

Acceptance, Attitudes, Awareness, and Knowledge of Immunization in Society

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ABSTRACT

Immunization plays a vital role in protecting the lives of people from infectious diseases such as polio, BCG, Diphtheria Tetanus, HPV, etc. Immunization is a must for the development and growth of children and every child in the country receives the full course of recommended immunization dose, and the immunization process becomes more successful. Vaccination is the process of introducing vaccines into the person's body to produce protection against specific disease. The vaccine is the 'antigen' (foreign body) containing material given to acquire immunity against a specific pathogen or disease. Vaccines can be administered through injection, through the mouth, or a nasal spray.

The objective of the study is to determine the knowledge regarding vaccines among people. The study was conducted among people of different age groups. The study was conducted with people's knowledge regarding immunizations were taken through a self-designed structured questionnaire. The survey was conducted online through Google Forms. The present study states that participants belonging to age group of 20-30 years have moderate knowledge and females have more knowledge compared to males.

Keywords:- Immunization, Vaccine, Awareness, knowledge, Public Health.

1. INTRODUCTION

"Prevention of disease is better than cure". Immunization is the process by which an individual immune system is getting resistant to infectious diseases or particular pathogens through vaccines. Immunization plays a vital role in protecting the lives of people from infectious diseases such as polio, BCG, Diphtheria Tetanus, HPV, etc. Immunization is a must for the development and growth of children and every child in the country receives the full course of recommended immunization dose, and the immunization process becomes more successful. Immunization process occurs with help of vaccination. Vaccination is the process of introducing vaccines into the person's body to produce protection against specific diseases (1).

The vaccine is the 'antigen' (foreign body) containing material given to acquire immunity against a specific pathogen or disease. Immunity is either acquired temporarily or permanently against disease. The vaccine usually consists of drugs that resemble disease-causing microorganisms and are often made from either killed or live attenuated microorganisms, their toxins, or their surface proteins. Vaccines can be administered through injection, through the mouth, or a nasal spray. The vaccine reduces the risk of getting the disease by working on the body's natural defense to build protection against the pathogen.

Vaccines prevent the spread of deadly infectious and contagious diseases. These include polio, measles, Diphtheria, HPV, BCG, etc. First vaccine was introduced by Edward Jenner in 1796 against smallpox, virus in humans. India's immunization programme was first launched by Government of India in 1985 which organizes large number of campaigns and become significant in preventing diseases. (2).

There are different types of vaccines and each type of vaccine is designed to teach your immune system how to fight off certain kinds of germs and diseases caused by them.

HPV(Human papillomavirus) vaccine are specific to females which prevent sexually transmitted infections caused by Human papillovirus. Human papillovirus are associated with risk of cervical cancer. Thus HPV vaccine are recommended to all girls of age 11 to 12 upto women of age 26 yrs(3). People living in slums area are at high-risk of disease transmission and currently, about 25% of Indian poor live in slums area. Maternal and children healthcare indicator shows that slum people's health is 2-3 times worse than Urban areas (4).The Contradictions to immunization are rare. The primary contradiction is an allergy to vaccines or components of vaccines. Patients with a history of the comprised immune system such as AIDS or another immune deficiency should use caution when vaccinating with live-attenuated vaccines.Live-attenuated vaccines should not be given to pregnant females unless there are serious issues (such as polio) as live vaccines can cause harm to the fetus.

This study aimed to determine vaccine-related knowledge and awareness among people of different age groups.

II.MATERIALS AND METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted among people of different age groups. The study was conducted with People's knowledge regarding immunizations were take through a self-designed structured questionnaire .

The survey was conducted online through Google Forms. The data were collected from participants responses. The survey was conducted within span of 6 months . The total number of participants take part in the survey was 120. The questionnaires includes the Name, age, gender, and place of residence of the participants. It also includes the importance of immunization, their respective doses, children Immunization and vaccine of females and males, maternal vaccination and immunization side effects. The data were analyzed through statistical method.

III.OBSERVATIONS AND RESULTS

During the study, 120 participants were taken part out of which 52 (43.33%) males and 68(56.67%) females. Participants belong to the age of 10-20 yrs are 35,20-30 yrs are 56, 30-40 yrs are 14 and 15 from 40-50 yrs. Females belonging to age groups 20-30 and 30-40 have more knowledge regarding vaccines as compared to males.

The analysis of the study states that the majority of participants are unaware of respective doses of vaccine concerning age, gender, etc. Most participants do not know about the female vaccines and the vaccine recommended and contradicted during pregnancy.

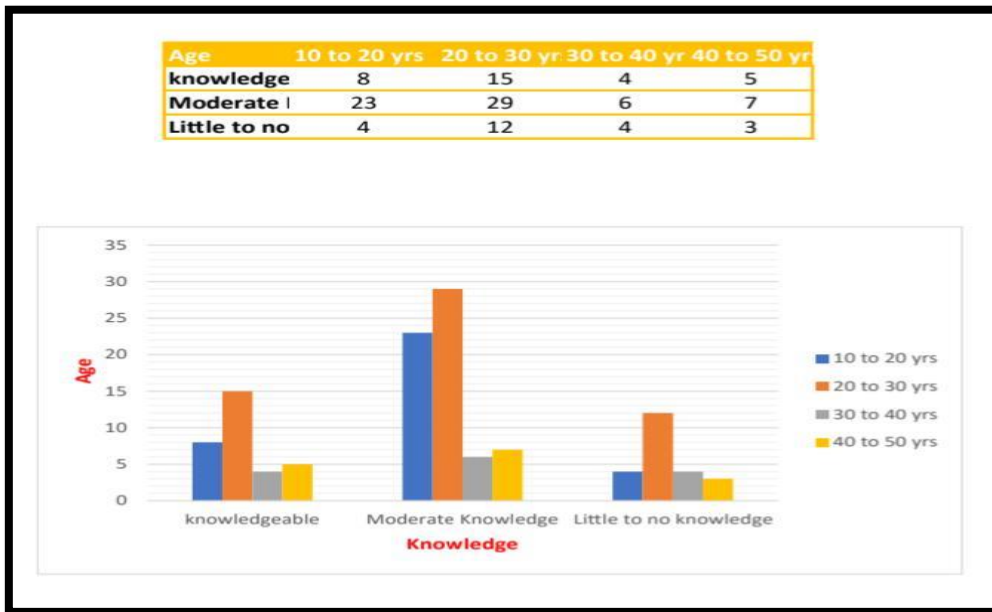
Table 1



The Table 1 depicts the awareness of vaccine based on gender. It shows that female respondents have more knowledge as compared to males.

Table 2

Table 2 depicts that participants belonging to age group of 20-30 yrs have more knowledge as compared to another age group.



IV.DISCUSSION

Many studies on immunization and attitudes toward particular vaccines have been published in many countries at different times. The relevance of this current study is to determine the knowledge and awareness of vaccines among people.

Out of 120 participants, 43.33% were males and the remaining 56.67% were females. Gender distribution was one of the significant factors in identifying the Immunization status. The participant's knowledge was analyzed online through the questionnaires and it states that the participants had not sufficient awareness regarding immunization. This study is similar to the other findings. The study conducted in Iraq by Omar Qutaiba B and his co- authors that there is a need to increase knowledge and awareness about the importance, necessity, and consequences of vaccination (5).

Other studies conducted in Texas by Susan L. Rosenthal Ph.D and cohorts established that there is a lack of knowledge about the need for an HPV vaccine among mothers. There is a need to discuss sexual topics and sexually transmitted infections between mother and daughter and there should be a level of comfort and a good family environment (6).

V. CONCLUSION

In the present study, participants below the age of 30 years had moderate knowledge about vaccines and only a few of them were aware about the vaccines specific to age and Gender. In comparison to males, females have more knowledge and awareness regarding vaccines. Further, there is a need to escalate the awareness about vaccines through Campaigns, advertisements, and conveying information via communication channels and platforms.

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