

Infant Health Sustainability in the United Arab Emirates: Mothers' Perspectives on Vaccination

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Abstract

In less than forty years, the United Arab Emirates underwent a surge in development across many sectors. This included improving infant healthcare services through the establishment of medical programmes such as mother-and-child healthcare and infant vaccinations and inoculations. However, evaluating the success of those preventative measures is hindered by the absence of any immunization indicators. In order to safeguard infant health, the proper healthcare services must be accompanied by a national health education and promotion agenda. Public awareness, especially among mothers, plays a key role in determining the percentage of vaccinated children each year. As primary care-givers, mothers are responsible for their children's access (or lack thereof) to vaccines. This study focuses on the aspect of 'infant health sustainability' by examining the knowledge and attitudes of Emirati women regarding infant immunization. A representative sample of female Emiratis, aged between 18 and 25, were randomly selected to participate in a survey. The questionnaire, based on WHO guidelines, reveals information such as the type of vaccines administered, dosage side effects, and reasons for vaccination. Recommendations based on the outcomes of this study could help the U.A.E to improve public awareness about the importance of infant immunization.