ASSESSMENT OF KNOWLEDGE AND AWARENESS REGARDING IMMUNIZATION AMONG THE MOTHERS OF UNDER FIVE CHILDREN ATTENDING IMMUNIZATION CLINIC OF A TERTIARY CARE HOSPITAL

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ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND

Immunization is one of the most powerful and cost-effective weapons of modern medicine. In 2012, nearly 22.6 million children missed out of the basic vaccines they need to stay healthy. Low immunization levels compromise gains in all other areas of health for mothers and children.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

A cross-sectional descriptive study carried out among the mothers of under-five children attending immunization clinic using a predesigned and pre-tested structured proforma. Non-probability sampling method was used in the study. Study duration was 03 months from October 2014 to December 2014.

RESULTS

A total of 230 mothers of under-five children in the age group of 20 to 45 years were interviewed. Among these, nearly two third (67.83%) were in age group of 20-29 years. Awareness about polio vaccination was 100% while knowledge about Measles vaccination was found 83%. Most common source of information was health workers.

CONCLUSION

Mother's knowledge regarding immunization is essential for timely utilization of immunization services as it is the most cost effective measure to prevent vaccine preventable diseases. Health workers mainly contributed to enhance mother's knowledge regarding immunization.

KEYWORDS

Knowledge, Immunization, Under-five.

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INTRODUCTION

One effective way of controlling the spread of infection is to strengthen the host defences. Under certain circumstances this may be accomplished by active immunization, which is one of the most powerful and cost-effective weapons of modern medicine. Immunization has to be planned according to the needs of the situation.¹

The historical success of eradicating the dreaded disease, Smallpox, prompted World Health Organization (WHO) to ask its member countries to launch immunization against six vaccine preventable diseases in its national immunization schedule. In May 1974, the WHO launched the Expanded Immunization Programme (EPI) globally, with focus on prevention of 6 vaccine-preventable diseases by the year 2000. In India, EPI was launched in 1978 and it was re-designated as the Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) in 1985, with a goal to cover at least 85% of infants.¹

Vaccines are protecting more children than ever before. But, in 2012, nearly one in five infants—22.6 million children—missed out on the basic vaccines they need to stay healthy. Low immunization levels compromise gains in all other areas of health for mothers and children.

The poorest, most vulnerable children who need immunization the most continue to be the least likely to get it.² National Family Health Survey (2005-06) reports that only 43.5% of children in India received all of their primary vaccines by 12 months of age.³ Therefore, this study was done to know the mother's awareness on vaccine preventable diseases and vaccines given under UIP.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

The present study is a cross-sectional descriptive study carried out for the duration of 3 months from October to December 2014. All the mothers of under-five children attending immunization clinic of J.A. Group of Hospitals, Gwalior (MP) on Wednesday, the immunization day, were included as study participants.

A predesigned and pre-tested structured questionnaire was used to collect the desired information from study participants regarding socio-demographic profile, knowledge about vaccine preventable diseases, immunization and source of information.

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After the collection of required information from the respondents data was compiled and analysed manually using percentage and proportions.

Inclusion Criteria

Mothers who gave verbal consent to participate in the study.

Exclusion Criteria

Mothers who refused to participate in the study.

Ethical Consideration

The study did not require any invasive or non-invasive diagnostic procedure, or withholding any prescribed drug; yet prior permission of competent authority was obtained for conducting study.

RESULTS

A total of 230 mothers of under-five children in the age group of 20 to 45 years were interviewed. Among these, nearly two third (67.83 %) were in age group of 20-29 years.

Majority of the participants were educated up to higher secondary (58.26%) and 87.83% of the respondents were housewives. (Table 1) Out of total 230 respondents about 95% heard about vaccine preventable diseases.

All the study participants were aware about polio vaccination while knowledge about Measles vaccination was found 83%. Regarding the source of information about immunization most common were health workers including ASHA workers, Anganwadi workers and ANMs followed by television. (Table 2).

DISCUSSION

In the present study a total of 230 mothers attending immunization clinic in the age group of 20 to 45 years were interviewed. Among these, nearly two-third (67.83 %) were in age group of 20-29 years and majority of the participants (87.83) were housewives.

While 72% of study participants were housewives in a study done by Rachna Kapoor, et al. in Ahmedabad.⁴ In this study majority of the study participants were Hindus 72.6%, while Mereena et al. in their study reported that majority of the respondents were Muslims.⁵

In our study, all the study participants (100%) were aware about polio vaccination while knowledge about Measles vaccination was found 83%. While Rachna Kapoor et al. in 2010 reported that 85% of mothers were aware about polio vaccination.⁴ The rise in knowledge level may be because of increasing awareness and greater IEC activities.

The present study revealed that 53.48% mothers had knowledge about TB vaccination. Similar finding was reported by Rahul Sharma et al.⁶

Regarding the source of information about immunization most common were health workers including ASHA workers, Anganwadi workers and ANMs followed by television while in the study conducted by D. Adeyinka et al. Four 65.7% of the respondents got information about Vaccine Preventable Diseases from Antenatal clinics and role of media was only 4.8%.⁷

CONCLUSION

Mother's knowledge regarding immunization is essential for timely utilization of immunization services as it is the most cost effective measure to prevent vaccine preventable diseases.

Health workers should organize regular mother's meeting in the community and take the opportunity to enhance their knowledge on immunization and to remove fear and misconceptions about vaccines.

Sl. No.	Variable	Respondents (N=230) (%)
1.	Age (Years)	
	20-29	156 (67.83)
	30-39	63 (27.39)
	40 and above	11 (4.78)
2.	Religion	
	Hindu	167 (72.60)
	Muslim	58 (25.21)
	Others	05 (2.17)
3.	Caste	
	General	93 (40.43)
	Schedule Caste	59 (25.65)
	Schedule Tribe	27 (11.74)
	Other Backward Castes	51 (22.17)
4.	Education	
	Illiterate	17 (7.39)
	Primary	19 (8.26)
	High School	48 (20.87)
	Higher Secondary	67 (29.13)
	Graduate and above	68 (29.56)
5.	Occupation	
	House wife	202 (87.83)
	Self employed	17 (7.39)
	Government job	03 (1.30)
	Private job	08 (3.48)

Table 1: Socio Demographic profile of mothers

Sl. No.	Knowledge Variables	Response	
		Yes (%)	No (%)
1.	Have you ever heard about vaccine preventable diseases	219 (95.21)	11 (4.78)
2.	Knowledge about		
	vaccines for		
	Tuberculosis	123 (53.48)	107 (46.52)
	Poliomyelitis	230 (100)	00 (00.00)
	Diphtheria	67 (29.13)	163 (70.87)
	Pertussis	55 (23.91)	175 (76.08)
	Hepatitis B	138 (60.00)	92 (40.00)
	H. influenzae	35 (15.22)	195 (84.78)
	Measles	191 (83.04)	39 (16.96)
	Tetanus	214 (93.04)	16 (6.96)
3.	Source of knowledge		
	Health workers (ASHA*/AWW**/ANM*** etc.)	212 (92.17)	18 (7.82)
	Television	173 (75.21)	57 (24.78)
	Radio	81 (35.21)	149 (64.78)
	Newspaper	130 (56.52)	100 (43.48)
	Neighbours	144 (62.61)	86 (37.39)
	Family members	165 (71.74)	65 (28.26)
	Banners/Posters	88 (38.26)	142 (61.74)
	Others	37 (16.08)	193 (83.91)

Table 2: Knowledge of respondents about Immunization

*Accredited Social Health Activist **Anganwadi worker
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