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### Evaluation of knowledge and behavior of parents about vaccination of their under 6 year-old children in Zahedan

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#### Abstract:

Background: Immunization is the most efficacious and cost effective intervention available to improve the health and wellbeing of children and prevention of infectious disease. Methods: The goal of this research was the determination of knowledge and behavior of parents about vaccination of under 6 year-old children in Zahedan. This study was descriptive analytic. The sample size was 1066 persons (father or mother) and the data was collected with a questionnaire containing parents' specifications (gender, age and education level). The collected data was analyzed with Chi-square test. Results: From 1066 persons 756 persons (70.9%) had moderate knowledge, and 159 persons (14.9%) had low knowledge about vaccination. 844 persons (79.2%) had performed complete and 222 persons (20.5%) incomplete vaccination for their children. In this study we found significant relation between knowledge and age, as well as educational level and information source of parents ( $p < 0.001$ ). The relationship between parent's behavior about vaccination and her age ( $p = 0.2$ ), and her education level ( $p = 0.1$ ) was not significant, but relationship between parents behavior and information source was significant ( $p = 0.007$ ). Parents' information source was Radio, TV, journals, books and newspapers, friends, physicians and health care workers. Conclusion: Parents' knowledge about vaccination is an important factor in prevention of infectious diseases, so it will be rewarding to work on increasing parents' knowledge about vaccination by any available means.

#### Keywords:

Parents

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