

Knowledge, attitude, and practice regarding optional vaccination among mothers of under five children

Sangeetha Fredy

Community Health Nursing Department, Little Flower College of Nursing, Trivandrum, India.

Corresponding author: *Sangeetha Fredy, HOD, Community Health Nursing Department, Little Flower College of Nursing, Trivandrum, India.

Abstract

Optional vaccines mean that one may choose to have it or not without any danger or detriment. Immunization against vaccine-preventable diseases is definitely profitable for the individual. The objectives of the study: to assess the knowledge, attitude and practice of mothers of underfive on optional vaccination. Quantitative research approach was used to meet the objectives. Descriptive research design was adopted. The results revealed that only 17% of mothers had good knowledge about optional vaccination. The study reveals that, there is a significant association between number of children and knowledge of mothers at $P > 0.05$. The table value is 12.59, so null hypothesis is rejected and there is an association between number of children and knowledge of optional vaccines among mothers.

Keywords: Optional vaccines, knowledge, attitude, practice, mothers of underfive

Introduction

The deserves of 'optional' vaccines for individual use should be thought-about on the premise of the degree of prevalence of the infection and disease; age prevalence of mortality, morbidity and sequelae of the illness; risk of severe disease in inclined; and therefore the effects of childhood vaccination in modifying future advancement in health care. Socioeconomic factors are of important scrutiny. All optional vaccines are oriented to be given on account of high disease hardship and the fact that they are safe and dramatically reduce morbidity and mortality due to the disease. However affordability and easiness of availability of these vaccines build it troublesome for the Government to include

them to the UIP. By classifying a vaccine as 'optional' is left with the treating medical practitioner and parent to choose if the kiddesires it or not. The optional vaccines include MMR, rotavirus, typhoid, Hib, chickenpox (varicella), hepatitis A, pneumococcal, meningococcal, influenza viral vaccines, HPV.

Many parents may wonder whether these optional vaccines are necessary, considering that the standard early childhood vaccinations have already been acquired. However, optional vaccines are equally important and have been reported as a safe and effective method against unnecessary suffering and the risk of complications from diseases that may seem harmless.

Multicentric epidemiological studies in India have shown that 30 per cent of meningitis and pneumonia under the age of two years is caused by H. flu infection. Mortality and morbidity of such infections is severe, justifying security. The vaccine is administered along with the DPT vaccine in infants. The use of this vaccine is limited now due to its cost but it deserves consideration whenever feasible. There are 2 to 3 million deaths in every year because of the negligence in taking optional vaccines. The benefits of optional vaccines are increasingly being extended to adolescent and adult providing protection against life threatening diseases. Immunization Survey, In India there are 22604 children are not receiving the vaccination. It about 7.6% is not immunized by the vaccines.

Objectives of the study

1. To assess the knowledge regarding optional vaccines among mothers of under five children in OPD of Jubilee Memorial Hospital Trivandrum.
2. To assess the attitude regarding optional vaccines among mothers of under five children in OPD of Jubilee Memorial Hospital Trivandrum.
3. To assess the practice regarding optional vaccines among mothers of under five children in OPD of Jubilee Memorial Hospital Trivandrum
4. To find out the association between the level of knowledge regarding optional vaccines and selected socio-demographic variables.

Research variables

In this study the research variable is knowledge, attitude and practice regarding optional vaccines awareness to mothers of under five age children.

Research methodology

The purpose of this section is to communicate to the readers what the investigators performed to answer the research question.

Research approach: Quantitative research approach

Research design: Observational cross sectional research design

Setting of the study: This study was conducted in Jubilee Memorial Hospital. The rationale for selecting this setting was easy transport and availability of subjects.

Population: The target population in the present study includes mothers who are having children under five years of age attending OPD in Jubilee Memorial Hospital.

Sample and sampling technique: Sample for the present study comprises of 60 mothers who are having children under five attending OPD in Jubilee Memorial Hospital. In the present study purposive sampling technique was used.

Inclusion criteria

The study was limited to

- Mothers willing to participate in this study.
- Mothers who have children under five years of age.
- Mothers able to follow English or Malayalam.
- Mothers attending OPD in Jubilee Memorial Hospital.

Tool/instruments: A structured questionnaire was used to assess the knowledge, attitude and practice of mothers of under five children attending OPD in Jubilee Memorial Hospital.

Description of the tool

Research tool consist of four sections,

- Section A : Demographic Performa consisting of seeking information's like age, religion, type of family, education of mother, parent income,

occupation, marital status, area of residence, source of information, occupation of husband, number of children, education of father.

- Section B : Questionnaires to assess the knowledge regarding optional vaccines.
- Section C : Scales to assess the attitude of mothers regarding optional vaccines.
- Section D : Checklist to assess the practice of mothers regarding optional vaccines.

Analysis and interpretation

Section A: Demographic variables of the samples.

- 55% of samples are from 38-57 years of age, 30% of samples from 18-37 years of age, 15 % of samples are from 58 -77 years of age.
- 72% of samples are Hindus, 20% of samples are Christians and 7% of samples are from Muslim religion. 1% samples are from other religions.
- 65% of samples belong to nuclear family and 35% of samples are from joint family.
- 60% of samples have no job, 22 % of samples are private employees, 13% of samples are Govt. employees, 3% of samples are doing business and 2% of samples depends on agriculture
- 55% of samples completed graduation and higher qualification, 34% of samples had high school level education, 11% of samples studied up to upper primary.
- 45 % of samples income is <10000, 42% of samples income is between 10001 -25000, 8 % of samples earns 25001 – 50000 and 5 % of samples gets income of 50001 – 100000.
- 85 % of samples have previous knowledge regarding optional

vaccination & 15 % of samples have no previous knowledge.

- 42% of samples got knowledge from newspaper, 40% of sample is having knowledge from media. 2% of sample is having knowledge from internet and 16 % from other sources.

Section B: Description of knowledge scores among mothers.

The study shows that only 17% of mothers have good knowledge level, majority of the samples (58%) are having average level of knowledge, 25% have poor knowledge level of knowledge on optional vaccination.

Section C: Analysis of attitude percentage among mothers of underfive children.

The study revealed that, 53.3% of mothers having good attitude about the importance of optional vaccines

Section D: Practice regarding optional vaccines.

The study shows that 34 mothers follow the optional vaccines and the rest of 26 mothers follow only the routine vaccines.

Section E: Association of knowledge with socio-demographic variables.

Discussion

Findings related to level of Knowledge among mothers of underfive

Present study demonstrated that only 17% of mothers have good knowledge level, majority of the samples (58%) are having average level of knowledge, 25% have poor knowledge level of knowledge on optional vaccination. In a similar study on level of knowledge of mothers conducted in Moodbidri showed that 85 % of subjects have inadequate knowledge regarding optional vaccination.¹ This study is purely supporting with the present study findings.

Table 1: Findings related to the association between level of knowledge and selected demographic variables.

Variable	Level	χ^2	df	Table value	Inference
Age	0.05	12.52	6	12.59	NA
Type of family	0.05	5.93	2	5.99	NA
Area of residence	0.05	1.76	4	9.48	NA
Number of children	0.05	22.31	4	9.48	A
Source of information	0.05	4.06	6	12.59	NA
Monthly Income	0.05	4.82	6	12.59	NA

Table 1 reveals that there is a significant association between Number of children and level of knowledge at a p value 0.05.

Findings related to practice of optional vaccination among mothers of underfive

The study shows that 34 mothers follow the optional vaccines and the rest of 26 mothers follow only the routine vaccines. A similar study was conducted in Rajah Muthiah Medical College & Hospital on Immunization status and perception on the use of optional vaccines by the parents of children under 2 years age and found that completely (81.4%) and partially immunized (18.6%) for routine vaccines whereas partially immunized (47%) and non – immunized (53%) for optional vaccines.²

Acknowledgment

I would like to express my special thanks to the Managing Director, Jubilee Memorial Hospital and to all who helped directly or indirectly for the successful completion of this project.

References

1. Punarva M.H, 2016. Optional Vaccines for Better Immunization :Awareness among Mothers. NUJHS Vol. 6. 53-56
2. Babu A, Ruksana1, Parimalakrishnan S, Chidambaranathan S., 2015.

Immunization status and perception on the use of optional vaccines by the parents of children under 2 years age. World journal of pharmacy and pharmaceutical sciences. 5. 786-795

3. Ambike D, Tambade V, Poker F, Ahmed K. 2016. Parental knowledge on the optional vaccines and the barriers in their use: A rural hospital-based study. Indian Journal of Child Health. 4. 88-90
4. Amdekar YR. Optional Vaccine. A critical appraisal. ISS Med Ethics 2008; 7-8.
5. Anjum Q, Omain A, Iham SN, Ahmed Y, Usman Y, Shaikh S. Improving vaccination status in children under five through health education J Park Med Assoc. 2004.
6. Selvakumari S., 2011. Knowledge of optional vaccines among mothers of under- five children. J Manage Sci.;1(1):30-35.
7. Parthasarthy A, Dutta AK, Bhav S. Guidebook 2001: Report of the IAP Committee on Immunisations. 2nd ed. Mumbai: Indian Academy Pediatrics; p. 47-50.