

KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDE TOWARDS IMMUNIZATION AMONG NEWLY ADMITTED MBBS STUDENTS IN A MEDICAL COLLEGE OF EASTERN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Physician knowledge and support of vaccines greatly influences patients' decisions to get vaccinated. MBBS students should have fair knowledge and positive attitude regarding immunization so that they can improve parents' understanding of vaccines.

Objective: To evaluate the knowledge and attitude towards immunization among newly admitted MBBS students of IMS & SUM Hospital.

Methods: A cross-sectional study was carried out among 106 students who were newly entered to MBBS course. Data of demographic profile, knowledge and attitude towards immunization were collected using a self-administered questionnaire. Knowledge was assessed by 24 questions, each correct answer bearing 1 point. There were 6 questions regarding the attitude towards immunization assessed by Yes/ No option. Chi-squared test and Independent samples T test were applied to know the difference of knowledge across gender of students between knowledge and attitude of participants. Data analysis was done using SPSS v20 software.

Results: Mean score obtained by students were 9.35 ± 3.50 . There was no significant difference ($p=0.22$) in knowledge scores of males and female students. Regarding the source of information for vaccines, 32.07 % students knew through health care workers followed by internet (19.81 %) and medical journals (17.92 %). Information from parents and peers was rare. The attitude towards immunization was found to be positive among about 70 % of participants.

Conclusions: The present study revealed fair knowledge and positive attitude towards vaccination among students newly entered to MBBS course. The identified knowledge gaps and association between vaccine knowledge and attitude imply recommendations to introduce comprehensive vaccination curriculum at undergraduate level of medical studies.

KEYWORDS: Vaccination, NIS, UIP, Vaccines

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