

CHAPTER: 04

ASSESSMENT OF REASONS BEHIND LOW BED OCCUPANCY & DROP OUT FROM NRC AND SERVICES OFFERED & FACILITIES AVAILABLE AT NRC AS PER GUIDELINES

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INTRODUCTION

The Nutrition Rehabilitation Center (NRC) is a collaborative initiative between UNICEF and the Government of India as part of the community plan. It functions as a facility where children diagnosed with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) are admitted and receive specified medical and nutritional therapeutic care. These children stay enrolled in the nutrition rehabilitation program until they fulfill the specified discharge criteria. In addition, undernutrition results in a decrease in myelinated fibers. When considering the rate of myelin synthesis per myelinated fiber, the sensitivity diminishes. Consequently, endeavors toward substantial economic development will be ineffective unless optimal child growth and development are ensured [1]. Particularly in the early years of life, nutrition has a critical influence in a child's physical, mental, and emotional development. Nutrition-related policies and strategies can have a significant impact on the general social and human development of communities around the world. Malnutrition is widely recognized as a fundamental hurdle in global public health and health policy, referring to a condition that negatively influences body structure or function and clinical outcomes due to deficiencies or imbalances in energy, proteins, and other essential nutrients [2].

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What factors contributed to the reluctance of parents with Severely Acute Malnourished (SAM) children to enroll them in Nutrition Rehabilitation Centers (NRC)?
2. What factors contributed to the discontinuation of children from NRC programs?
3. Did the facilities and services provided at NRC align with the established guidelines?

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

1. To evaluate the factors contributing to the limited enrollment in Nutrition Rehabilitation Centers (NRC).

2. To examine the factors leading to discontinuation or dropout from NRC.
3. To evaluate the alignment of facilities and services provided at NRC with established guidelines.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A cross-sectional analytical study was carried out in both villages and Nutrition Rehabilitation Centers (NRC). The study lasted for three months and included a sample size of 30 parents who chose not to admit their Severely Acute Malnourished (SAM) children to the NRC, parents of 30 SAM children who discontinued the NRC program, and the personnel in charge of the NRC. Convenient sampling was utilized as the chosen sampling technique. Data collection was carried out through a questionnaire that included both closed and open-ended questions, and it was followed by personal interviews. The collected data will be subjected to analysis using Excel as the chosen data analysis tool for this study.

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

Interviews were carried out with 30 parents who opted not to bring their children to the nutritional rehabilitation center. The findings revealed that over 80% of these parents lacked comprehensive information about all the services available before, during, and after treatment at the center. More than 55% of parents cited other responsibilities as a reason for not taking their children to the NRC, and over 50% mentioned a lack of motivation from health workers. Among parents who didn't enroll their children in the NRC, over 50% of fathers and more than 70% of mothers had an education level below matriculation.

Additional interviews with the parents of 30 children who did not finish their entire treatment revealed that over 60% of parents pointed to household responsibilities as the cause of incomplete treatment. Approximately 70% of parents lacked awareness of the serious consequences of malnutrition, and more than half did not receive

encouragement from health workers to complete the entire treatment course. The checklists filled out by the NRC supervisor revealed that all criteria outlined in the guidelines were met, with the exception of the appointment of a medical social worker. Additionally, the medical officer at the NRC had not received training for the facility-based care of severe acute malnutrition.

CONCLUSION

Multiple factors influenced parental decisions to refrain from admitting their children to the Nutrition Rehabilitation Center (NRC) and completing the treatment. Notable causes included the parents' educational background, their excessive responsibility for their belongings, the lack of awareness of services that were accessible, and the poor counselling that they received from medical professionals. The report also emphasised shortcomings in skill development and human resource availability.

REFERENCES

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