

The Effects of Planned Instruction on Mother's Knowledge, Health Beliefs and Number of Children Receiving Immunization in Sikhothaboung District, Vientiane, Lao P.D.R.*

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Abstract:

Purpose: To study the effects of planned instruction on mother's knowledge, health beliefs, and number of children receiving immunization for diphtheria, pertussis, neonatal tetanus, and polio.

Design: Quasi-experimental research, a two group pre-test post-test design.

Methods: The study subjects were mothers living in Sikhothaboung District, 30 mothers from Viengkham, Chansavang, and Nongteng Villages as an experimental group, and 30 mothers from Nongneo, Nalao, and Thongpong Villages as a control group. The experimental group received planned instruction and handbooks while the control group did not. Data were collected using a questionnaire, asking about mothers' knowledge and health beliefs regarding diphtheria, pertussis, neonatal tetanus, and polio, before the intervention and at the first time they took their children for DTP and Polio vaccination. Data analysis included means and standard deviations of knowledge and health belief scores about diphtheria, pertussis, neonatal tetanus, and polio. The difference in knowledge and health belief scores after intervention between the 2 groups was analyzed by independent t-tests. The difference in the number of mothers bringing their children for vaccination in the 2 sample groups was analyzed by Fisher's exact test.

Main findings: Results of this study showed that the mother's knowledge and health beliefs after intervention between groups were significantly different ($p < .05$), but the number of children receiving immunization between groups were not significantly difference.

Conclusion and recommendations: In accordance with the results of this study, the planned intervention conducted in this study may provide a hospital or other health service unit with guidance for promoting mother's knowledge and health belief about diphtheria, pertussis, neonatal tetanus, and polio. As such it could encourage more mothers to vaccinate their children. Further research should be conducted on encouraging mothers to take children for vaccinations, and on the influences of providing social support for expenses, and travel.

Keywords: child immunization, knowledge, health belief, Lao's child healthcare