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A SURVEY ON THE REASONS FOR NOT BEGINNING OR COMPLETING THE IMMUNIZATION SCHEDULE OF THE EXPANDED PROGRAMME ON IMMUNIZATION IN IRAN

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Abstract:

Not beginning or completing the vaccination schedule as recommended in the Expanded Programme on Immunization is one of the major reasons for low immunization coverage. It should be studied in detail for remedial action, if the objectives of the EPI in Iran are to be achieved as stated. Generally, lack of knowledge, lack of motivation and obstacles are the basic categorical reasons for low coverage. Studies done shows however, that lack of motivation does not seem to play an important role in Iran. Whereas, unawareness of the need for immunization and previous attack of target diseases, mainly measles, is the major components of lack of knowledge. Among obstacles, illness of the child, including afflictions to low fever, uncomplicated diarrhea, and so on, are the most frequently stated reasons for postponement of immunization. Presently, both cases are handled improperly. Diagnosis of measles is not an easy task and there are no contradictions for injecting such a child with live, attenuated measles vaccine. Moreover, fever and mild diarrhea not cause any harmful side effects. Thus the Ministry of Health and Medical Education has officially recommended insisting on immunizing such children. It is only with following such recommendations and actual expansion of the immunization delivery centers, that immunization coverage can be elevated to reach the stated objectives of EPI in Iran.

Keywords:

EPI , Vaccination drop out

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