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RESEARCH ARTICLE

A SURVEY OF KNOWLEDGE ON IMMUNIZATION

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Poor knowledge on immunization may be a contributing factor for children morbidity and mortality. The present study was conducted to assess knowledge on immunization among mothers of under five children.

Methodology: A cross – sectional survey was conducted. A questionnaire was designed and through interview the data were collected.

Results: 67.5 % had good knowledge, 15.5 % had average and 1.1 % had poor Knowledge.

Conclusion: The above results insisted the need for adequate health education to the mothers.

Key words: Immunization, Knowledge, Mothers of under five children.

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INTRODUCTION

Vaccines protect the person against subsequent infection or disease by arousing the immune system in our body. Immunization helps to control and eliminate life – threatening infectious diseases and it is one of the most cost - effective methods that are accessible to most of the children. Immunization has had a large impact on curbing the childhood mortality and morbidity. Of the many cost- effective public health interventions, routine immunization is one of them. Routine immunization refers to regular administration of vaccine dosages at specified ages and scheduled nationally. The prime objective of routine immunization is to provide timely, safe, effective and a full number of doses of potent vaccines to children, ultimately inducing immunity against targeted diseases. Mothers are the primary care givers of under five children, if their awareness on role of immunization is good, then we'll achieve the targeted immunization coverage among under five children. Hence the study was undertaken to assess the knowledge of mothers with under five children regarding immunization.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A cross – sectional survey was conducted in a tertiary care centre among mothers of under five children. The total sample was 252.

Sampling: Convenience sampling was used.

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Instruments: Subject data sheet had a set of questions that was oriented to the demographic and clinical data of subjects. Knowledge on immunization was assessed by using a questionnaire. The questionnaire had 20 multiple choice questions.

Data collection procedure: Data collection was started after getting ethical committee permission and permission from hospital authority. Informed consent was taken from study participants. Subject data sheet information and knowledge on immunization was collected by the investigator through structured interview schedule. The time duration to complete the questionnaire was 25 – 30 minutes.

RESULTS

Table 1. Level of knowledge regarding immunization among mothers of under-five children

N=252			
Knowledge score	Frequency	Percentage	Level of knowledge
80-100%	40	15.9	Excellent
55-79.9	170	67.5	Good
30-54.9	39	15.5	Average
<30	3	1.1	Poor

DISCUSSION

Out of 252 mothers; majority (67.5) had good knowledge about immunization; 15.9 % of mothers had excellent knowledge; 15.5 % of mothers had average and 1.2 % of mothers had poor level of knowledge. The results are consistent with study by Tagbo *et al.*, (2012), & Roos (2001).

Table 2. Association of the level of knowledge with socio-demographic variables

S. No.	Socio demographic variables	Frequency	Mean	Standard deviation	t/F	Significance "p"
1.	Age					
	<25 years	132	7.60	2.804	T=1.651	0.1
> 25 years	120	8.18	2.731			
2.	Marital status					
	Married	246	7.85	2.782	F=0.255	0.775
	Divorced	2	8.50	0.707		
Widow	4	8.75	3.500			
3.	Education					
	<higher secondary	138	7.17	2.363	t=4.616	0.000***
≥higher secondary	114	8.73	3.005			
4.	Occupation					
	Unemployed	101	8.04	3.095	t=0.778	0.437
Employed	151	7.76	2.550			
5.	Monthly income					
	<500	50	7.26	2.570	F=2.548	0.040*
	501-1000	38	7.50	2.739		
	1001-2000	87	7.79	2.397		
	2001-3000	39	8.08	2.986		
>3000	38	9.03	3.397			
6.	Religion					
	Hindu	224	7.76	2.813	F=1.957	0.121
	Muslim	11	8.91	2.625		
	Christian	16	8.38	1.996		
Others	1	13	-			
7.	Area of residence					
	Urban	174	7.59	2.627	t=2.421	0.016*
Rural	78	8.50	3.014			
8.	Type of family					
	Joint	149	7.71	2.860	t=1.111	0.268
Nuclear	103	8.11	2.653			
9.	Number of children in the family					
	1	136	7.93	2.796	t=0.330	0.742
>1	116	7.81	2.769			
10.	Previously attended Classes on immunization					
	Yes	78	8.81	3.015	t=3.663	0.000***
No	174	7.45	2.566			

Conclusion

The study concluded that only 15.9 % of mothers had excellent knowledge. To rectify this problem in antenatal clinic itself handouts regarding immunization should be distributed to the couple and family members. In postnatal ward counselor should be appointed so that she will insist the importance of immunization to each mother.

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