

Communication and attitude change towards chronic diseases by parents: Case of parents of sickle cell anemia patients

Roland Foncham Doh
University of Douala, Cameroon

In every interaction, (doctor - patient) every behavior (move or gesture) has the value of a message and every communication supposes an engagement which defines the relationship. Attitude is an enduring predisposition to respond consistently to given objects, events issues and the like, assumed to be acquired by learning. Our work consisted in evaluating the knowledge of parents of homozygote sickle cell disease (SCD) children consulting at the Mother and Child Centre (a center where different forms of communication on the disease is being carried out). A structured questionnaire with items on causes, prevention, symptoms treatment and assistance was administered to 87 participants, with an age range of 22-63, all were female participants and all participants had been consulting at the Centre for at least the past 6 months. 71% of the parents had reached high school level. 85% of participants claimed to have developed interest in the disease only when they knew their child was a S.C.P, 57.8% strongly agreed that it was a hereditary disease while another 12% strongly agreed that it was an S.T.D, 63.9% of them strongly agreed that the administration of certain vaccines will reduce the risk of contracting infections and 36.1% say they will go to hospital for systematic visits. A positive correlation was found to exist between knowledge on symptoms and assistance to patient (child). A further study still needs to be carried out with a control population to eliminate urban effect.

Biography

Roland Foncham Doh is pursuing master's II degree in the University of Douala, (Cameroon-west Africa) Department of Psychology, works part time as a psychosocial counselor at a mother and child center handling chronic diseases. He has co-published papers in reputed journals like Child Neuropsychology and PubMed among others.

land2000ca@yahoo.co.uk