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FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO VACCINE HESITANCY AMONG PARENTS IN MOGADISHU, SOMALIA

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ABSTRACT

Vaccination is often referred to as one of the best public health achievements of the 20th century; it is important for prevention of diseases and saving lives. Vaccines have saved numerous lives and enhanced health and well-being around the world. However, to prevent the morbidity and mortality related with vaccine preventable disease and their complications, and optimize managing vaccine of preventable diseases in communities and high uptake rates must be achieved. One of the main obstacles to realising the benefits of vaccines is hesitancy, especially among parents. Therefore objectives of this study is intended to explore the factors contributing to vaccination hesitancy among parents, and to identify the parent-specific factors contributing to vaccination hesitancy among parents, to describe the environmental factors contributing to vaccine hesitancy among parents and to determine the socio-cultural factors contributing to vaccination hesitancy among parents in Mogadishu, Somalia.

A quantitative cross-sectional design was used in this study. A sample of 71 respondents selected from Abdi Aziz district by using cluster sampling method. A structured administered questionnaire was used to collect the data from the participants. The results of this study showed that most of the respondents were females and the highest number of them had informal education as well as most of them have not attended health centres. The study also revealed that the most risk factors for vaccination hesitancy as defined by the participants were parent-specific factors and include knowledge, attitude, and practice and past experience of parents; socio-cultural factors and include influential leaders, communication of individual, group influences and geographic barriers; environmental factors and include religion, moral convictions, negative culture, subjective norm risk, perception and trust of the parents.

The study recommends to create programs that address vaccine-hesitant parents and their particular fear, for example; giving additional relevant information about the vaccines. To understand parental concerns and create honest of dialogue so that some parents have afraid of chemicals and have tried to rid their lives of them completely and this fear of chemicals naturally extends to Vaccine.