

VACCINATION: WHAT DO PARENTS EXPECT?

Zaikiah MZ¹, NorrafizahJ¹, M. Zaidan Z¹, SH. Shafizal SI¹ & M. Ridzwan Z¹

¹Institute for Health Behavioural Research, Ministry of Health

Abstract

Immunization has proven to be one of the effective public health measures to control vaccine preventable disease. However recently, there are cases of re-emerging vaccine preventable diseases due to increasing number of vaccine refusals globally including Malaysia. The objective of this study is to explore parents' expectation towards vaccination service. This qualitative study involved 27 parents using in-depth interview. The study was conducted in Selangor between July to September 2017. Purposive sampling was employed from the list of vaccine refusal obtained from selected health clinics. Two main themes were identified with eleven sub-themes. The first main theme is "expectation of vaccine services" supported with eight sub-themes which are i) provide options, ii) modify dosage form, iii) parents' consent, iv) safe and halal content, v) detail information, vi) proof of no conspiracy, vii) provide urgent treatment on side effects of vaccine and viii) detail research on vaccination. "Channel of information" is the second main theme extracted with 3 sub themes which are i) social media, ii) mass media and iii) health talk. In conclusion, there are various expectations from vaccine refusal parents which provide opportunities for MOH and other relevant parties to capitalise and improve the services hence decreasing the current vaccine refusal rate. It is recommended that corrective actions should be taken by MOH and future research can be conducted to identify the effectiveness of the actions taken in improving vaccination rate.

Keywords: vaccine refusal, childhood vaccination, parents' expectation, Malaysia