Strengthening Food Safety Practices in Street Food Culture of Punjab: Evaluating the **Effectiveness of Training Initiatives**

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RATIONALE

Every day, an estimated 2.5 billion people eat food from the streets. It offers a resource for low-cost, quick, and occasionally nutritious meals, appealing and varied dishes for tourists, and a means of income for many individuals. Street food vendors' ignorance about the origins of foodborne illnesses is a significant public health danger. Interventions at all governmental levels are necessary to guarantee that the degree of safety for such goods is as high as is practical given the local circumstances.

This study involved capacity building of street food vendors in Punjab to strengthen their food safety practices and evaluate the efficiency of the training programs and vendor feedback.

Objectives

To assess knowledge of vendors before and after training.

To measure feedback regarding the training from the street vendors.

METHODS

The study used an observational cross-sectional design where 41130 SFVs were trained regarding food safety and hygiene, the Swachh Bharat mission, government schemes for them and bye-laws. The number of vendors were selected from the GOI portal, and record of registered vendors with the Department of Local Government. Pre and post-tests regarding food safety knowledge of street vendors were conducted, and posttraining feedback was collected from the vendors. The collected data were summarised using descriptive statistics. The p<0.05 was considered significant, and STATA version 16.0 was used.



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RESULTS

The 15% of the trained vendor includes females and 85% males. The pre-test mean score was 16.72, which significantly improved (p<0.000) after training to 19.07. The difference between scores among the males and females was significant (p<0.01) at the endline. The score also differed significantly between different age groups at baseline and endline.



Session on Food safety, food adulteration and personal hygiene रेहड़ी विक्रेताओं के सशक्तिकरण के लिए क्षमता निर्माण और प्रशिक्षण स्वास्थ्य संवर्धन हेत् सेशन -व्याख्यान सत्र १



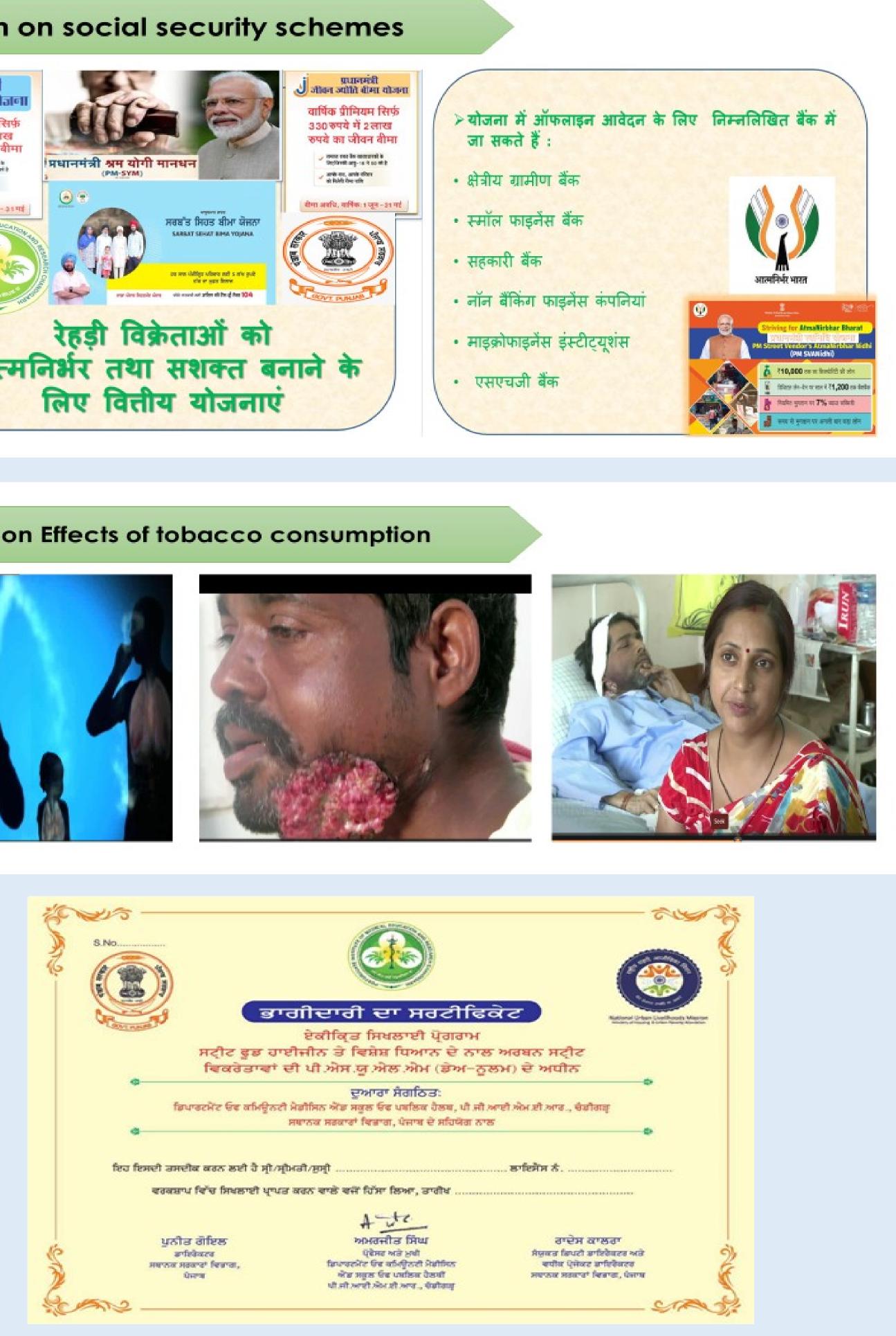












IMPLICATIONS

Although positive outcomes of the capacity building training were obvious, continuous refresher training is required to assist street vendors in upholding high standards of food safety, recommendations include programs, easily accessible training ongoing information, and partnerships with regional authorities.

