

Knowledge and Practice of Frontline Health Workers on Immunization Services Provision in Hard to Reach Districts of CORE Group Polio Project Operation Areas in Ethiopia

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BACKGROUND:

Health workers are grass root agencies in immunization for rural and urban population, inadequate knowledge of vaccination and incorrect administration may reduce the potency of vaccines and lead to adverse effects also. So, it becomes important to understand the knowledge level and practices of this huge workforce regarding the important preventive measure i.e. Immunization Adequate knowledge, positive attitude and practices in immunization services provision and the cold chain system are important to keep potency of vaccines, effectiveness of immunization and prevention vaccine failures.

STUDY OBJECTIVE:

To assessed Primary Health Care Unit (PHCU) service providers' knowledge, and practices regarding immunization service delivery working in CORE Group Polio Project (CGPP) targeted, pastoralist and semi pastoralist regions of Ethiopia.

METHODS:

A cross-sectional survey by using WHO Health service readiness and availability tools; a sample of 648 HC staffs involved in EPI provision in 233 health centers in five regions and responded to self-administered questioner. Double data entry verification system employed in EPI data, cleaned and analyzed using STATA 12.

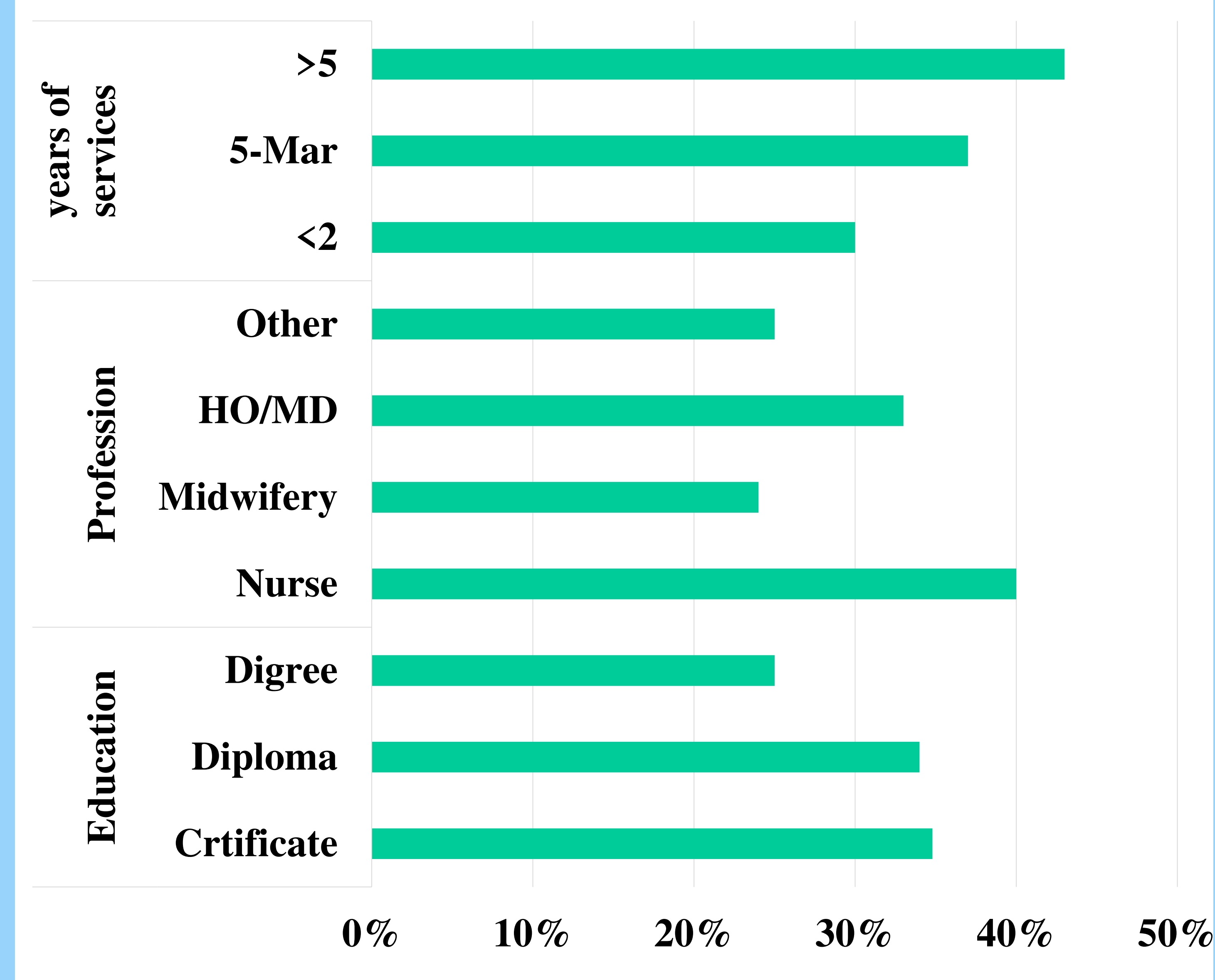
RESULTS:

Among the 649 respondents, only sixteen percent of respondents identified the correct dose and date of Vaccination.

Knowledge and practice of vaccine placement in the refrigerator based on heat sensitivity for polio 385(60.7%), Measles 375(59.5%) and BCG 383(60 %) respondents correctly identified.

Regarding Placement of cold sensitive vaccines, DPT 433(69.3%) and TT 378(60.0%) know the correct placement. On the other hand, (40.5%) HWs could not identify Items not allowed to put in vaccine refrigerator.

Proper Vaccine Storage Practice in Vaccine Refrigerator Among Health Center Respondents, CGPP areas, Ethiopia, 2016.



RESULTS ...

Predictors of Knowledge for Vaccination Schedule Among Immunization Service Providers at Health Center, CGPP Areas, Ethiopia, 2016

Variable	Total	Poor n (%)	Good n (%)	P value
Sex				
Male	467	196(42)	271(58)	0.060
Female	173	87(50.3)	86(49.7)	
Age				
< 25 years	228	110(48.2)	118(51.8)	0.106
25-29 years	302	124(41.1)	178(58.9)	
30+ years	90	33(36.7)	57(63.3)	
Residence				
Semi pastoralist	311	138(44.4)	173(55.6)	0.892
Pastoralist	333	146(43.8)	187(56.2)	
Educational status				
Diploma	450	332(73.8)	118(26.2)	0.350
First degree	147	110 (74.8)	37 (25.2)	
Less than diploma	48	40 (83.3)	8 (16.7)	
Years of work experience				
≤ 2 years	328	157(47.9)	171(52.1)	0.002
3-5 years	196	83(42.3)	113(57.7)	
> 5 years	84	22(26.2)	62(73.8)	

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION:

Significant portion of health professional unable to identify correct date and dose of vaccination. Special attention should be given for vaccine and other material placement in vaccine refrigerators and corrective training and other mechanisms shall be design. Vaccination related basic and refresher training shall be designed for health center health workers.

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