

OP007

Maternal satisfaction and knowledge of Early Childhood Development (ECD) related public health services

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Introduction

A good start in life gives rise to better outcomes as adults, hence the provision of quality health care helps children to reach maximum development potential.

Objectives

To determine the level of satisfaction and knowledge on ECD-related public health services, screening, and psychosocial stimulation among mothers in the Medical Officer of Health area Damana.

Methods

Mothers of children attending polyclinics in the Damana MOH area were recruited through a consecutive sampling method to conduct a descriptive cross-sectional study. A structured and pre-tested interviewer-administered questionnaire was used.

Results

Satisfaction with ECD services was reported by 98.4% (95%CI[96.0-99.0]; n=306) mothers. A good level of knowledge was reported by the majority (78.5%; 95%CI[74.0-83.0]; n=244) of mothers on child development milestones. Only 56.3% (95%CI[51.0-62.0]; n=175) mothers had a good knowledge level on psychosocial stimulations (CI=0.51-0.62). However, a poor level of knowledge on child developmental screening was noted among 87.1% (95%CI[83.0-90.0]; n=271) mothers. In addition, 58.8% (95%CI[53.0-64.0]; n=183) of mothers reported a poor knowledge level of available child developmental services in the area. A good level of knowledge in psychosocial stimulation has shown a significant association with mothers being educated beyond O/L ($X^2(1, N=311) = 5.69, p = 0.017$). Working mothers had a significant association with a good level of knowledge on psychosocial stimulation ($\chi^2(1, N=311) = 4.62, p = 0.03$).

Conclusion

Lack of maternal knowledge in available ECD services needed to be addressed to enhance the quality of care at the field level.

Key words: *Early Childhood Development, developmental screening, psychosocial stimulation, maternal knowledge and satisfaction*