

SUMMARY

The universal compulsory childhood immunization being integrated in primary health care, is achieved successfully through promoted community participations which depends greatly on the family one of the main reasons for incomplete vaccination coverage was lack of mother's knowledge about childhood vaccination.

Aim of the work :

To assess mother's knowledge about compulsory childhood vaccine preventable diseases and its prevention.

The study was conducted in the M.C.H. centers in Benha district to represent urban area and Toukgh district to represent rural area.

A-purposive sample of 99 mothers accompanying their infants who attended to the M.C.H. centers.

Tools of data collection involved a pre-designed questionnaire sheet by was designed by the researcher after reviewing related literature to gather data concerning the following items :

- I. Socio-demographic characteristics of mothers, fathers and their infants (name, age, sex, level of education, occupation, family size, type of family and infant's birth order).

- II. Mother's knowledge about compulsory childhood vaccination regarding its schedule, number of doses, booster dose, adverse reactions that may occur and dealing with it.
- III. Mother's knowledge about seven vaccine preventable diseases regarding its definition, mode of transmission clinical manifestation and complications.
- IV. Mother's knowledge about vaccination programs, source of their information and problems that encounter them during visiting the previously mentioned immunization centers.

The actual work of the current study started by an initial pilot study that was carried out for ten mothers accompanying their infants for the purpose of testing the content reliability of the study tools, then the necessary modification was done, then sample of the pilot study was excluded from the whole study sample.

Data collected through a period of 3 months where the time needed to fill each questionnaire sheet ranged from 15 : 20 minutes.

The finding of the present study showed that the mean age of mothers were 27 ± 5.7 . As regards their level of education were secondary school education (46.5%) while about one fifth of them were illiterate (20.2%). Also as regards their family size it was found that less than three fourths of mothers (73.7%) had family size 3 to 5 persons while (10% of them had family size less than 3 persons. As

regards their type of family it was found that about two thirds of them (66.7%) their families were nuclear while one thirds (33.7%) of them were extended families. And also it was found that half of mothers were from urban (51%) and other half were from rural (48%).

Also findings of the present study showed that more than half of infants (56.6%) were males while (43.4%) were females. Regarding age of infants it was found that more than half of infants (54.5%) were in age groups of (40 days to less than 1 year) while (32.3%) of them were in age group (1-2 years).

As regards infant's birth order it was found that more than three fourths (87.4%) of infants from (first to third) while (12.7%) of them from (fourth-sixth).

The present study showed that the mothers knowledge about compulsory childhood vaccination namely (BCG, Polio, DPT, HBV and measles vaccine) about more than two thirds of mothers reported correct knowledge about all variables of BCG vaccination and more than half of mothers reported correct knowledge regarding schedule and number of doses for polio, DPT and measles vaccination, and Booster doses and polio campaign for polio vaccination, adverse reaction that may occur and how to deal with it for polio and DPT vaccine. While more than half of mothers reported incorrect and

don't know knowledge about all variables of HB vaccination, breast feeding regarding polio vaccination, booster doses of DPT vaccination, adverse reaction that may occur after measles vaccination and how to deal with it.

The present study showed that as regards mothers knowledge about the seven vaccine preventable diseases namely (tuberculosis, poliomyelitis, diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus hepatitis "B" virus and measles) it was found that more than two thirds (69.3%) of mothers gave correct definition of it while it was unknown to (30%) of them on the other hand more than half of mothers gave correct knowledge regarding its mode of transmission, clinical manifestation and complications, while it was unknown to less than half of the respectively.

Findings of the current study showed that there is no statistical significant difference between all socio-demographic characteristics of mothers namely (residence, level of education, job, type of family and family size) and mother's knowledge about compulsory childhood vaccination while there is a significant difference between mother's knowledge about childhood vaccination and father's education regarding B.C.G., polio and HB vaccines while no significant difference regarding D.P.T. and measles vaccines. Also it was found that there was no statistical difference between mother's knowledge about compulsory childhood vaccination and father's job.

Also the present study revealed that there is no statistical significant difference between mother's knowledge about the seven vaccine preventable diseases and their socio-demographic characteristics namely (residence, level of education and job).

The present study revealed that the majority mothers had correct knowledge about the importance of child vaccination previous child vaccination, follow up of vaccination schedule and places of services provision.

It also noticed that (52.6%) of mothers gets their information about vaccination programs from health card (49.5%) from mass media, (27.8%) from relatives and friends and about (50%) from physician and nurses.

The present study also revealed that the most common health problems encountered the mothers during visiting immunization centers were long waiting time, over crowding and no displain for patient flow and inaccessibility.

In our study no statistically significant differences were detected between mothers as regards knowledge about the seven vaccine preventable diseases and compulsory childhood vaccination. This could be due to that the majority of mothers gain their knowledge about vaccination programes from mass media which

increases awareness of mothers regardless of their education, work, or residence.

The present study revealed that mother's knowledge about compulsory childhood vaccination was correctly about BCG vaccination and incorrectly about polio, DPT, HBV and measles vaccine regarding its schedule, number of doses, booster doses, adverse reactions that may occur and how to deal with it. Also, mother's knowledge about the seven vaccine preventable disease was incorrectly regarding its definition, mode of transmission clinical manifestation and complications. And, its was noticed from the results that, there was no statistical significant differences (S.S.D.) between mothers knowledge about compulsory childhood vaccination, seven vaccine preventable diseases and their sociodemographic characteristics namely residence, level of education, occupation, family size, type of family and infant birth order.

The present study recommended that :

- Periodic health education to mothers should be highlighted about importance of compulsory childhood vaccination regarding its schedule number of doses, booster doses, adverse reactions that may occur and how to deal with it and emphasized more health education about HB vaccination.
- Increase public awareness about childhood vaccination and its importance in preventing vaccine preventable diseases and

- decrease mortality and morbidity rate through T.V. programs, broad casting, mothers classes and available media.
- Increase the dose of competency-based training in the form of pre-service in-service as well as the refresher courses on vaccination for the exiting nursing staff so as to be able to educate mothers about knowledge that needed about vaccination programs during health education session in the primary health care facilities.
 - Institutionalization of the immunization concepts and practice within the curriculum of the pre-university education.
 - Set strategy of collaboration between MOHP, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Information for actively facilitate the process of community empowerment emphasizing the role of mother's education in achieving the goal of EPI programs.