

The Knowledge and Attitude Regarding Immunization and Its Schedule among the Mothers of under Five Children

Somashekarayya Kalmath¹, Santosh Hasalkar²

Author Affiliations

¹Mr. Somashekarayya Kalmath, Associate Professor, Ph.D. Scholar, JJTU, Jhunjhunu and KLES Institute of Nursing Sciences, Hubli.

²Santosh Hasalkar, Post Graduate Student, KLES Institute of Nursing Sciences, Hubli.

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Abstract: Background: Immunization is one of the most effective, safest and efficient Public Health Intervention for the prevention from several diseases among under five children¹. **Objectives of the study:** (1) To assess the knowledge regarding immunization and its schedule among the mothers of under five children. (2) To determine the attitude regarding immunization and its schedule among the mothers of under five children. (3) To find out a correlation between the knowledge and attitude scores regarding immunization and its schedule among the mothers of under five children. (4) To find out an association between the knowledge scores of mothers of under five children and their selected demographic variables. (5) To find out an association between attitude scores of mothers of under five children and their selected demographic variables. **Material and Methods:** This study was based on descriptive research approach is used. The sample consisted 60 mothers of under five children at the paediatric outpatient department of Taluka Hospital, Kundagol. The Non-probability; purposive sampling technique, a structured knowledge questionnaire and the five point LIKERT attitude scale was used to collect the data. **Results:** The findings show that mothers of under five children were varied in baseline variables. They had varying degree of knowledge and attitude regarding immunization and its schedule. On assessment of knowledge, 40 (67%) had average knowledge, 13 (22%) had good knowledge and 07 (11%) had poor knowledge regarding immunization and its schedule. On assessment of attitude, 35 (58%) had neutral attitude, 17 (28%) had positive attitude and 08 (14%) had negative attitude towards immunization and its schedule. The findings denotes that there was a positive correlation ($r= 0.23$) between knowledge and attitude. **Conclusion:** The study concluded that, knowledge and attitude of mothers of under five children regarding immunization and its schedule was just satisfactory, consequently educational programmes for promoting immunization and parental motivation, accessibility and follow-up should be instituted.

Keywords: Immunization, Immunization Schedule, Knowledge, Attitude, Mothers, Under Five Children, Paediatric OPD.

Introduction

To keep the body in good health is a duty. Otherwise we shall not be able to keep our mind strong and clear”

-Buddha

In India Universal Immunization Program (UIP) provides vaccine against six killer diseases to all infants at free of charge. All of these vaccine doses should be administered by the age 12 months. Indian children who received all recommended doses of these six vaccines are considered fully vaccinated by WHO. The Indian governments nationally representative National Family Health

Survey-4 (NFHS-4) 2015-16 reported that only 62% of children aged 12-23 months were fully vaccinated, 33% were under vaccinated and 5% were non-vaccinated².

Immunization is a process of protecting an individual from a disease through of live or killed or attenuated organism in the individual system. Immunization against vaccine preventable disease is essential to reduce child mortality, morbidity and handicapped conditions. It is a mass of protecting the large number of children from various diseases³.

World immunization week celebrated in the last week of April-aims to highlight the collective action needed to ensure that every person is protected by from vaccine preventable diseases. This year theme "Protected Together, Vaccines Work" encourages the people at entry level from donors to general public to go further in their efforts to increase immunization coverage for the greater good⁴.

A state of health implies the notion of perfect functioning of the body and mind. The child health focuses on the well-being of children from conception to adolescence. It is vitally concerned with all aspects of children's growth and development and with the unique opportunity that each child has to achieve their full potential as a healthy adult. Children are more often expose to disease due to lack of immunity^{5,6}.

Many illness and diseases among under five children's can be prevented by measures of preventive medicine. Immunization or vaccination is one of the most cost effective interventions to prevent the suffering that comes from avoidable sickness, disability and death. The benefits of immunization are not only restricted to improvements in health and life expectancy but also have a social and economic impact at both community and national level⁷.

Statement of the Problem

A study to assess the knowledge and attitude regarding immunization and its schedule among the mothers of under five children at the pediatric outpatient department of Taluka Hospital Kundagol.

Objectives of the Study

- 1) To assess the knowledge regarding immunization and its schedule among the mothers of under five children.
- 2) To determine the attitude regarding immunization and its schedule among the mothers of under five children.
- 3) To find a correlation between knowledge and attitude scores regarding immunization and its schedule among the mothers of under five children.
- 4) To find out an association between knowledge scores of mothers of under five children and their selected demographic variables.
- 5) To find out an association between attitude scores of mothers of under five children and their selected demographic variables.

Hypotheses

- 1) **H₁**: There will be a significant correlation between the knowledge and attitude scores of mothers of under five children regarding immunization and its schedule at 0.05 level of significance.
- 2) **H₂**: There will be statistical association between the knowledge scores of mothers of under five children regarding immunization and its schedule and their selected demographical variables at 0.05 level of significance.
- 3) **H₃**: There will be statistical association between the attitude scores of mothers of under five children regarding immunization and its schedule and their selected demographical variables at 0.05 level of significance.

Materials and Methods

Research approach	:	Descriptive research approach.
Research design	:	Descriptive survey research design.
Research setting	:	Paediatric outpatient department of Taluka Hospital, Kundagol.
Sample	:	Mothers of under five children.
Sample size	:	60.
Sampling technique	:	Non- Probability, Purposive sampling technique.

Variables

Independent variable	:	Immunization and its schedule.
Dependent variable	:	Knowledge and attitude of mothers of under five children regarding Immunization and its schedule.

Criteria for selection of samples

- ✓ The criteria for selection of samples in this study involve:

Inclusion criteria

Mothers who are:

- ✓ Having under five children.
- ✓ Willing to participate.
- ✓ Able to read and write Kannada and English.

Exclusion criteria

- ✓ Mothers who were sick at the time of data collection.

Results

The data are based on the objectives of the study. Data presented under the following headings.

Section-I: Distribution of sample characteristics according to demographical variables.

- ✓ With regard to age, majority of the subjects 47 (78.33%) were in the age group of 20-30 years, 10 (16.67%) were in the age group of above 30 years and 3(5%) were in the age group of less than 20 years.
- ✓ Regarding religion, the maximum numbers of subjects 28 (46.66%) were belonged to Hindu religion, 14 (23.34%) belonged to Muslim, 10 (16.66%) belonged to others and 08 (13.34%) belonged to Christian.
- ✓ In terms of education, majority of the subjects 16 (26.66%) were completed secondary education, 14 (23.34%) were completed primary education, 14 (23.34%) were completed PUC, 12 (20%) were completed degree and more and 04 (6.66%) completed diploma.
- ✓ In respect to occupation, the maximum number of subjects 25 (41.66%) were house wife, 19 (31.66%) were belongs to business, 11 (18.34%) were Government employee and 5(8.34%) were coolie.
- ✓ In terms of family income, majority of subjects 27(45%) had income less than Rs.10000/-, 23 (38.84%) had income of Rs.10000 to Rs.20000/-, 05 (8.33%) had income of Rs.20000/- to 30000/- and 05(8.33%) had income more than 30000/-.
- ✓ Regarding under five children, majority of subjects 35 (58.34%) has two children, 19 (31.66%) of subject has one child, 03 (05%) of subjects has three children and 03 (05%) of subjects have more than three children.

- ✓ In respect to the habitat, majority of subjects 41 (68.34%) were living in rural area where as 19 (31.66) were from urban area.
- ✓ With regard to type of family, majority of subjects 31 (51.66%) belonged to joint family, 21 (35%) were belonged to nuclear family, 08 (13.34%) were belonged to nuclear family.
- ✓ The source of information for maximum number of subjects 31 (51.66%) was by health professionals, 13 (21.66%) by new age media, 12 (20%) by peer group and social media, 2 (3.34%) by print media and 2 (3.34%) by electronic media.

Section II: Analysis and interpretation of knowledge and attitude scores of mothers of under of children regarding immunization and its schedule.

Table 1. Frequency and percentage distribution of level of knowledge scores of subjects regarding immunization and its schedule (n=60)

Knowledge scores	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Good (27 and above)	13	21.66%
Average (20 to 26)	40	66.67%
Poor (19 and below)	07	11.67%

Table 1 revealed that 40 (66.67%) subjects had average knowledge, 13 (21.66%) subjects had good knowledge and 07 (11.67%) had poor knowledge.

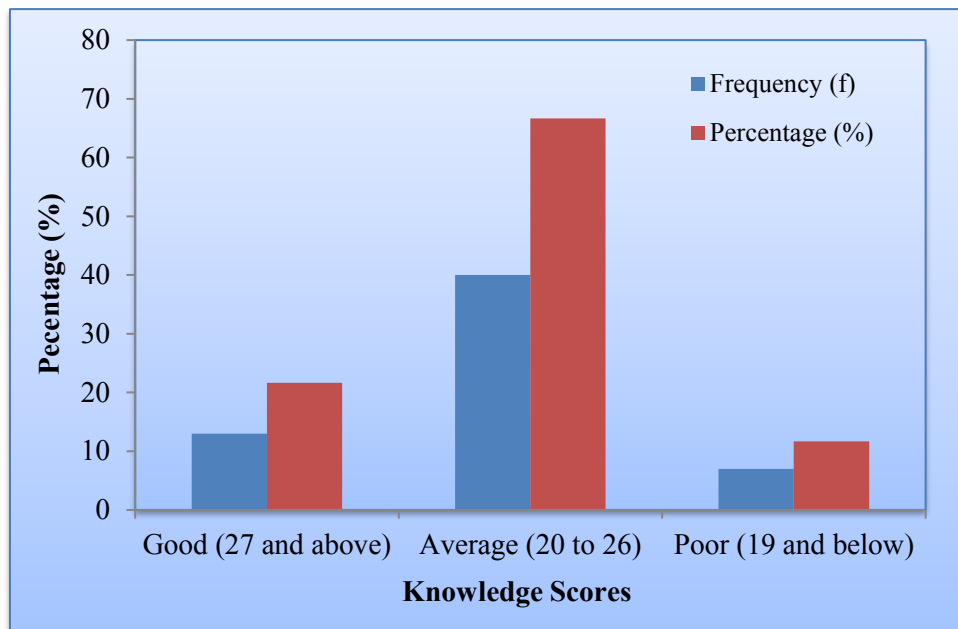


Figure 1. Percentage distribution of level of knowledge scores of subjects regarding immunization and its schedule.

Table 2. Frequency and percentage distribution of level of attitude scores of subjects regarding immunization and its schedule (n=60)

Attitude Scores	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Positive (81 and above)	17	28.33%
Neutral (70 to 80)	35	58.33%
Negative (69 and above)	08	13.34%

Table 2 revealed that 17 (28.33%) subjects had positive attitude, 35 (58.33%) subjects had neutral attitude and 08 (13.34%) subject had negative attitude.

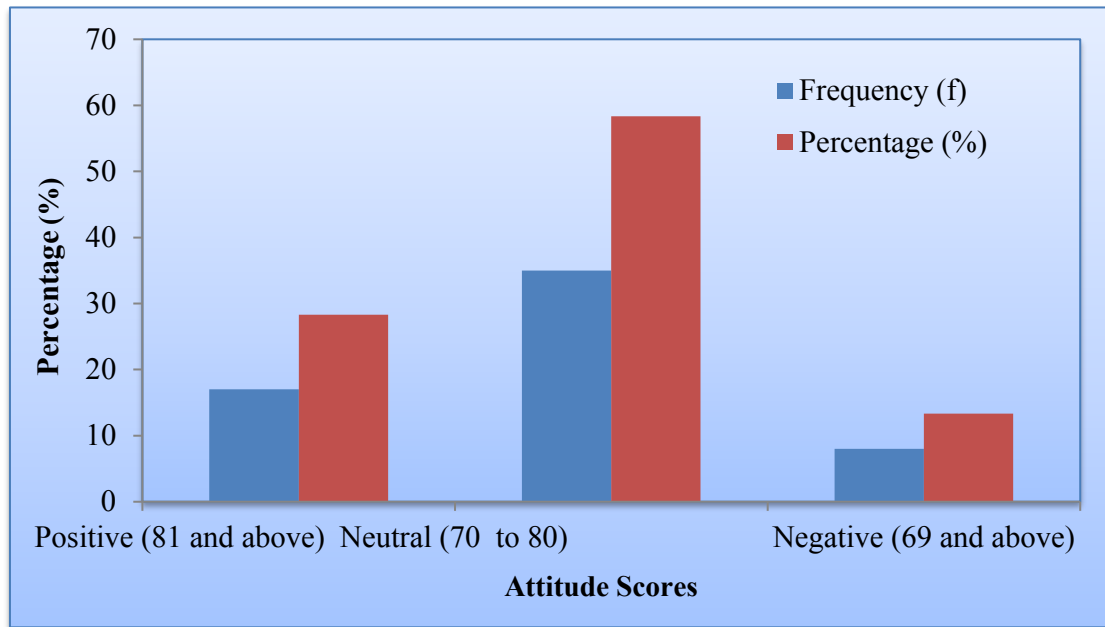


Figure 2. Percentage distribution of level of attitude scores of subjects regarding immunization and its schedule.

Section III: Testing hypotheses

Table 3. Analysis and interpretation of data to find out correlation between knowledge scores and attitude scores (n=60)

\bar{X}	\bar{Y}	Karl Pearson Coefficient of correlation (r _{xy})
23.1	84.1	r = 0.23; (0 < r _{xy} < 1) positive correlation

Table 3 revealed that there was positive correlation between the level of knowledge and attitude scores. Hence, H₁ was accepted.

Conclusion

The findings of the present study have revealed that

- ✓ Majority of subjects 40 (66.67%) had average knowledge regarding Immunization and its schedule.
- ✓ Majority of subjects 35 (58.33%) subjects had neutral attitude towards Immunization and its schedule.
- ✓ The r = 0.23, there was a positive correlation between the level of knowledge and attitude scores.
- ✓ There is no association between knowledge and attitude scores with their socio demographic variables.
- ✓ Knowledge and attitude of mothers of under five children regarding immunization and its schedule was just satisfactory, consequently educational programmes for promoting immunization and parental motivation, accessibility and follow-up should be instituted.

Recommendations

- ✓ This study can be replicated to a larger sample to generalize the findings.
- ✓ A comparative study can be conducted to assess the knowledge and attitude regarding immunization and its schedule among the mothers of under five children.
- ✓ A prospective study can be conducted regarding immunization and its schedule among the mothers of under five children.

- ✓ A study can be carried out to assess the effectiveness of a planned teaching programme on immunization and its schedule among the mothers of under five children.

Conflict of Interest

We hereby declare that there is no conflict of interest.

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