

“A DESCRIPTIVE STUDY TO ASSESS THE KNOWLEDGE REGARDING IMMUNIZATION AMONG MOTHER’S OF UNDER FIVE CHILDREN IN KAKOJAN, JORHAT, ASSAM.”

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Abstract: Immunization has a long and fascinating history, dating back to the practice of inoculation of small pox in china and African countries in the 18th century, Edward Jenner’s famous experiment with cow pox vaccine laid the foundation for modern immunization. Over the past two centuries, immunization has become one of the greatest public health achievements, saving millions of life every year. Vaccines have been developed against over 20 life threatening diseases like small pox, polio, diphtheria, measles, and more. Educating mothers about the importance and awareness of immunization are necessary for a better quality of life. This descriptive study was conducted on 60 mothers of under five children to assess the knowledge regarding immunization and to determine the association of knowledge regarding immunization with demographic variables in selected area, Jorhat, Assam. The study found that out of 60 samples (83.33%) had average knowledge regarding immunization and also shows that there is a significant association of knowledge regarding immunization with the age and educational status of the mothers.

Keywords: knowledge, vaccination, immunization and mothers of under five children.

Immunization should be recognise as, a core component of the human right to health. Vaccination prevents an estimated 2.5 million deaths each year protective from the threat of vaccine-preventable diseases. Immunize children have the opportunity to thrive and better chance of realizing their full potential. These advantages are further increased by vaccination in adolescence and adulthood. As part of a comprehensive package of interventions for disease prevention and control, vaccines and immunization are essential investments in a country, as it is investing in the future of the world.

According to the WHO, immunization is the process of making a person resistant to a disease through the administration of a vaccine. Immunization is the process of giving a vaccine to a person to protect them against disease. Immunity (protection) by immunization is similar to the immunity a person would get from disease, but instead of getting the disease you get a vaccine. Most vaccines are given by needle (injection) but some are given by mouth (orally) or sprayed into the nose (nasally).

Immunization is one of modern medicine’s greatest success stories. Time and again, the international community has endorsed the value of vaccine and immunization to prevent and control a large number of infections and increasingly, cancers and other chronic diseases.

NEED OF THE STUDY: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends vaccines throughout life to help protect against many infections. Several studies have been conducted to assess the knowledge and practice of Immunization among the parents in different parts of India. Hence, this study was conducted to assess the knowledge regarding immunization among mothers of under five children in Jorhat.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Following formal permission from the respective authorities a quantitative research approach, a univariant descriptive research design was used to assess the knowledge of immunization among mothers of under five children at Chowk, Kakojan, Jorhat, Assam. Using non – probability convenience sampling, 60 mothers of under five children were used on the basis of sampling criteria. Research variable in the present study is knowledge regarding immunization. Demographic variables are age, educational status, occupation, religion, marital status, residence, previous knowledge about the topic. Karl Person, method was used to test the reliability of the tool and result was **0.8** indicating the tool was reliable.

Population and Sample: The target population and sample in this study was 60 mothers of under five children at Dagar Chowk, Kakojan, Jorhat, Assam.

Data and Sources of Data: For this study the data has been collected from 60 mothers of under five children at Dagar Chowk, Kakojan, Jorhat, Assam. The tool used for collecting data was by demographic proforma and self structure knowledge questionnaire.

Theoretical framework: The conceptual framework used for this study was Health Promotion Model Nola J Pender. The model focuses on the following 3 areas:-

1. Individual characteristics and experiences
2. Behaviour specific knowledge and affect.
3. Behavioural outcome.

Variables of the study contain dependent and independent variables. The study used pre-specified method for the selection of variables. The dependent variable used in the present study is knowledge regarding immunization and independent variables are age, educational status, occupation, religion, marital status, residence, previous knowledge about immunization. Frequency and percentage distribution was used for analysis of demographic data. Mean, Median and Standard Deviation was calculated to assess the knowledge regarding immunization. Person's Chi square test was used to determine the association of knowledge score with demographic variables of the samples.

Analysis and Interpretation

The analysis and interpretation of data was done by using descriptive and inferential statistics based on following objectives:

- To assess the knowledge regarding immunization among mothers of under five children in selected area of Jorhat, Assam
- To determine the association between levels of knowledge regarding immunization with socio – demographic variables among mothers of under five children in selected area of Jorhat, Assam.

Knowledge regarding immunization among mothers of under five children of selected area, Jorhat, Assam.

CRITERIA	SCORE RANGE	KNOWLEDGE SCORE	
		FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
POOR KNOWLEDGE	0 – 5	5	8.33%

AVERAGE KNOWLEDGE	5 – 10	19	31.66%
GOOD KNOWLEDGE	10 – 15	22	36.66%
EXCELLENT KNOWLEDGE	15 – 20	14	23.335

The data presented shows that (8.33%) mothers had poor knowledge, (31.66%) had average knowledge, (36.66%) had good knowledge and (23.33%) had excellent knowledge regarding immunization.

Association of knowledge regarding immunization with demographic variables of mothers of under five children of selected area, Jorhat, Assam. Pearson’s Chi – square test was used to determine the association.

SL NO.	VARIABLES	KNOWLEDGE SCORE				Chi Square (x ²) value	df	P value	Remarks
		Poor (0-5)	Average (5-10)	Good (10-15)	Excellent (15-20)				
1.	Mothers Age								
	Less than 20 years	1	2	3	1	1.91	9	0.039190	Significant*
	21 – 30 years	3	16	17	12				
	31 – 40 years	1	1	2	1				
	41 – 50 years	0	0	0	0				
2.	Educational status								
	Illiterate	0	0	0	0	4.39	12	0.124691	Significant*
	Primary(1-5)	1	1	2	1				
	High school(6-10)	1	2	5	2				
	Higher secondary	2	15	13	10				
	Higher education	1	1	2	1				
3.	Occupation								
	House wife	2	9	12	7	4.89	9	16.919	Not significant
	Working women	1	7	5	2				
	Business	1	2	3	4				
	Others	1	1	2	1				
4.	Religion								
	Hindu	2	14	14	5	7.02	9	16.919	Not significant
	Islam	1	2	3	4				
	Christian	1	2	3	4				
	Others	1	1	2	1				
5.	Marital status								
	Unmarried	0	0	0	0	1.19	9	16.919	Not significant
	Married	4	18	20	13				
	Divorced	1	1	2	1				
	Widow	0	0	0	0				
6.	Residence								
	Urban	1	4	3	2	0.49	3	7.815	Not

	Rural	4	15	19	12				significant
7.	Previous knowledge about the topic								
	Yes	4	15	19	12	0.50	3	7.815	Not significant
	No	1	4	3	2				

The data presented shows that there was significant association of knowledge regarding immunization among mothers of under five children with demographic variables with respect to mothers age and educational status regarding immunization at 0.05 level of significance.

Result

Out of 60 samples, (80%) of the sample were from the age group of 21 – 30 years, (66.66%) have higher secondary education, (50%) of the samples house wife, (58.33%) of the samples Hindus, (91.66%) of the samples married, (83.33%) from rural area. (83.33%) had average knowledge on immunization. The Mean, Median and Standard Deviation on immunization are 11.25, 11.36 and 6.09 respectively.

DISCUSSION and CONCLUSION

Current public and private financing strategies for immunization have had substantial success, especially in improving immunization rates for young children. Based on the study findings, it was concluded that there was a significant association of knowledge regarding immunization with the demographic variables respectively to age and educational status of the sample. This study also reveals that 31.66% mothers have average knowledge, 8.33% mothers had poor knowledge, 36.66% mothers had good knowledge and 23.33% mothers had excellent knowledge regarding immunization. Thus research hypothesis i.e. there is a significant association between level of knowledge and socio demographic variables among mothers of under five children regarding immunization is accepted. On the otherhand, there is no significant association of knowledge regarding immunization with occupation, religion, marital status, residence and previous knowledge about the topic. Hence null hypothesis was rejected.

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