

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Mother's Motivation of Giving Children Basic Immunization During COVID-19 Pandemic

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: The number of visits for routine or basic immunizations decreased during the COVID-19 pandemic. Basic immunization is essential to offer in order to lessen the likelihood of outbreaks of various other diseases that will cause many children to become seriously ill, become paralyzed, or die. In contrast to responding to outbreaks, prevention of diseases that can be prevented by immunization also saves lives, conserves resources, and the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on healthcare systems is lessened. Nurses must understand why mothers choose to give their children the full range of the recommended basic vaccines. This study aims to describe the motivating factors for mothers to provide their children with basic immunizations during the COVID-19 pandemic. **Methods:** The seven Steps Colaizzi analysis method was employed in this study's qualitative descriptive design with in-depth interviews with 10 individuals. Participants are mothers who bring their child to health care institutions for basic immunization during the COVID-19 pandemic and who are fluent in both oral and written Indonesian. Participants were obtained selected through a purposive sampling technique. **Results:** The findings of this study revealed two themes that reflected its goal. The two themes are intrinsic factors, such as social support, the health care system, and the COVID-19 dynamic; and intrinsic factors, such as the need for health, experience, perception, and knowledge. **Conclusion:** Several factors, both internal to the mother and external, can affect a mother's motivation to provide children with basic immunization during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Keywords: Mothers; Motivation; Immunization; COVID-19

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INTRODUCTION

The COVID-19 pandemic presents a challenge to the global health systems (27). Health services, including immunization services, may be disrupted as part of the nation's efforts to stop the spread of COVID-19 (3). Utilization of vaccination services in healthcare institutions has decreased as a result of the necessity to adhere to and respect health protocols, such as physical distance to break the chain of COVID-19 transmission. Utilization of immunization services in medical facilities has decreased as a result of the requirement to follow and observe health protocols, such as physical distance to break the chain of COVID-19 transmission (24). The COVID-19 pandemic period affected basic immunization services in the form of a decrease in the number of visits and coverage of basic immunization to health care

facilities compared to the previous year in the same period (8). Compared to the same period in 2019, baseline vaccination coverage declined by 0.5 percent to 87 percent in January to April 2020 (15).

The reduction in immunization coverage rates is influenced by parents' anxiety that their child might contract COVID-19 during visits to medical facilities (22). Anxiety, the decline in the number of basic immunization visits during the COVID-19 pandemic was also influenced by several factors that influenced the behavior of mothers in fulfilling their children's basic immunizations, attitudes, beliefs, children comorbidities, family support, access and information (7)

One of the crucial health services that must continue to be prioritized for implementation throughout the COVID-19 pandemic is vaccination services (13). The decline in basic immunization visits during the COVID-19 pandemic occurred in healthy children (8), while basic immunization was very important so as not to increase the risk of outbreaks immunization

preventable diseases that would cause many children to become seriously ill, disabled, and die (10;26). Prevention of outbreaks of immunization preventable diseases saves lives, saves resources compared to solve outbreaks, and reduces the burden on the health system caused by the COVID-19 pandemic (27).

According to a preliminary investigation by researchers at one public health center, basic immunization coverage still fulfils the goal based on local health care standards by 70% and has not significantly decreased throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Preliminary study conducted by Researchers at one of Public Health Centre obtained information that the coverage basic immunization still meets the target based on those set by the service local health by 70% and there is no significant decrease during the COVID-19 pandemic. This is an interesting phenomenon that can be analyzed in relation to the factors that motivate mothers to administer basic immunization during the COVID-19 pandemic. In accordance with Act Number 38 of 2014 Concerning Nursing, it is crucial for nurses to understand why mothers choose to vaccinate their children fully and completely. This can serve as a foundation for knowledge and a point of reference while performing client counselling task.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study design

This study uses a descriptive qualitative design.

Population, Samples and Sampling

The population in this study were all mothers who gave basic immunization to children during the COVID-19 pandemic. Participants that meet the criteria are included in the sample, ensuring that the data are appropriate for the study's context and research issue. The two types of inclusion criteria for the in-depth interview in this study are distinct. The criteria determined by the researcher in the selection of participants in this study include:

- 1) Participants are mothers who bring their children visit health care facilities to get basic immunizations service during the COVID-19 pandemic starting from the WHO declared the status of a pandemic on March 11, 2020 until now.
- 2) Able to communicate in Indonesian orally and in writing well.

Participants who have been fulfilled according to the inclusion criteria will then be selected using purposive sampling technique. Purposive sampling is a technique of taking samples not based on random, regional or strata, but based on considerations that focus on certain goals.

Mothers who did not fully participate in the interview and had children older than one year old were excluded from this study.

Instruments

The instrument of this study is researchers. Qualitative research methods use the researcher as a data collection tool that cannot be represented or delegated (19).

Procedure

Semi-structured in-depth interviews, unstructured observations, and field research were all used in the data collecting strategy. The researcher's queries are open ended and use interrogative sentences 5W + 1H at the beginning of the sentence. The researcher used Maslow's Theory Hierarchy of Need as a reference in arrange the list of questions.

Data Analysis

Data were analyzed using seven steps Colaizzi.

Ethical Clearance

This research has been approved and reviewed by the Health Research Ethics Commission of the Faculty of Nursing, Airlangga University with no. 2282-KEPK. Components of ethics are considered in this study include benefit, respect for human rights, justice, privacy and confidentiality.

RESULTS

During the COVID-19 pandemic, mothers were motivated by both inner and extrinsic motives, according to two themes identified in the research. The two themes are:

Intrinsic factors

Intrinsic factors, which include knowledge, experience, and the mother's view of basic immunization, come from inside the mother herself and influence whether or not she receives basic immunization services for her children. Knowledge is the main factor that most participants find in making decisions to give immunizations to children during COVID-19 pandemic, including the benefits, types, how it works, and schedule. Mother's knowledge about the benefits of immunization is the most common reasons to prevent diseases that can be prevented by immunization, *"... children must be immunized so that they are protected from other diseases such as measles and another immunization preventable diseases."* (P1)

Based on the analysis about the mother's knowledge about the benefits of immunization in addition to preventing diseases that can be prevented by immunization, immunization also prevents disability

in children and increases body resistance. Children who receive vaccines are also intended to be exposed to viruses that could potentially infect them. This way, if a child becomes ill, the immunization will be able to lessen the severity of an illness that is vaccine-preventable.

Experience can be interpreted as something that has been happened, lived or felt, both long ago and recently. Participants were concerned about the mother's child's health and development because of the mother's own childhood experience with a school buddy who suffered from bone growth abnormalities as a result of never receiving any vaccinations from birth on. Participants are afraid of being blamed if something unexpected happens to their child's growth and development and regrets it.

"...then I also have a friend in Islamic school whose bone growth is not good, they (neighbours) said because he was never immunized since birth...so, I don't want it happen to my daughter..." (P6).

Perception is the process of understanding or giving meaning to an information on a stimulus where the stimulus is obtained from sensing objects, events or relationships between symptoms which are then processed in the brain (24). Based on the results of the analysis, it was found that the mother's perception of the nature of immunization was one of the factors that motivated mothers to provide basic immunization even during the COVID-19 pandemic. Mothers perceive that immunization is an obligation,

"... because at that time I thought it was mandatory, for babies to be immunized..." (P10).

Mothers also believe that the advantages of immunizing their children outweigh the danger of contracting COVID-19 when visiting medical institutions. By following and adhering to health procedures, the dangers associated with bringing children to medical facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic for vaccines can still be minimized.

Extrinsic Factors

Extrinsic factors are those that stem from sources other than the mother herself, such as the surroundings or others who are close by. Extrinsic factors that motivate mothers to continue to provide basic immunizations for children even during the COVID-19 pandemic include social support, family traditions, health care systems, and the development of COVID-19 in the surrounding environment.

According to the data from this study, social support comes primarily from family members including husbands, parents, and other relatives. Forms of family support such as dropping off and reminding them to go to health care facilities to get basic

immunizations for children.

"feel grateful, my family is still support although at first I was a bit worried about getting immunized, like my husband take us visit to midwife, so the children are still supported for immunization." (P1).

Apart from the family support, there is also support from health workers such as midwives who remind mothers about the schedule of visits for immunization and integrated health service post.

"...by text massage, the midwife is also to be notified for example : in this month or today is the immunization schedule." (P1).

The assistance of health professionals goes beyond simply reminding people when their children need immunization visits; it also includes giving information and health education, keeping an eye on children's growth and development during visits, and reminding mothers when their children need immunization visits so that they can keep track of their own children's development. Community leaders like the Neighbourhood Association also questioned and followed up with local residents about the stages of basic immunization in children, and peer group support for mothers who also have children to be given basic immunizations during the COVID-19 pandemic like this can motivate participants to also take children. Social support also came from local health society leaders to remind them about the timing of the integrated health service post for children.

Tradition is a habit that is passed down from one generation to the next from generation to generation, including various cultural values which include customs, belief systems, and so on. The word tradition comes from the Latin which means passed on. In the simplest sense, tradition is defined as something that has been done for a long time and has become part of the life of a community group.

"...I think this immunization has been around for a long time, since when I was child (P6) I was also immunized by my parents..." (P6).

The results of the analysis revealed that family tradition are important motivators for mother to continue immunizing their children even in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Even during the COVID-19 pandemic, mothers are less hesitant to take their child to health care facilities for basic vaccines for children because of the family custom of immunizing children because they believe that immunizations are a good thing.

The health care system is a system that includes all organizations, people, and various activities that have the main goal of promoting and caring for health (24). A good health care system can provide

safety and quality services that can reduce resource wastage. The health service system that is based on appointments, scheduled and not crowded is a consideration for mothers to take their children to health care facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"... in health care facility that we visit, we can make an appointment first and schedule, so it's just a matter of immunizing... it's good to make an appointment. It's good that I'm alone, so I'm not so anxious, I'm just facing the midwife in front of me..." (P2).

In addition, a health care system that is obedient and uses health protocols make mothers calm when take their children to health care facilities, the short waiting time for service is also a consideration for mother when take children visit to health care facilities because long waiting times will make the intensity of meeting other people and potential increase crowding index. The health service system that comes to the house is also one of the factors that motivates mothers to give immunizations to their children during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The positive rate of COVID-19, especially around the place of residence, which is relatively low and the mutation of the COVID-19 virus which is not massive, are factors that motivate mothers to continue to take their children to health care facilities to give basic immunizations.

"... even it's still pandemic, but so grateful here the pandemic (positive rate of COVID-19) is not so much, wear a mask, and also cover my child in my arm..." (P6).

The results of the analysis obtained by the mother have no plans to delay immunization during the COVID-19 pandemic.

DISCUSSION

The knowledge possessed by the mother will have a positive effect on the decision-making and behavior of the mothers to giving immunize their baby (21). Since they are aware of the advantages of immunizing their children completely, parents who have good immunization knowledge are more motivated to do so (2).

The experience of having completed basic immunization in children in the past motivated mother to give basic vaccines to their children because mothers believed their children were healthy. The mother chose to take the child to a medical facility so they could administer basic immunizations even during the COVID-19 pandemic since she had seen persons who suffered from immunization-preventable diseases in the neighbourhood and was concerned for her child's health. According to research by (21), decision-making regarding one's

health will be impacted by variances in exposure and experience.

Mother's perception in the study showed a positive perception of the provision of basic immunization to children. The benefits of basic immunization for children are as a form of long-term health investment, while the risks that will be faced during the COVID-19 pandemic can be reduced by complying with health protocols. Immunization is a future health investment because disease prevention through immunization is the most effective and far cheaper way of protecting against infection than treating someone if they fall sick and have to be hospitalized (6).

Perception is an integrated process that includes the organization of the stimulus obtained from sensing by the individual, in this study the mother. Perception is influenced by internal factors, therefore the same stimulus can be perceived differently by each individual (17). Basically, the perception can be associated with opinions or attitudes (4). In line with research conducted by (5) that mother's perception has a relationship with the completeness status of basic immunization in children. Mothers who have a positive perception will have an impact on the completeness status of basic immunization in children, on the contrary, mothers who have negative perceptions will have an impact on incomplete basic immunization status in children.

According to (Apollo and Cahyadi, 2012), social support is a helpful action that involves emotions, providing information, instrumental assistance, and positive assessment of individuals in dealing with their problems (2). Mothers in providing immunizations to children during the COVID-19 pandemic get support from their families. Good family support will make it easier for someone to make decisions, one of which is the decision to complete child basic immunizations (28).

In addition to family support, the support of health workers also have important role in increasing the participation of mothers in providing basic immunizations for children even during the COVID-19 pandemic. Health workers have an important role in improving the maximum quality of health services to the community so that they are able to increase awareness, willingness, and ability to live a healthy life and realize the highest degree of health as an investment for the development of socially and economically productive human resources as well as one of the an element of general welfare (15).

Social support is also obtained from community leaders around the place of residence. Research conducted by (Septianingtyas, Soesetijo and Widi

E. Y, 2018) explains that society leader support has an influence on basic immunization coverage, support from society leader can encourage mothers' behaviour to fulfil complete basic immunization for their children (23). Research conducted by (Putri and Putri, 2019), found that society leaders have a significant role in providing complete basic immunization (18).

The results of this study found that the family tradition of giving immunizations to children made mothers reluctant doubt to take their children to health care facilities even during the COVID-19 pandemic. The mother said that this was done so that there would be no disability in the child, besides that the mother revealed that with immunization her child had a stronger immune system than children of the same age around where she lived. Families who are accustomed to supporting the immunization of their babies or toddlers have the opportunity to get complete immunizations (20). Giving immunizations to children is also related to family traditions, if the tradition in the family is accustomed to giving immunizations, it also supports immunization.

The health care system is one of the important things and is considered by mothers in taking their children to health care facilities to be given basic immunizations during the COVID-19 pandemic. According to Kemenkes RI 2020 where health workers have a role to make announcements regarding immunization schedules during the COVID-19 pandemic, by including telephone number or text to make an appointment (register) with parents or an introduction so that the arrival of immunization targets can be arranged and run well for future immunizations (13). It is also important for health workers to use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in accordance with the principles of Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) before starting services.

The immunization health service system by way of health workers visiting homes is one of the factors that motivates mothers to give immunizations to their children even during the COVID-19 pandemic. To increase the quantity and quality of services for the community in public health center working area which has not been reached by services in public health center building for many reasons, such as difficulties in running immunization services at the public health center or public's doubt about taking their children to public health care because worried about the transmission of COVID-19, mobile service can be a good option (13).

The development of the incidence and mortality rates due to being confirmed positive for COVID-19

in the area of residence is a factor that also greatly influences the motivation of mothers to take their children to health care facilities. The non-massive number of incidences and deaths due to confirmed positive COVID-19 makes mothers continue to carry their children with immunizations while still complying with health protocols to protect themselves and their children.

CONCLUSION

To summarize, intrinsic factor like knowledge, perception, and experience, as well as external factors like social support, family traditions, healthcare institutions, and the emergence of COVID-19, influence mothers' decision to give children basic immunization during the COVID-19 pandemic. The limitation of this study was there were two participants conducted online interviews on the basis of safety considerations and respondent's requests due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This study recommends health providers increase promotion about the importance of continuing to provide basic immunizations for mothers who have children aged 0-18 months even during the COVID-19 pandemic through social media; health education about immunization needs to be added to material about the magnitude of the benefits of basic immunization for children for long-term health investments, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic and the risk of contracting COVID-19 when bringing children to health care facilities can be reduced by complying with COVID-19 protocols; and the health care system should be improved during the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly in terms of scheduling arrivals by appointment so that visiting times can be arranged and there are no crowds when mothers and children visit health service facilities.

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