



A STUDY OF KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE AND PRACTICES IN MOTHERS VISITING AN URBAN HEALTH CENTER AT SHIVAJI NAGAR (GOVANDI) MUMBAI, REGARDING IMMUNIZATION OF THEIR CHILDREN (0-5 YEARS).

Community Medicine

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ABSTRACT

Background: Immunization forms the major focus of child survival programs throughout the world.

Methods: A descriptive study with study population were mothers having at least one child under 5 years of age, visiting the urban health center. A period sampling based study of 150 women conducted from 1st December 2014 to 31st December 2014.

Results: Out of 150 mothers studied in an urban health center OPD, 62 % of mothers had good knowledge regarding immunization. 98% of mothers had a positive attitude towards immunization and 95.9% of the children were fully immunized.

Conclusion: There was a good knowledge, positive attitude and practice of immunization in mothers.

KEYWORDS:

Immunization

Introduction:

Immunization is the process whereby a person is made immune or resistant to an infectious disease, typically by the administration of a vaccine. Vaccines stimulate the body's own immune system to protect the person against subsequent infection or disease.

2.5 million Deaths a year continue to be caused by vaccine-preventable diseases, mainly 1 in Africa and Asia among children less than 5 years old⁽¹⁾.

Immunization forms the major focus of child survival programs throughout the world. Immunization is a proven tool for controlling and eliminating life-threatening infectious diseases and is estimated to avert between 2 and 3 million deaths each year¹. Over two million deaths are prevented through immunization each year worldwide. It has clearly defined target groups, it can be delivered effectively through outreach activities, and immunization does not require any major lifestyle change (WHO)^(2,3).

Childhood immunization almost guarantees protection from many major diseases. Parental knowledge of immunization is essential to assist public health initiatives to increase the uptake rates. Respondents with a low standard of education and parenting alone are usually less aware of the severity of the diseases. Older parents questioned immunization safety more than younger parents (Deady & Thornton, 2005)⁽⁴⁾.

Objectives of the study:

The general objective of this study was to identify the level of knowledge, attitude and practice regarding immunization, of mothers who have at least one under 5-year child and visiting the urban health center.

The specific objectives of the study are mentioned below:

- I. To identify the degree of knowledge of immunization among the respondents.
- ii. To study their attitude towards and practice of immunization.

Methodology:

This study was based upon descriptive and analytical methods. This study also described the socioeconomic characteristics, identified the knowledge and analyzed the attitude and behavior practice of immunization among the respondents.

Inclusion Criteria:

- 1) Mothers having at least one children of 0- 5 years of age.
- 2) Mothers residing in urban health center area for more than 1 year

Exclusion Criteria:

Mothers not willing for the study.

Population and sample:

The study population was the mothers having at least one child under 5 years of age, visiting the urban health center.

Sampling procedure:

The sample size was based on period sampling for one-month duration. The number of women having one child under 5 years attending urban health center OPD was approximately 165 in a month. An exclusion of 10% is expected based on exclusion criteria above. Thus the approximate sample size was around 150.

Study duration and period of study and study area: The study was conducted for one month during the period of 1st January 2015 to 30th January 2015 in an urban health center.

Data collection tools:

The interview schedule was used for the data collection. The interview includes both open and close ended questions related to knowledge, attitude and practice of immunization among the respondents.

Data collection procedure:

Data collection was one of the most important aspects of research. This study was mainly based on primary data. Therefore the following process was taken into account for the effective data collection procedure.

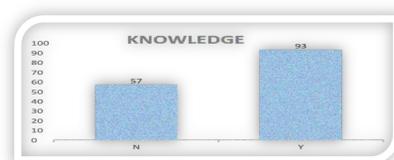
i) In order to collect information, at first, mothers were explained the purpose of the study having at least one child under 5 year and then the questions were asked to them.

ii) High priority was given to the informed consent; the respondents were never forced to give the answers. Data were collected after their permission. Privacy and confidentiality were maintained.

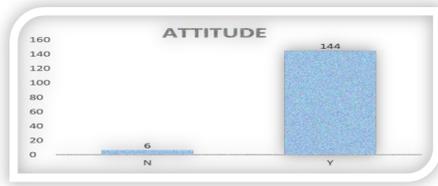
Results:

Out of 150 mothers studied in an urban health center OPD, 93 (62 %) of mothers had good knowledge regarding immunization (**Graph 1**).

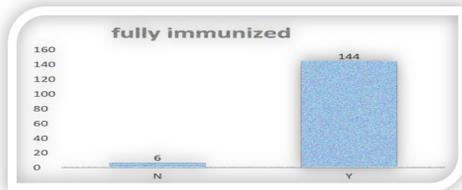
Graph 1: Knowledge about Immunization



Graph 2 showed that 144 (96%) of mothers had positive attitude towards immunization

Graph 2: Attitude towards Immunization

Graph 3 showed that 144 (96%) of the children were fully immunized.

Graph 3: Immunization Status of Children**Conclusion:**

1. 62 % of mothers had good knowledge regarding immunization.
2. 96 % of mothers had a positive attitude towards immunization.
3. Of 150 children studied 144 were fully immunized.

Recommendation:

Health workers and medical personnel should educate the parents about the importance of routine immunization along with pulse polio immunization to achieve 100 % immunization coverage.

Right information about immunization to be given to mother to avoid misconceptions Immunization card should be made mandatory for admission to school along with the birth certificate.

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