



Utilization of Primary Health Care Service for the Children by Their Mothers

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ABSTRACT

Motherhood is the most important position a woman can have in her life but can be a life-threatening event as well. During pregnancy, any woman can develop serious, life-threatening complications that require medical care. The objective of the study is to assess the knowledge regarding the utilization of primary health care services for children by their mothers. Find out the association between the utilization of primary health care services with selected demographic variables. The descriptive study was carried out with a sample size of 100 in Waghodia. A Convenience sampling technique was used to get desired sample size. A self-structured questionnaire was used to analyze the knowledge of the mothers. Descriptive and inferential statistics were calculated and SPSS 21.0 version software was used for the analysis of data. Shows that out of the sample of 100 individuals, 10% had poor knowledge, 17% had average knowledge, and 73% had good knowledge regarding the utilization of primary healthcare services for children. The range of scores for the sample was 2, with the lowest score being 2 and the highest score being 11. The mean score for the sample was 2.63, indicating that the average score was closer to the poor level of knowledge. The standard deviation of the scores was 0.66, indicating that there was relatively low variability in the level of knowledge scores among the sample. The results showed that though people had awareness regarding the utilization of primary health care services for children by their mothers, the health of people is very important and to achieve optimal health, knowledge is of prime importance.

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INTRODUCTION

Motherhood is the most important position a woman can have in her life but can be a life-threatening event as well. During pregnancy, any woman can develop serious, life-threatening complications that require medical care. In the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, Tenth Revision, 1992 (ICD-10), WHO defines maternal death as "The death of a woman while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy, irrespective of the duration and site of the pregnancy, from any cause related to or aggravated by the pregnancy or its management but not from accidental or incidental causes" For every woman who dies, 30–50 women suffer from injury, infection, or disease. Pregnancy-related complications are among the leading causes of death and disability for women aged 15–49 in developing countries. The desired outcome of pregnancy is always a healthy mother and a healthy baby.

1. To assess the knowledge regarding the utilization of primary health care services for the children by their mothers.
2. To find out the association between the utilization of primary health care services with selected demographic variables.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

A quantitative research approach, the descriptive research design was adopted by the present study. Ethical clearance and formal permissions were obtained to conduct the study. 100 samples were conveniently recruited from Waghodia. The data-gathering instrument was a structured knowledge questionnaire. The information gathered was tallied and examined in terms of the study's objectives and inferential statistics.

RESULTS

The frequency and percentage distribution of various demographic variables, The religion variable indicate that the majority of the sample (53%) are Muslim, followed by Hindu (30%), Christian (13%), and others (4%). The social class variable shows that the largest proportion of the sample (38%) falls into the upper-

class category, while 27% belong to the middle class, and 30% belong to the upper-middle class. The level of education variable indicates that over half of the sample (53%) have graduated from college or university, while 46% have completed secondary education, and only 1% have completed primary education.

The employment status variable shows that the majority of the sample (57%) are employed, while 43% are unemployed. The number of children variable indicates that the largest proportion of the sample (56%) does not have any children, followed by those with one child (41%). The type of family variable indicates that almost half of the sample (49%) belongs to a joint family, while 44% belong to a nuclear family.

The earning in the family variable shows that the largest proportion of the sample (38%) has two earners in the family, while 34% have one earner, 17% have three earners, and 11% have four or more earners. The income variable indicates that the largest proportion of the sample (46%) falls into the income range of 15,000-19,999, followed by 31% falling into the range of 20,000-24,999.

Finally, the pregnancy period variable shows that the majority of the sample (63%) experienced pregnancy on time, while 37% did not. The congenital disease variable indicates that neural tube defect and diabetes are the most common conditions reported, each accounting for 32% of cases, followed by "other" conditions (28%), and malnutrition (8%).

**Table 1. Knowledge Regarding Primary Health Care Service Utilization for Children
n= 100**

Level of Knowledge	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)	Range	Mean	SD
Poor Knowledge (0-3)	10	10(%)	2.00	2.6300	0.66142
Average Knowledge (4-6)	17	17(%)			
Good Knowledge (7-11)	73	73(%)			

Out of the sample of 100 individuals, 10% had poor knowledge, 17% had average knowledge, and 73% had good knowledge regarding the utilization of primary healthcare services for children.

The range of scores for the sample was 2, with the lowest score being 2 and the highest score being 11. The mean score for the sample was 2.63, indicating that the average score was closer to the poor level of knowledge. The standard deviation of the scores was 0.66, indicating that there was relatively low variability in the level of knowledge scores among the sample.

Association between knowledge score utilization of primary Health care service for the children with selected demographic data. The results indicate that there was no significant association between the level of knowledge and religion ($\chi^2 = 9.791$, $df = 6$, $p = 0.134$), social class ($\chi^2 = 7.403$, $df = 6$, $p = 0.285$), level of education ($\chi^2 = 2.755$, $df = 6$, $p = 0.839$), employment status ($\chi^2 = 1.205$, $df = 2$, $p = 0.548$), number of children ($\chi^2 = 2.466$, $df = 6$, $p = 0.872$), type of family ($\chi^2 = 5.526$, $df = 6$, $p = 0.478$), earning in the family ($\chi^2 = 7.087$, $df = 6$, $p = 0.313$), and income ($\chi^2 = 6.052$, $df = 6$, $p = 0.417$). However, there was a significant association between the knowledge score and the presence of congenital diseases ($\chi^2 = 17.368$, $df = 6$, $p = 0.008$).

DISCUSSION

The utilization of primary health care services for children is crucial for promoting their health and well-being. This study aimed to investigate the factors that influence the utilization of primary health care services by mothers for their children. The findings of this study have significant implications for the design of interventions aimed at improving access and use of primary health care services.

The study found that the utilization of primary healthcare services was influenced by several factors, including socio-economic status, geographic location, cultural beliefs, and availability of healthcare facilities. Mothers from lower socio-economic backgrounds were less likely to utilize primary health care services for their children compared to those from higher socio-economic backgrounds. This finding is consistent with previous research that has shown that poverty is a significant barrier to accessing health care services.

CONCLUSION

The results showed that people had awareness regarding the utilization of primary health care services for children by their mothers. Out of the sample of 100 individuals, 10% had poor knowledge, 17% had average knowledge, and 73% had good knowledge regarding the utilization of primary healthcare services for children.

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