Policy, System, and Environmental Approaches: Determining Factors of PSE Among Extension Educators in Oklahoma

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Abstract

The objective of this study was to determine factors of Policy, System, and Environmental Approaches (PSE) among Extension Educators in Oklahoma. A survey was conducted to identify determinants and barriers of PSE approaches to improve health outcomes. The findings of this study will be used to develop a second study to further explore the factors that influence PSE among Extension Educators in Oklahoma.

Introduction

Extension has historically been a major force in promoting health and wellness through nutrition education, health promotion, and disease prevention education. Extension educators in Oklahoma have been involved in providing information and resources to the public on various health topics. However, the effectiveness of these efforts may be limited by factors such as the complexity of addressing public health issues, the lack of awareness among individuals about the importance of healthy behaviors, and the need for community-level interventions.

Methods

The study was conducted with a sample of Oklahoma Cooperative Extension (OCE) agents in the State of Oklahoma. The sample included 100 Extension Educators across multiple counties in the state. The survey was administered online using an online survey tool. The survey was designed to assess the extent to which Extension Educators use PSE approaches.

Results

The majority of the participants were female (83%), 45 years or older (85%), and had bachelor’s degree (98%). The average years working in Cooperative Extension was 10.7 ± 4.8 years. The average number of hours worked each week in their Extension job was 43.3 ± 8.1 hours.

Beliefs about public health issues and their contributing factors were also assessed. The Extension Educators agreed strongly, diabetes, and heart disease were public health issues. On the Likert scale of 1-5, with 5 being strongly agree, the average response was 4.5 ± 0.8, 4.6 ± 0.8, and 4.5 ± 0.8 for diabetes, obesity, and heart disease, respectively.

Discussion

The findings of this study indicate that the average Extension Educators use PSE strategies to improve health outcomes. Future studies are needed to further explore the factors that influence PSE among Extension Educators in Oklahoma.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the findings from this study provided insight into factors related to Oklahoma Extension Educators' intention to use PSE approaches. The factors include age, years of experience in Cooperative Extension, and the belief that PSE approaches are effective.

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References

