



## KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE, AND PRACTICE OF MOTHERS REGARDING IMMUNIZATION: A HOSPITAL BASED STUDY IN KANGRA

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**ABSTRACT** **Aim:** The present study assessed knowledge, attitude, and practices regarding vaccination among women having under-5 children admitted at civil hospital, Kangra. **Methods:** A descriptive study was conducted on 50 women having under-5 children admitted at civil hospital, Kangra. **Results:** Most of the women (94%) knew that child gets vaccinated for the first time at birth, although most of them did not know which vaccine is given for which disease. Women had knowledge about polio (76%), tuberculosis (42%), measles (18%), and chickenpox (2%) for which a child is vaccinated. **Conclusion:** The study showed 100% immunization coverage of under-5 children.

**KEYWORDS :** Immunization, children, Polio

### Introduction

Vaccinating the children is a cost-effective method to prevent communicable diseases and improve the survival of children. Government is implementing different strategies for full coverage of immunization. To improve immunization coverage, it is important to study the knowledge and attitude of people regarding vaccination. Hence, the present study was conducted with the objective to assess knowledge, attitude, and practices regarding vaccination among women having under-5 children admitted at civil hospital, Kangra.

### Methods

A descriptive study was conducted on 50 women having under-5 children admitted at civil hospital, Kangra. Data were collected by interviewing women as per the interview schedule comprised (a) sociodemographic data and (b) knowledge, attitude, and practice regarding immunization of under-5 children after obtaining informed written consent.

After the interview, the mother was asked to give the immunization card of the child, and immunization status was crosschecked from the card. Attitude assessment scale had 12 statements (six positive, six negative scored from 1 to 5 total 30 scores), score 12–28 classified as negative attitude, 29–43 neutral attitude, and 44–60 positive attitude.

Data were expressed as mean, standard deviation, frequency, and percentages.

### Results

The women were in the age range of 21–35 years with the mean age  $25.95 \pm 10.29$  years. Nearly half of them studied up to middle (24%) or high school (28%). Most of them (6%) were homemakers and their monthly per capita income ranged from Rs. 3000 to 6000 with a mean of Rs.  $4375 \pm 2224.71$ . Male children (54%) outnumbered females (46%). Age of children ranged from 0 to 1 year (20%), 1–2 years (22%), 2–3 years (24%), 3–4 years (22%), and 4–5 years (12%).

Knowledge, attitude, and practices of women regarding vaccinating under-5 children: All the women had heard about vaccination either from dispensary/hospital (80%) or from TV (20%). Majority of them (98%) knew that vaccination should be given to children, 78% of mothers knew that after getting vaccination, the child would be free from diseases, i.e., polio/TB/fever/vomiting. Most of the women (94%) knew that child gets vaccinated for the first time at birth, although most of them did not know which vaccine is given for which disease. Women had knowledge about polio (76%), tuberculosis (42%), measles (18%), and chickenpox (2%) for which a child is vaccinated. The rest of the mothers did not know the names of vaccines and diseases for which it is given. Most of the children (98%) received all the vaccination in time except two who received vaccination late.

Out of 50 children, after vaccination, main complaints were fever (38%), swelling at the site of injection (18%), and pain (2%). The fever was managed with syrup crocin (22%), tablet PCM (10%), or tepid sponging (12%). For the management of swelling, ice was rubbed at the site of injection in 10 (6%) children, and oil massaging was done in 4 (8%) children. Most of the mothers, i.e., 46 (92%), had immunization cards with them. Condition of most of (94%) cards was in good

condition. Entries of all the available cards (96%) were complete, most of the mothers (96%) had positive attitude regarding vaccination and very few mothers (4%) had neutral response.

The present study showed 100% immunization coverage for all vaccines. Almost all the children received vaccination in time. Most of the children were vaccinated at sub-centre. None of the mothers had to buy vaccine from outside, whereas a study conducted in urban slums of Ahmadabad city among 42 children aged 12–23 months showed 84% coverage for BCG, DPT-1, and OPV-1 and 72% for measles vaccine.<sup>1</sup> A study conducted at Primary Health Center, Pondicherry, showed that about 53% of mothers had moderate knowledge, 38% had inadequate knowledge, and 10% showed adequate knowledge regarding immunization.<sup>2</sup>

The success of any program depends on the attitude of community. The attitude of mothers regarding vaccination in the present study revealed that most of the mothers (96%) had a positive attitude regarding immunization. This is the reason for 100% immunization coverage. These results were similar to the study conducted in rural area of Bangalore which showed that 85.4% mothers had positive attitude regarding immunization.<sup>3</sup>

### Conclusion

In conclusion, the study showed 100% immunization coverage of under-5 children. Such commendable coverage was due to the excellent service of health professionals including vaccination awareness sessions.

### REFERENCES

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