

The Knowledge Regarding Awareness of Immunization Schedule, Practice and Attitude towards Immunization among Mothers of under Five Children Attending Pediatric Outpatient Department in a Selected Secondary Care Hospital, Himachal Pradesh

Kanchan Bhandari

Clinical Nurse, Secondary care level Hospital Palampur, H P, India

Abstract: ***Introduction:** Objective: To assess the knowledge of under- five mothers regarding immunization schedule and attitude towards immunization. To find association between level of knowledge regarding immunization with the demographic variables. **Methods:** A descriptive study was conducted among 30 mothers of under five children to assess the knowledge regarding immunization schedule and attitude towards immunization in the pediatric outpatient Department of a selected secondary care hospital. A self administered questionnaire was prepared and administered among the selected sample using simple random technique by non interview method. **Result:** 17% of mothers had good knowledge, 60% of mothers have average knowledge and 23% of mothers have below average knowledge. This study shows that as the number of under- five children in family increases and as per occupational level increases there is a increase in knowledge level regarding immunization. **Conclusion:** Within the limits of the study the knowledge level of mothers of under – five children assessed and associated with selected demographic variables.*

Keywords: knowledge, assess, immunization, mothers, under – five children

1. Introduction

Vaccines are the reward to the mankind by the medical fraternity. Immunization forms one of the most important and effective strategy for the prevention of childhood sickness and disabilities and thus a basic need for all children. Immunization helps to guard against hazardous disease– (diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus , polio , tuberculosis and measles) . In the past two decades , vaccines have shown a tremendous ability in preventing serious illness, and averted death in million of cases. They have proved to be one of the most effective tools ever created to help babies to live a healthy life .according to UNICEF ; vaccine preventable diseases cause an estimated 2 million deaths or more every year of which approximately 1.5 million deaths occur among children below five year age. According to WHO as per statistical record about 63.3% are fully immunizes and fully immunized 21.1% are partially immunized and 96% are not immunized. Triumph WHO analysis that it need of more awareness among parent about immunization.

Knowledge and attitude of mothers towards immunization plays a vital role in managing the ratio of morbidity and mortality associated with lack of immunization and improving the health status of childrens.

2. Methods / Approach

A descriptive study was conducted at a pediatric OPD of a selected Secondary Care Hospital in Himachal Pradesh. The

population for the study was mothers of under – five children attending the pediatric OPD on specific day of data collection and who gave their willing for the specific study.

A total sample comprises 30 in number of collected data in two week duration as OPD is conducted once in a week. A structured questionnaire is conducted with three parts; Demographic data, knowledge assessment regarding immunization and attitude assessment in relation to immunization.

Random sampling technique is been used for the study. Non – interview technique is used. The data collected and the identity of the participants is kept confidential, in the data analysis and interpretation descriptive statistics is applied. Each correct answer was given score one. Level of knowledge was classified into three categories based on the scores. Descriptive statistics is used to analyze the data related to demographic variables and knowledge assessment.

Data obtained after associating knowledge regarding immunization schedule of mothers towards immunization of under – five children with specific demographic variables in terms of descriptive statistics. Knowledge of mothers assessed on basis of schedule awareness, importance and purpose of vaccines. The collected aggregate knowledge level is associated with the demographic variables.

3. Result

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Table 1: Description of Demographic Variables, N = 30

S. No	Demographic Variables	Frequency	Percentage
1	Age	18 – 22 Yrs	6 20%
		23 – 28 Yrs	11 36.6%
		29 – 34 Yrs	10 33.3%
		Above 34 Yrs	3 10%
2	Educational Qualification	< 5 th standard	0 0
		5 – 10 Class	7 23.3%
		11 -12 Class	14 46.6%
		Degree	9 30%
		Others	0 0
3	Occupational Status	Home maker	26 86.6%
		Private job	4 13.3%
		Business	0 0
		Govt Job	0 0
4	Type of Family	Nuclear	10 33.3%
		Joint	17 56.6%
		Extended	3 10%
5	Number of <5yrs Children in Family	1	10 33.3%
		>1	20 66.6%
6	Age of Children	0 -1 year	4 13.3%
		1 – 2 year	11 36.6%
		3 -4 year	7 23.3%
		4 – 5 year	8 26.6%
7	Sources of Health Related Knowledge	TV , newspaper, radio	8 26.6%
		Google, Internet	5 16.6%
		Family and Friends	8 26.6%
		Health Personnels	6 20%
		Others	3 10%
8	Availed health services	PHC	3 10%
		Subcentre	0 0
		Nursing Home	3 10%
		Hospitals	24 80%

Aggregate Knowledge level of mothers of under- five children regarding immunization

Table 1.1: Table depicting aggregate knowledge level of mothers of under five children regarding immunization, n = 30

S. No	Knowledge level	Frequency	Percentage
1	Good	5	17%
2	Average	18	60%
3	Below average	7	23%

Table 1.1 shows 17% of mothers had good knowledge , 60% of mothers had average knowledge and 23% of mothers had below average knowledge regarding immunization.

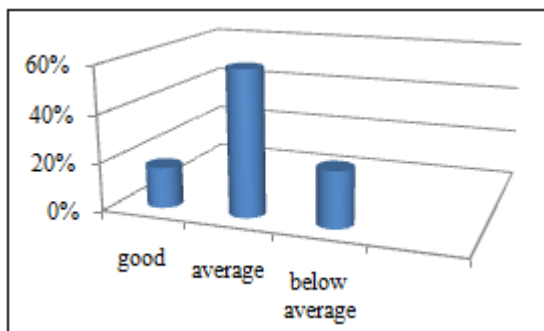


Figure 1.1: Column diagram showing aggregate knowledge level of mothers of under five children regarding immunization, n = 30

Table 1.2: Table depicts knowledge regarding purpose of vaccine, n = 30

S. No	Knowledge	Frequency	Percentage
1	Good	4	13.3%
2	Average	15	50%
3	Below Average	11	36.6%

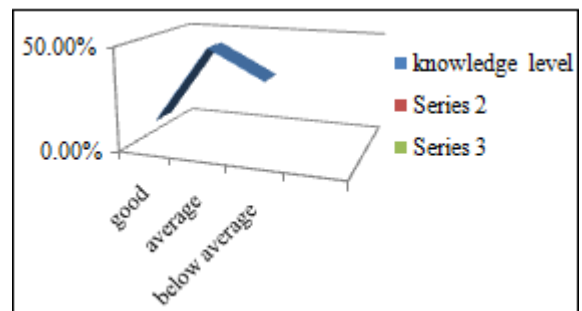


Figure 1.2: Graph showing knowledge regarding purpose of vaccine, n= 30

Graph showing 50% of under five mothers are having good knowledge regarding purpose of vaccine,36.6% of them are having below average knowledge and 13.3% of having good knowledge regarding purpose of vaccine.

Table 1.3: Table depicts knowledge questionnaire regarding immunization, n = 30

S. No	Knowledge	Frequency	Percentage
a	Good	10	33.3%
b	Average	13	43.3%
c	Below Average	7	23.3%

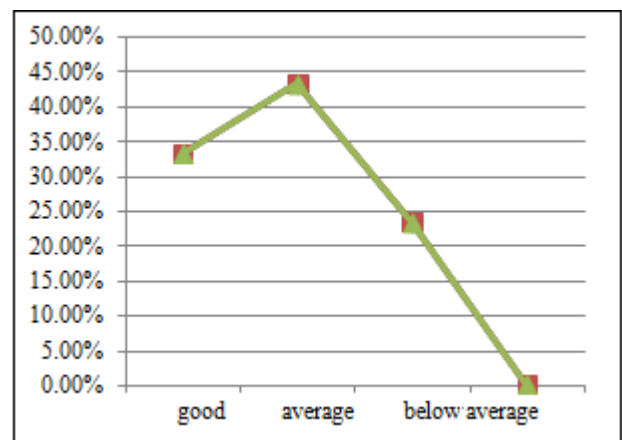


Figure 1.3: Graph shows knowledge questionnaire regarding immunization, n = 30

Graph showing 43.3% of under five mothers are having average knowledge, 33.3% of them are having good knowledge and 23.3% of them are having below average knowledge.

Table 1.4: Table depicts showing mothers of under-five knowledge regarding general information regarding immunization, n = 30

S. No	Knowledge	Frequency	Percentage
a	Good	2	6.6%
b	Average	24	80%
c	Below Average	4	13.3%

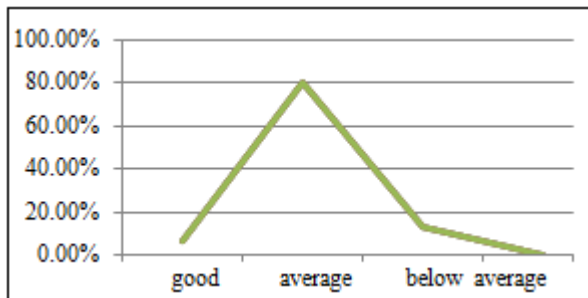


Figure 1.4: Figure showing mothers of under-five knowledge regarding general information regarding immunization

Graph showing out of 30 mothers, 80% of them are having average knowledge, 13.3% having below average

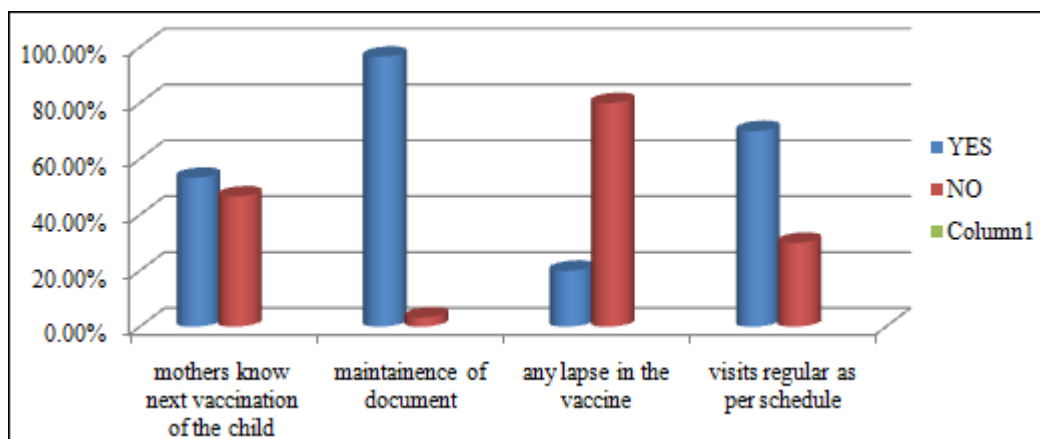


Figure 1.5: Bar graph showing practice assessment of mothers of under-five children regarding immunization

knowledge and 6.6% of mothers are having good knowledge of general information regarding immunization.

Table 1.5: Table showing practice and attitude assessment of mothers of under-five children regarding immunization

S.No	Criteria	Yes	No
1	Do you know when is the next vaccination date for the child.	(53.3%)	(46.6%)
2	Are you maintaining the document for vaccination.	(96.6%)	(3.33%)
3	Any lapse in the vaccine	(20%)	(80%)
4	Maintain regular visits for immunization as per the schedule.	(70%)	(30%)

4. Discussion

Out of 30 samples 20% mothers were within 18 -22years, 36.6% were within 23-28years, 33.3% were within 29-34years and 10% were above 34 year. 46.6% had educational qualification within 11-12th class, 30% had qualification upto degree and 23.3% are had qualification of 5-10th class. 86.6% of mothers them belongs to nuclear family % were homemaker whereas 13.3% were doing private job. 56.6% belongs to joint family whereas 33.3% them belongs to nuclear family and only 3% belongs to extended family. 43.3% had two under-five children in their family, 33.3% had one child of under-five age in their family. 80% of them availed health services from hospitals 10% availed the services from Subcentre and PHC.

The study showed that 60% of mothers of under-five children have average knowledge, 17% of mothers have good knowledge and 23.3% of mothers have below average knowledge. 53.3% of mothers were aware about general information regarding immunization whereas 46.6% of mothers of under-five children gave incorrect answers regarding immunization. 50% of mothers gave correct information regarding importance of immunization and rest 50% gave incorrect answers regarding importance of immunization. Out of 30 samples only 13% of mothers had good knowledge about the purpose of vaccine, 50% of them had average and 37% of them had below average knowledge regarding the purpose of vaccine.

5. Conclusion

The study was conducted at a selected secondary level hospital in Himachal Pradesh. 30 samples were collected. majority (36.6%) of mothers are within the age group of 23-28 years 46.6% of mothers had educational qualification of 10-12th standaed. 86.6% were home maker. 36.6% of mothers have 1-2 year age group of children in their family and 43.3% of mothers have two under-five children in their family. 80% avail the health services from hospitals, and 27% of them get exposure to sources of health from TV, newspapers, radio, family and friends. It was observed that as whole 17% of mothers had good knowledge regarding immunization, 60% had average knowledge regarding immunization and 23% of mothers of under-five children had below average knowledge regarding immunization.

The present study assessed the knowledge among mothers of under-five regarding immunization and found that the mothers had inadequate knowledge related to immunization. The knowledge of mothers is important factor for better immunization coverage. Mothers educational status was clearly associated with coverage of immunization , less knowledge among mothers brings negative attitude and fear which lead a to affect immunization status of the children. So health care workers must clearly communicate the benefits and risks to the mothers and try to increase the acceptance.

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