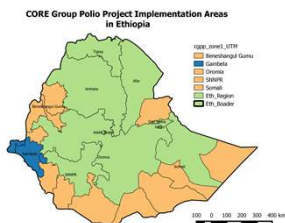


Impact of Plastic Bag for Vaccination Card Retention, Two Semi Pastoralist Regions, Ethiopia: Muluken Asres (MPH), Filimona Bisrat (MD/MPH), Fasil Tessema (Associate Professor) .

BACKGROUND:

- The CORE Group Polio Project (CGPP) is one of the USAID funded projects being implemented in Ethiopia to improve immunization service and AFP surveillance in 85 high risk, hard-to-reach , pastoralists and semi-pastoralist districts.
- Keeping up-to-date immunization records for your family, especially your children is important so Keep your child's immunization record in a safe place where you can easily locate it.
- For community based study on immunization; availability of vaccination cards is critical but in most of the cases immunization cards are not found at home. Considering this, CGPP in Ethiopia distributed home based plastic bags for vaccination card holding integrated with child vaccination.



STUDY OBJECTIVE:

To Compare vaccination card retention rates between user and non-users of vaccination card holder plastic bags in CGPP areas.

METHODS:

- Cross sectional study was conducted in two regions of CGPP implementation areas of Ethiopia
- Target populations were households with at least one child age less than two years who took at least one vaccination dose.
- Lists of households of the target population were obtained from nearby health center or health post immunization registry book.
- Based on a random sample of 240 under two years children who had at least one dose of child vaccination and their caretakers from 24 Kebeles in Gambella Region and Assosa Zone of B/Gumuz Region.
- Up to 12 Kebeles were included from each region with at least 10 children per kebele.
- Pretested and structured questionnaire with face-to-face interview was used to collect data.
- Data collectors were health professionals who got orientation about the tool and methods of collection.
- Data was entered into Epi Data and analyzed using STATA 12.0.

RESULTS:

- Overall vaccination card retention in both areas was 89.5% of which 64.5% got plastic bag.
- Of those who had plastic bag 90% presented child vaccination card inside the plastic bag. This result showed better achievement as compared to 2005, 2011 and 2016 Ethiopian demographic and health survey result which showed 37%, 29% and 34.1% immunization card retention rate respectively.
- Vaccination card retention for households with plastic bag was 99.3% and for those with no plastic bag 76.0%, the difference was statistically significant ($p < 0.001$).
- Unavailability of the plastic bag in the health facility at the time of vaccination was the main reason for not having it.

Table 1 Status of child immunization card and immunization card holding plastic bag utilization, two regions of Ethiopia

Variables	Frequency	Percent
Does child have vaccination card		
Yes	214	89.5
No	25	10.5
Did you get plastic bag from the HC/HP to put the card		
Yes	139	58.2
No	100	41.8
How did the mother presented the card		
In the plastic bag	125	58.7
Without plastic bag	88	41.3
Reasons for not putting the card in the plastic bag		
Difficult to place inside the plastic bag	7	58.3
Other (Lost/ damage and used for something else)	5	41.7
Reasons for not getting the plastic bag		
Not available in the HC/HP	38	39.2
Do not know the reason	56	57.7
Other	3	3.1
Where you put the plastic bag that contain the immunization card		
In a secured place like in a box	145	70
Hanging on the wall with the plastic bag	53	25.6
Other	9	4.4
Do you have advise others to use the plastic bag		
Advise others to use it	121	87.7
Do not advise other to use it	17	12.3

Variables	Frequency	Percent
Why do you recommend others to use it		
It help not to lose vaccination card	109	31
It helps to put vaccination card for longer time	99	28
It is safe to put vaccination card	92	26
It reminds mother next immunization date	41	12
Other	7	2
Why do not recommend others to use it		
I do not see any importance	26	43
The plastic bag is not acceptable in the community	8	10
Other	28	47



CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION:

It is observed that availing plastic bag for caretakers will improve the rate of card retention at household level. Therefore, continuous refilling of plastic bags at the health facilities should be given priority to get reliable information for subsequent household level immunization based studies

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