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Knowledge and Attitude of Fathers towards Childhood Vaccination in Ogun State, Nigeria: A Comparative Study

Connaissance et Attitude des Pères Vis-à-Vis de la Vaccination des Enfants dans l'État d'Ogun, au Nigeria : Une Étude Comparative

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ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND/OBJECTIVES: Vaccine-preventable diseases (VPDs) have been shown to account for one-fifth of deaths among under-fives. Father's knowledge and attitude greatly influence the approval and uptake of childhood vaccination in patriarchal communities. This study aimed to assess and compare fathers' knowledge and attitude to childhood vaccination in urban and rural communities of Ogun State, Nigeria.

METHODS: Four hundred and forty men each were interviewed in rural and urban areas. An interviewer-administered questionnaire was used to elicit data which were analyzed with IBM SPSS version 20. Mean ages of respondents were compared using T-test while chi-square was used in testing association between categorical variables. Results were presented in tables and $P < 0.05$ was considered statistically significant.

RESULTS: There was no statistically significant difference in the mean ages of residents in the urban and rural areas ($t = -1.82, p = 0.07$). A greater proportion of rural participants (51.4%) had an overall good knowledge of childhood vaccination as against 45.2% of urban men but this difference was not statistically significant with $p = 0.069$. A greater percentage of participants in the urban area (58.0%) had an overall positive attitude to male participation in childhood vaccination compared to 54.1% of rural men. However, this difference was not statistically significant ($p = 0.204$).

CONCLUSION/RECOMMENDATION: There was better knowledge of childhood vaccination among rural participants. In contrast, attitude towards childhood vaccination was better among urban residents. There is a need for educational interventions that may positively influence the attitude of men towards childhood vaccinations, particularly in rural areas to be conducted by the government, health workers, and other stakeholders through various communication media and adopting diverse health education methods. **WAJM 2022; 39(7): 747–755.**

Keywords: Knowledge, attitude, rural, urban, childhood vaccination, Ogun State.

RÉSUMÉ

CONTEXTE/OBJECTIFS: Il a été démontré que les maladies évitables par la vaccination (MEV) sont responsables d'un cinquième des décès chez les moins de cinq ans. Les connaissances et l'attitude du père influencent grandement l'approbation et l'adoption de la vaccination des enfants dans les communautés patriarcales. Cette étude visait à évaluer et à comparer les connaissances et l'attitude des pères vis-à-vis de la vaccination des enfants dans les communautés urbaines et rurales de l'État d'Ogun, au Nigeria.

MÉTHODES: Quatre cent quarante hommes ont été interrogés dans les zones rurales et urbaines. Un questionnaire administré par un enquêteur a été utilisé pour obtenir des données qui ont été analysées avec IBM SPSS version 20. Les âges moyens des répondants ont été comparés à l'aide du test T, tandis que le test du carré a été utilisé pour tester l'association entre les variables catégorielles. Les résultats ont été présentés sous forme de tableaux et $P < 0,05$ a été considéré comme statistiquement significatif.

RÉSULTATS: Il n'y a pas de différence statistiquement significative entre l'âge moyen des résidents des zones urbaines et rurales ($t = -1,82, p = 0,07$). Une plus grande proportion de participants ruraux (51,4 %) avait une bonne connaissance générale de la vaccination infantile contre 45,2 % des hommes urbains, mais cette différence n'était pas statistiquement significative avec $p = 0,069$. Un pourcentage plus élevé de participants de la zone urbaine (58,0 %) avait une attitude globalement positive à l'égard de la participation masculine à la vaccination des enfants, contre 54,1 % des hommes en milieu rural. Toutefois, cette différence n'était pas statistiquement significative ($p = 0,204$).

CONCLUSION/RECOMMANDATION: Les participants ruraux avaient une meilleure connaissance de la vaccination des enfants. En revanche, l'attitude envers la vaccination des enfants était meilleure chez les citadins. Il est nécessaire que le gouvernement, les agents de santé et les autres parties prenantes mènent des interventions éducatives susceptibles d'influencer positivement l'attitude des hommes à l'égard des vaccinations infantiles, en particulier dans les zones rurales, par le biais de divers moyens de communication et en adoptant diverses méthodes d'éducation sanitaire. **WAJM 2022; 39(7): 747–755.**

Mots clés: Connaissance, attitude, rural, urbain, vaccination des enfants, État d'Ogun.

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Abbreviations: LGA, Local Government Area; VPDs, Vaccine-Preventable Diseases.