Many governments, non-governmental organisations and international organisations have implemented conditional cash transfer programs, also known as Demand-Side Financing (DSF), to increase facility-based deliveries in developing countries. <sup>4-9</sup>

There are several programs and schemes which are runned by the different ministries of Government of India for welfare of elderly like Ayushman bharat, Annapurna Scheme, etc., are few of the centrally sponsored schemes, which provide benefit to population with below poverty line. <sup>10</sup>

Our college started this scheme known as Smt. Prayagakka Karad Arogya Suraksha Yojana was on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019, which Includes providing free operative procedures, 50% concession in laboratories services, 25% reduction in radiological investigations.

### **Objectives**

To study Awareness and pattern of utilization of services provided under Smt. Prayagakka Karad Arogya yojana (SPKASY)

### **Methodology**

A cross sectional study was conducted in our hospital during November and December 2023 involving 60 beneficiaries from 211 villages having Smt. Prayagakka Karad Arogya scheme (SPKASY) health cards by systematic random sampling method. The questionnaire consists of details regarding sociodemographic characteristics, awareness and utilization of the Smt. Prayagakka Karad Arogya scheme and their impact on their family

**RESULTS:**

**Table 1: Distribution according to Age**

		Frequency	Percent
AGE IN YEARS	<30	9	15.0
	31-40	18	30.0
	41-50	13	21.7
	50 to 60	5	8.3
	>60	15	25.0
	Total	60	100.0

We concluded 60 participants from MIMSR Medical college under smt. Prayagaka karad Arogya yojana scheme from which 18 participants belongs to 31 to 40 years of age i.e (30%) followed by 25% were above 60 years, followed by 21.7% were 41 to 50 years of age and 15% were from less than 30 years of age.

**Table 2: Distribution according to Gender**

		Frequency	Percent
GENDER	MALE	19	31.7
	FEMALE	41	68.3
	Total	60	100.0

Out of 60 participants 41 (68.3) are females and 19(31.7%) are males under smt. Prayagakka karad Arogya yojana.

**Table 3: Distribution according to awareness of SPKASY**

Awareness	Number	Percentage (%)
Free Bed charges	4	6.7
Free minor surgical procedures	8	13.3
Free orthopaedic surgeries	20	33.3
Free normal delivery	17	28.3
Free caesarian section	23	38.3
Free food for IPD patients	10	16.7

50% reduction in 2D ECHO charges	36	60
25% reduction in NICU/PICU charges	26	43.3
25% reduction in MRI scan charges	25	41.7
25% reduction in CT scan charges	26	43.3

Total 60 participants involved in this study of which 6.7% are aware about free bed charges, 13.3% people are aware about free minor surgical procedures, 33.3% participants were aware about free orthopaedic surgeries, 28.3% were aware about free normal delivery, 38.3% were aware about free caesarean section, 16.7% were aware about free food for IPD patients followed by 60% were aware about 50% reduction in 2D ECHO charges, 43.3% are aware about 25% reduction in NICU/PICU charges and 41.7% and 43.3% are aware about 25% reduction in MRI and CT scan charges.

**Table 3: Distribution according to utilisation of SPKASY**

Utilization	Number	Percentage
Free bed charges	11	18.3
Free minor surgical procedures	24	40
Free orthopaedic surgeries	30	50
Free normal delivery	30	50
Free caesarean section	32	53.3
free food for IPD patients	11	18.3
50% reduction in 2D ECHO CHARGES	40	66.7
25% reduction in NICU/PICU charges	39	65
25% reduction in MRI scan charges	29	48.3
25% reduction in CT scan charges	34	56.7

Among total 60 participants involved in this scheme 18.3% people are utilized free bed charges in hospital followed by 40% and 50% people are utilized free minor surgical procedure and free orthopaedic surgeries. 50% participants are utilized free normal delivery services under this scheme followed by 53.3% participants are utilized free caesarean section and 18.3% utilized free food for IPD patients. 50% reduction in 2D ECHO charges are utilized by majority of the participants i.e. 66.7%, followed by 48.3% and 56.7% participants utilized MRI and CT scan charges.

## Discussion

### Awareness

Total 60 participants are involved in this study of which majority of the participants were from age 31 to 40 years i.e. 30%, of which 68.3% were females. Awareness about free bed facility was 6.7% only. 13.3% and 33.3% are aware about minor surgeries and orthopedic surgeries. 28.3% and 38.3% participants were aware about normal and caesarian section which are available on free of cost. Only 6.7% were aware about availability of free food in IPD patients. 60% were aware about 50% concession in 2D ECHO, 43% aware about discounted rates in NICU, , 56.7% and 41.7% are aware of CT scan and MRI charges concession.

### Utilization

18.3% people were utilized free bed charges. 40% and 50% utilized for minor and ortho surgeries. 50% participants were utilized Normal Delivery, Caesarian 53.3%, 18.3% free food in IPD patients. 66.7% 2D ECHO concession, 65% NICU, CT and MRI are 56.7% and 48.3% utilized by the participants in this scheme.

Among the community-based studies conducted in India, awareness of social welfare schemes ranges from 49.5% to 97.3%.<sup>11-15</sup> Utilization of social welfare schemes by elderly persons ranges from 10.3% to 66.6%.<sup>11-15</sup>

Females were more aware of the social welfare schemes in our study. A study by Bartwal *et al.* also found that females were more aware.<sup>15</sup>

Joseph *et al.* found that males were more aware of the social welfare schemes than females in their community-based cross-sectional study conducted among 206 elderly persons in an urban area of Mangalore, Karnataka.<sup>16</sup>

**Conclusion:** Awareness about the facilities under this scheme is low and majority of the participants have utilized the services under the scheme especially CT scan, MRI, 2D ECHO, NICU. Higher rates of utilization were observed in caesarean delivery, CT and MRI investigations.

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