



Awareness On Immunization Among Mothers Of Underfive Children

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Abstract:

Immunizations is one the best indicators to evaluate the health outcomes and services distributed across social and economic groups. Childhood immunization almost guarantees protection from many major diseases. Prevention of disease is the need of the day. The present study aimed to assess the knowledge of mothers of under five children on immunization in selected hospital at Mangalore. The objective of the study is to assess the level of knowledge of mothers on immunization with a view to develop an information booklet. The study design was non-experimental exploration survey. The sample comprised of 30 mothers of under five children, who were visited Yenepoya hospital, Mangalore. The data was collected by using baseline proforma and structured knowledge questionnaire. Overall result had shows that 30% of mothers had poor knowledge, 43.4% of mothers had average knowledge, 23.4% of mothers had good knowledge and 3.33 mothers had excellent knowledge. There is no significant association between knowledge score and selected demographic variables such as age of mother ($\chi^2= 1.28$), religion ($\chi^2= 0.09$), educational status ($\chi^2= 7.03$), monthly income ($\chi^2= 0.65$), occupational status ($\chi^2= 0.32$), source of information ($\chi^2= 10.1$), and exposure to mass media ($\chi^2= 3.01$). There was asignificant association between knowledge and exposure to mass media in relation to immunization among mothers of under five children

Keywords: knowledge, mothers of under five children, Immunization.

1.Introduction

Immunization is one of the cost effective interventions to prevent a series of major illness[. It prevents 2 million deaths per year worldwide and is widely considered to be “overwhelmingly good” by the scientific community². Vaccination coverage has now reached a plateau in many developing countries and even where good coverage has been achieved, reaching the children who were yet to be vaccinated has proved difficult³. Factors such as knowledge, attitude and practices of parents contribute to contribute to success or failure of immunizations program. Information about knowledge, attitude and practices about immunization is lacking in developing countries⁴.

Parents want their children to be safe from diseases. For this reason they choose immunization as a preventive measure; routine immunization as an almost universal experience⁵. Immunization can be delivered effectively through outreach activities and doesn't require any major lifestyle changes⁶. Roughly 3 million children die each year of vaccine preventable disease. Resent research estimates suggest approximately 34 million children are not completely immunized with 98% of them in developing countries⁷

Rahul Sharma, Sanjiv K Bhasin (2008), conducted a study to assess the knowledge about routine immunization among Six hundred and eighty-two caretakers of young children. Results shows that the proportions of respondents who had awareness about different aspects of routine immunization, such as weekday of routine immunization (37.0%), age group for routine immunization (49.1%), number of visits required in the first year of life (27.0%), were all low. The education level of respondents was strongly associated with their knowledge about routine immunization⁸.

A study was done for 328 mothers of children aged 12-35 months to identify the factors associated with delayed or non immunization of their children. The results indicated that even in the presence of maternal illiteracy, educating mothers about the vaccine preventable diseases may be highly effective in increasing the immunization coverage⁹.

A comparative study was conducted to estimate the vaccination coverage level of children's living in rural and urban areas to identify statistically significant differences. Children's aged between 19-35 months residing in Kolar District of Bangalore participating on the 2008 National Immunization Survey was included in the study. Statistically significant differences in vaccination coverage levels between the rural population and their urban counterparts were determined for individual vaccines and vaccine series as evidenced by 28% of the children were covered by immunization residing in rural areas whereas 46% were covered in Urban area. The study

recommended that health care personnel need to execute the awareness among the needy population of the Koral District¹⁰.

The main reasons identified for poor coverage include the inadequacy of community participation in RI and information, education and communication (IEC) activities. The importance of knowledge/awareness about routine immunization, a factor for its success is brought out by previous studies that “not aware of the needs of vaccination” is the main reason for children not being fully immunized¹¹. Hence this study is carried out to assess how much awareness the mothers have regarding immunization, with a view of preparing information booklet to educate them. Hence mothers can be motivated by updating their level of knowledge regarding the importance of immunization.

2. Material And Methods

The study design chosen was non-experimental exploration survey. The population of the study was of 30 mothers of under five children, who were visited Yenepoya hospital, Mangalore. The mothers of under five children gave written consent for the study. Purposive sampling technique was used for selecting the study subjects. The samples comprised of 30 mothers of under five children. The tool used for the study was demographic proforma and structured questioner. After a brief self introduction, the investigator explained the purpose of the study and obtained informed consent from the parents. On the first day the investigator observed the setting, structure, and the appliances for use. After collecting baseline data structured questioner was given to the mothers and the data was collected. After that a booklet containing information of national immunization schedule was provided to the mothers by the investigators. The data was analyzed by descriptive and inferential statistics.

3. Results And Discussion

In this study highest percentage where in the age group of 20-25yrs (53.3%), With regard to religion majority (66.7%) were Muslim. The education qualification revealed highest percentage (50%) for 1-5th standard. Highest percentages (46.7%) of mothers were from joint family and majority(36.7%) comes under the category of income \leq Rs.5000/month. Regarding the occupation status of mothers 50% were house wife. Knowledge of mother's exposure to mass media highest percentage(36.75%) expressed that television as a Source of information whereas 33.3% said health professionals as a source.

N=30

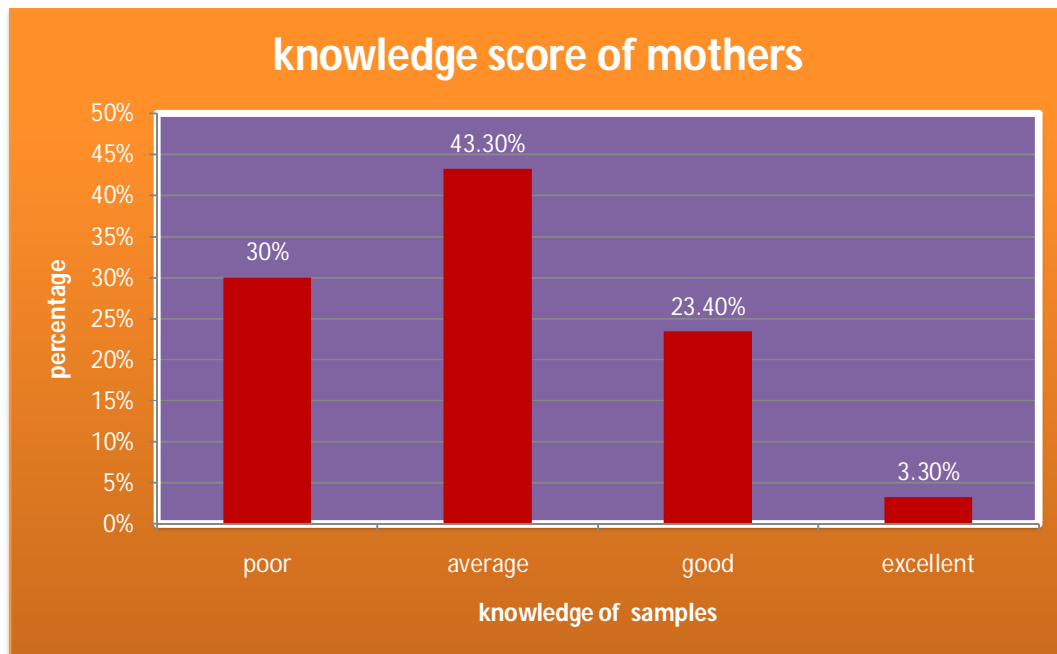


Figure 1: Grading of knowledge scores of mothers of under five children in relation to immunization

Figure.1. depicts that 30% of mothers had poor knowledge, 43.4% of mothers had average knowledge, 23.4% mothers had good knowledge and 3.3% of mothers had excellent knowledge. Overall it was found that majority of the mothers were having less awareness regarding immunization.

N=30

S.No	Demographic variables	χ^2	Table value 'p'
1.	Age of the mother [in years]	0.74	12.6
	a. 20-25		
	b. 26-30		
	c. 31-35		
	d. 35-40		

S.No	Demographic variables	χ^2	Table value 'p'
3.	Education status a. 0-5 b. 6-10std c. PUC d. Graduation and above	7.039	9.49
4.	Type of family a. Nuclear family b. Joint family c. 3rd generation family	.23	9.5
5.	Monthly family income[in rupees] a. <5000 b. 5001-10000 c. 10001-15000 d. >15001	0.065	12.6
6.	Occupation status a. Government b. Employee c. Private employee d. Self employee e. House wife	0.32	5.9
7.	Source of information a. Mass media b. Health professional c. Friends and relatives d. All the above	10.8	12.4
8.	Exposure to mass media a. News paper b. TV c. Radio	10.09	9.5*

Table 1: Association of knowledge on immunization with selected demographic variables.

$$\chi^2_{(28)} = 9.5 \quad P < 0.05 \quad * \text{Significant}$$

Table.1. showed that there was a significant association between knowledge and exposure to mass media in relation to immunization among mothers of under five children as the calculated value is more than the table value at 0.05 level of significance.

A cross sectional study was conducted to assess the awareness & knowledge of mothers of Under Five children regarding Immunization. The main sources of information on immunization was obtained from Anganwadi Worker (47%) & Television (35%)¹².

A study evaluated the knowledge, attitude, and behaviour of mothers regarding the immunization of 841 infants who attended public kindergarten in Cassino and Crotone, Italy. Overall, 57.8% of mothers were aware about all four mandatory vaccinations for infants (poliomyelitis, tetanus, diphtheria, hepatitis B). The results showed that the knowledge was significantly greater among mothers with a higher education level and among those who were older at the time of the child's birth¹³.

The investors found there that was a significant association between knowledge of mothers and mass media as the calculated value is more than than the table value at 0.05 level of significance. A cross sectional survey of non randomized sample of 200 mothers were interviewed at primary health care clinic at Al-Beida City coming for vaccination of their children in a period from first to 31 August 2008. the main source of information to respondents of completely immunized children (88.28%) followed by T.V, posters and symposia, while community leaders and doctors were found to be a lesser source. Concerning the effect of the education status of the mothers the 71.41% of highly educated mothers gave complete immunization for their children, while for the illiterates it was 88.23% but, the difference was not statistically significant. The child's health and sickness was the most common cause for cessation of immunization, followed by non availability of the vaccine, social reasons and forgetfulness (54%, 20.%, 10.5% and 5.5%) respectively. Only 10% of the mothers failed to report a reason for not immunizing their children¹⁴.

4. Conclusion

The present study highlighted the knowledge of mother's on immunization. A better understanding of health issues associated with the immunization constituted a challenge for clinician and researchers. So there is a great lot scope for exploring this area. Research should be conducted to identify the attitude and practice of mother's on immunization.

5.Reference

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