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BOOK OF ABSTRACT

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Factors Affecting Mothers' Knowledge Regarding Childhood Vaccination in Kattankudy MOH Area

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Abstract

Background: Vaccination is the administration of a substance to stimulate a protective immune response in human body. It is the most cost-effective strategy used for control of life-threatening infectious diseases and a proven tool to avert over two (2) million deaths each year. Maternal knowledge regarding vaccination greatly influences the use of childhood immunization services. Therefore, this study aimed to evaluate the factors affecting mothers' knowledge regarding childhood vaccination in Kattankudy Medical Officer of Health (MOH) area.

Methodology: A descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted among 377 mothers who brought their children under five (5) years to Maternal and Child Health Clinics of Kattankudy MOH area during the period of 1st September, 2018 to 31st August, 2019. An interviewer administered questionnaire included with plausible influencing factors for mothers' knowledge on childhood vaccination was used to collect data from mothers who were selected by systematic random sampling in the randomly selected 4 Public Health Midwife (PHM) areas. The data was analyzed using SPSS 19.0 software and p-value < 0.05 was considered significant for all analyses. Ethical approval was obtained from Ethics Review Committee, Faculty of Health - Care Sciences, Eastern University, Sri Lanka.

Results: More than half (55.7%) of the mothers had good knowledge on childhood vaccination and 0.3% had poor knowledge. Mean knowledge score of this study was 57.45%. Although majority (90.7%) of the study subjects had knowledge on vaccines prevent communicable diseases, only one third (32.1%) of them were aware about the herd immunity.

Level of knowledge was significantly associated with educational level of mother ($p=0.007$) and monthly income of the family ($p=0.000$). Public Health Midwives contributed as source of knowledge for mothers on childhood vaccination in the majority of instances (92%)

Conclusions: Educational level of mothers and monthly family income had great impact on mothers' knowledge of childhood vaccination

Keywords: Vaccination, Knowledge, Kattankudy