

Abstract

Introduction: Family Health Bureau is the central organisation for delivering Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, Adolescent and Youth Health (RMNCAYH) services of Sri Lanka. RMNCAYH programme uses District Health Information System version 2 based electronic Reproductive Health Management Information System (eRHMIS) to collect data on its sub-programmes. The programme managers of RMNCAYH programme use eRHMIS data for decision making. The concept of ‘dashboard’ was introduced to improve data analysis and visualisation of eRHMIS. A dashboard is a tool which is used to display the most critical information at a glance. The Dashboards improve the ability of decision making by increasing cognition and capitalising on human perceptual capabilities. The objectives of this study were; to improve data analysis and visualisation features of eRHMIS and assessment of the usability of the proposed solution among the top and middle-level programme managers of RMNCAYH programme by July 2018.

Method: 22 national level dashboards and 22 Regional Director of Health Services Area level dashboards were developed by customising eRHMIS dashboard module for user-specific real-time information visualisation. A qualitative study was conducted to assess the usability of the eRHMIS dashboard module after two months of its implementation. The study population consisted of 25 top and middle-level programme managers of RMNCAYH programme and data collected with in-depth interviews.

Results: Five major themes identified regarding the usability of eRHMIS dashboards. Ability to improve information use and easiness of use were main contributory factors to have a high level of usability in eRHMIS dashboard module.

Conclusion: The eRHMIS dashboard module was able to improve data analysis and visualisation features of eRHMIS. According to the perception of top and middle-level programme managers of the RMNCAYH programme usability of the eRHMIS dashboard module was high. This should raise the awareness of other Public Health Programmes to incorporate dashboards into their information management systems to promote information for action.