

Knowledge Towards Immunizations among Traditional Birth Attendants in Wassit Governorate

Assistant lecturer Sameeha Naser Abed

Master Community Health Tech. in. institute technical of kut

Abstract:

Objective: This study aimed to assess the knowledge of traditional birth attendants regarding Immunization.

Methodology: This study was a cross sectional study conducted at wassit government , for a period of 4 months extending from 1st of March 2015 to the 1st June 2015. The study sample included 64 traditional birth attendants whose ages were 21 years and above. Data collection was obtained by direct interview (using the questionnaire form) . The Research objectives are explained to TBAs and an emphasis on the confidentiality of information.

Results: forty-sixty (64) TBAs were included in this study, Significantly over 75% (48) found in age >40 years. 21 (32.81%) had read and write level . They were predominantly married, 67.19 % . In addition, They were residing in an urban area. Relative to length of experience, the highest frequency of TBAs were in the length of experience of TBAs (> 10) years was 53.13 % . nearly half of them (57.81%) were trained in the sectors of health. High knowledge towards Immunizations was observed among (93.75 %) of TBAs

Recommendations: Depending on the high rate of TBAs' knowledge concerning Immunization recommend to train TBAs and utilize of them in the provision of advice on Immunization, especially in rural areas. Consolidation of relations between TBAs and health sectors, because of the significant impact on the high level of disease prevention, through seminars, lectures and open meetings.

Key words : Traditional birth attendants; knowledge , Immunizations.

Introduction

Immunization is fundamental for an effective , safest & efficient preventive management of major illnesses ^[1,2]. Remarkable, it's considered the most important pillars of the primary health

care and the pest indicators that can be relied upon to evaluate the outcome of the health services provided to various social and economic classes^[3] Besides the provision of basic vaccines which contributes to the reduction maternal and

childhood morbidity & mortality ^[4,2]. TBAs seem to play an significant role in encouraging immunization , especially in the areas where the births predominatingly in homes ^[5] This is because TBAs have a special social status , and enjoys the trust and esteem and acceptance from women and their belief that TBAs provide the preferable services as compared with the health workers ^[6] furthermore, one of the objective of the TBAs' training programs was to aimed to strengthen the linkages between health system and community which will be reflected positively on maternal and child protection ^[7]. In this study, the knowledge about immunization were assessed among TBAs.

Subjects and Methods: Administrative Arrangement: A formal approval was obtained from the Wasit Health Directorate to conduct this study. A verbal consent has been taken from each TBAs before her participation. the purpose of the study was clearly explained to the patients . All the information was kept confidential.

Place , time & design of Study : This was a cross sectional study conducted at seventeen sub districts in wassit government , north of Baghdad, Iraq's capital, for a period of 4 months

extending from 1st of March 2015 to the 1st June 2015

Study sample: The study sample included 64 traditional birth attendants (37 trained and 27 untrained) whose ages were 21 years and above

The Data Collection: The method of collecting information depends on direct interview (face to face or by phone) , with TBAs. Data collection was obtained by direct interview (using the questionnaire form) with TBAs included information concerning demographic variables such as age , residence, marital status , educational, Employment status. The knowledge information (Is a set of 7 questions regarding the traditional birth attendants knowledge) . The knowledge score were classified as good and acceptable and poor depending upon the score. The answer is correct was scored two, and the answer is incorrect was scored one, the general awareness scores ranged from 7 to 14 (Minimum=7, Maximum=14, Medium=10.5). The medium was calculated for each question and those score below the medium consider poor score, above or equal 10.5 acceptable & good score.

The Research objectives are explained and an emphasis on the confidentiality of

information.

Statistical analysis: The information regarding each case was transferred into code sheets and data entry was and statistical analysis was done using the Minitab (version16) and Excel application

2007, the data description were presented as frequencies and percentages.

Limitation of the Study: This study is limited by inability to cover all TBAs in wassit governorate

Results:

Socio-demographics characteristics: The demographic characteristics of the sample are summarized in Table 1. forty-sixty (64) TBAs were included in this study, three-quarters of TBAs (48) found in age >40 years. 21 (32.81%) had read and write level , while 15 (23.44%) of the participants had Intermediate education, and only 3.11% had institute & higher education .

They were predominantly married, 67.19 % , while 21.88% were widowed. nearly half of them (54.69%) were unemployed In addition, They were residing in an urban area. Relative to Length of Experience, the highest frequency of TBAs were in the length of experience of TBAs (>10) was 53.13 % . Out of 57.81% who were trained in the sector of health.

Table-1: Socio-demographic characteristics of the study population

Variable	TBAs	
	No.	%
Age		
21-40	16	25.00
≥40	48	75.00
Education level		
Illiterate	4	6.35
Read and write	21	32.81
Primary	11	17.19
Intermediate	15	23.44
Secondary	11	17.19
Institute & Higher	2	3.11
Employment status		
Employed	29	45.31
unemployed	35	54.69
Marital status		
single	1	1.56
Married	43	67.19
Divorced	6	9.38
Widowed	14	21.88

Place of residence		
Urban	53	82.81
Rural	11	17.19
Length of Experience		
< 5	9	14.06
6 – 10	21	32.81
> 10	34	53.13
TBAs		
Trained	37	57.81
Untrained	27	42.19

TBAs' knowledge about Immunization was assessed and the results are illustrated in Table 2. study results revealed that was 98.44% of the TBAs had heard about immunization. Majority of TBAs, 98.44% TBAs thought that immunization were protect from diseases. The most vaccines known by TBAs are the polio and Hepatitis B, which represented for 75.56 % and 62.22 % respectively. followed by the Measles and BCG, 55.56 % for both. The Tetanus is the fourth vaccine known by TBAs (46.67%). The result shows that about 37.78 % and 31.11% of TBAs know the Whooping cough and Diphtheria. Majority among the TBAs, 95.31% believed that immunization were begin at birth. Significantly, over 85% of TBAs believed that vaccines don't have harmful effect. All of TBAs except two (96.88%), have knowledge about vaccines pregnancy. Similarly, 18.75% of TBAs believed that Tetanus vaccine during pregnancy can prevents Neonatal tetanus.

Table2: Knowledge of the study sample regarding immunization

Questions	Answers of TBAs	No.	%
Aware to immunization?	Yes	63	98.44
	No	1	1.56
Do vaccine protects diseases?	Yes	63	98.44
	No	1	1.56
Number of disease can prevent known by immunization?	Less than 3	32	50.00
	more than 3	32	50.00
What are the diseases that vaccines can prevent?	Polio	34	75.56
	Diphtheria	14	31.11
	Measles	25	55.56
	Tetanus	21	46.67
	Whooping cough	17	37.78
	Tuberculosis	25	55.56
	Hepatitis B	28	62.22
At any age begin vaccinations?	At birth	61	95.31

	During the first 6 weeks	2	3.13
	At any age	1	1.56
Are vaccines harmful effect?	Yes	8	12.50
	No	56	87.50
Do you have knowledge about vaccines pregnancy?	Yes	62	96.88
	No	2	3.13
Tetanus vaccine during pregnancy can prevents ?	Neonatal tetanus	12	18.75
	Mother from tetanus	46	71.88
	Don't know	6	9.38

Distribution of knowledge about immunization across all respondents in wassit is highlighted in Table 3. Worth mentioning that the knowledge of TBAs in this study with respect to immunization is highly (93.75%).

Table 3: Knowledge' scores of TBAs .

Knowledge score	TBAS	
	N0	%
Poor	4	6.25
Good and acceptable	60	93.75
Total	64	100

Discussion:

The age distribution in this study revealed that (75.00 %) of the respondents of TBAs were ≥ 40 years of age. This was comparable to a Pakistani study Khalid Ismail et al, 2007 in which it was reported that 85% of TBAs were ≥ 40 years of age^[8]. More than one-third of the studied sample were read and write. This differs from study conducted by

Gloria Hamela, et al, 2014 in Malawi, who found that fifty percent of TBAs were illiterate^[9]. This study detected that more than 65% of TBAs included in the study were married. This is in agreement with results of study done by Dismas B Vyagusa et al, 2013 in Tanzania^[10].

The study shows that nearly 60% of TBAs were trained, the result goes with the findings obtained by Khalid

Ismail et al, 2007 in Pakistan, who found that 52% of TBAs were trained^[8]. The present study revealed that there was 53.13% of the studied sample to have more than 15 experience as TBAs. Similar findings were reported by Tina Y. Falle1 et al , 2009 in Nepal, he found that 44.1% of TBAs were have more than 15 experience^[5] . It is worth mentioning that the knowledge of TBAs in this study with respect to immunization is highly (93.75%).

Conclusions:

Depending on the results of the study conclude that Three quarters of TBAs in this study were forty years and over of age. Majority of TBAs were read and write and most of them from urban areas and more than half of the studied sample have more than 15 experience as TBAs and them were trained by the health sector. The study also concluded that TBAs' knowledge regarding Immunization was extremely high.

Recommendations:

The main recommendations of the present study are consolidation of relations between TBAs and health

sectors, because of the significant impact on the high level of disease prevention. Through seminars, lectures and open meetings. Depending on the high rate of TBAs' knowledge concerning Immunization recommend to train TBAs and utilize of them in the provision of advice on Immunization.

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تقييم المعارف إزاء التحصين بين القابلات التقليديات في محافظة واسط

مدرس مساعد سميحة ناصر عبد سعيد

ماجستير تقنيات صحة مجتمع \ معهد الكوت التقني.

الهدف : هدفت هذه الدراسة إلى تقييم معارف القابلات التقليديات حول التحصين .
منهجية البحث : أجريت دراسة مقطعية في محافظة واسط، لمدة 4 أشهر امتدت من الأول من آذار 2015 إلى الأول من حزيران عام 2015. وشملت عينة الدراسة 64 من القابلات التقليديات التي تراوحت أعمارهن من 21 سنة فما فوق. تم جمع البيانات عن طريق المقابلة المباشرة (باستخدام استمارة استبيان). حيث تم شرح أهداف البحث إلى القابلات مع التأكيد على سرية المعلومات.
النتائج : شملت الدراسة أربع وستون قابلة، بيت الدراسة أن أكثر من 75٪ (48) تجاوزن 40 سنة من العمر . كما أن 21 (32.81 %) تقرأ وتكتب واغلبهن متزوجات 67.19٪ . بالإضافة إلى ذلك، يقيمن في منطقة حضرية . بالنسبة لفترة الخبرة ، كان النسبة الأعلى للفترة (<15) سنة حيث بلغت 53.13٪ من القابلات . وان ما يقرب من نصفهم (57.81٪) دربن في قطاعات الصحة . وقد لوحظ أن 93.75% لديهن مستوى عالي من المعارف نحو التحصين.

التوصيات : بناء على المستوى العالي من المعرفة المتعلقة التحصين للقابلات "توصي الدراسة بتدريب القابلات والاستفادة منهن في تقديم المشورة بشأن التحصين، وخاصة في المناطق الريفية. مع توطيد العلاقات بين القابلات والقطاعات الصحية، مما له من تأثير كبير على مستوى الوقاية من الأمراض من خلال الندوات والمحاضرات واللقاءات المفتوحة.
الكلمات الافتتاحية : القابلات التقليديات , المعرفة , التحصين.