

Awareness and practice of immunization pattern by the mothers of missing tribe, Assam

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To assess the awareness and practices of immunization pattern by the mothers of the children, to record the prevalent immunization status of the community and to record the sources of information regarding immunization. All total 120 mothers were selected from the community. An awareness and practice scale were developed to meet the objectives of the study. The mothers had low level of awareness about immunization but the practice level among these mothers were comparatively better. Only 50 per cent of the children were fully immunized against various diseases, 43.33 per cent partially immunized and 6.66 per cent were left unimmunized due to various reasons like wrong beliefs, elders advice, fear of side effects, improper maintenance of immunization card etc. Majority of mothers (44.00%) reported to receive proper immunization at right time because of sources like ASHA, ANM and Anganwadi workers while rest of the percentages were by Television, Radio, Newspaper, Neighbours, Doctors/nurses etc. Wrong beliefs about immunization and lack of interest by the parents in practicing immunization pattern is rampant in the community. So, there is urgent need to educate mothers regarding benefits of immunization practices to prevent the most vulnerable segment (infants) of our nation from the six killer diseases.

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INTRODUCTION

Hitherto unknown-mankind always dreamt of all good things with the arrival of a new one in their lives. But all these dreams could be possibly brought into reality only when he grows in a sound environment with the best care possible to adorn the tomorrow's globe with all his potentialities. Immunization is one of most cost effective public health interventions and strategies aimed at protecting and promoting child health and which continue to remain as hot topics in pediatric meetings, updates and conferences. Childhood immunization remains a core area of pediatric practices and ongoing development in vaccinology makes it essential to update their information, awareness and practices in the field of vaccines and immunization. In a country like India, by

vaccinating 1000 infants about 30 deaths from measles, 10 from whooping cough and 5 cases of polio, and by vaccinating 1000 women with tetanus toxoid (TT) atleast 5 deaths from neonatal tetanus could be prevented (CARE, 2002).

Many National and International agencies, therefore, are coming forward with viable intervention programmes to ensure all round development of the precious human resources. Yet a large proportion of vulnerable infants and children are not receiving these facilities.

The present study is therefore, an attempt in this direction with an aim to focus the light on the immunization pattern of children among the Missing (plain tribes) tribes of Teok Revenue Circle of Jorhat district, Assam with the following objectives: to assess the awareness and practices of immunization pattern by the mothers, to record the prevalent immunization status of the community and to record the various sources of information obtained by the mothers in carrying out routine immunization programmes.

METHODOLOGY

The present study is planned to be carried out in Jorhat

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