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A STUDY TO ASSESS THE KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE AND PRACTICE OF MOTHERS REGARDING THE IMMUNISATION OF CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS IN SELECTED AREA OF INDORE, MADHYA PRADESH

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Introduction

Immunizations is one of the most successful and core effective public health investigation to bring healthy future generation. Immunization is defined as the process of inducing the immunity in an individual against an infection organism or agent. They are important for both adults and children in that they can protect themselves from many diseases. Immunization not only protects the child against deadly diseases but also helps in developing child's immune system. Through the use of immunization, some infections and diseases were almost completely eradicated throughout the world. immunization has been named as one of the "Great health achievements" in the 20th century". The world health organization launched the first Global programme o immunization known as Expanded Programme on Immunization meant to cover pregnant women and children up to the age of five year.

Immunisation is one of the most cost-effective health investments worldwide. The World Health Organisation (WHO) launched the expanded programme on immunisation (EPI) in 1974 with the aim of immunising children throughout the world. The programme uses proven strategies, like outreach services, to ensure delivery of vaccines even to the most hard-to-reach and vulnerable populations. The worldwide implementation of this programme has resulted in more than 100 million infants being immunised each year, saving 2–3 million lives annually.

Method & Material

This was a cross-sectional, community-based study conducted in Indore, M.P. Three villages were randomly selected, which were Kanadiya, Devguradiya and Mangliya. The

total coverage of mothers having at least one child below 5 years of age who were residing in one of the three villages was done, and a total 127 mothers of 191 children were included.

A 21-item questionnaire was developed after surveying the available literature. The questionnaire contained four sections: sociodemographic and background variables (9 items), knowledge (5 items), attitude (4 items) and practice (3 items). The attitude section involved the mothers' opinion on safety and importance of immunisation, whether they are responsible for immunising their children and whether they recommend the children's immunisation to fellow mothers. Descriptive statistics in the form of frequencies, percentages and tables were displayed. The chi-squared test was used to assess associations between categorical variables. A *p*-value less than 0.05 at a confidence level of 95% was considered to be significant.

Result

A total of 127 mothers of 191 children were included. Most of them (59.1%) were in the age group of 25–34 years and 50.4% had a low SES. The most correctly named vaccines were measles (87.4%) and polio (86.6%), whereas the least correctly named were hepatitis (7.1%) and diphtheria (8.7%). The mean knowledge score about the names of vaccines/diseases prevented was 3.5 (SD = 1.5, minimum 0 and maximum 9). All mothers (100%) thought that vaccines will protect their children from the diseases. Regarding mothers' sources of information about children's immunisation, the main source of information was the healthcare worker (57.9%), followed by older family members (10.3%) and media (9.5%).

An overwhelming majority (99.2%) of the mothers had a positive attitude, and 98.4% of the mothers reported that they will recommend immunisation for others. All (100%) of them said they are totally responsible for immunisation of their children, 98.4% thought that immunisation is important and 99.2% thought it was safe for their children.

From a total of 191 children, 48.7% were fully immunised since birth, 46% were only missing 'dose 0' and 5.3% were incompletely immunised. With regard to the place of vaccination, 83.5% of mothers immunised their children in the hospital, 7.1% in the health centre, whereas 8.7% were mixed: sometimes in hospital and other times in the health centre.

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