

Determinants of Optional Pediatric Vaccination in Relation to Public Knowledge at Pravara Rural Hospital, Loni, India.

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In India, a majority of scheduled pediatric vaccinations are supplied by the government except for a few which may have serious complications in pediatric populations (e.g. typhoid, chicken pox). Although the later are included on the immunization schedule, it is the responsibility of the parents to purchase them for their child, if they choose to do so, and assuming they are aware of the availability. The purpose of this study is to analyze the prevalence of optional vaccines being given to children in relation to the public's general education regarding them at Pravara Rural Hospital, Loni, a tertiary health care center in Maharashtra State, India. Data was obtained from vaccinations records during set immunization clinics. In addition to the vaccination records, a questionnaire was constructed which was designed to show parents awareness and educational background on vaccinations. Most often, a parent is simply aware that vaccinations are essential to their child's health, but only give them the ones provided by the government because they know those are the ones made available to them. While many stated that health was a priority for their family, not knowing about the availability of optional vaccinations is the most likely determinant for these vaccines not being administered. This project allowed Drake University students to understand the public health implications of limited vaccination knowledge in a rural community and global differences in healthcare.