

REFUSING VACCINATION: UNDERSTANDING FROM PARENTS PERSPECTIVE

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Abstract

Nowadays, the anti-vaccine movement is growing both globally and in Malaysia. As a result of this movement, parental refusal for vaccination is rising at an alarming rate. Diseases that were once controllable through vaccination such as measles, diphtheria and mumps have now re-emerged. The aim of this study was to uncover reasons of vaccine refusal amongst parents in Selangor. This qualitative study involved 27 parents using purposive sampling technique. In-depth interview (IDI), using a semi structured interview guide was conducted between July and September 2017. Two major themes emerge, i) intrinsic factors and ii) extrinsic factors. The first theme was supported with three (3) sub-themes namely i) alternatives beliefs, ii) personalized internalization and iii) extrinsic driven beliefs. The second theme was supported by three (3) sub-themes. The sub-themes were i) health status, ii) vaccine and iii) external influence. In conclusion, focus should be more towards changing the parents' intrinsic and extrinsic factors regarding vaccination as most of their current beliefs and understanding are untrue and misleading.

Keywords: vaccine refusal, reason, intrinsic factors, extrinsic factors, Malaysia