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Role of pharmacists' in children's health education, Alexandria, Egypt

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Background information: The WHO referred public health to all organized measures to prevent disease, promote health, and prolong life among the population. Pharmacists, as health professionals, have the potential to bridge communication gaps that exist due to health literacy among people through educating the public about changes in lifestyle, nutrition, and hand hygiene.

Purpose: Children are among the vulnerable groups who have a great impact on their families. Lacking of a comprehensive health education program in our schools necessitates the pharmacists' participation in health education for children as a part of their role in public health.

Methods: The Association of Applying and Developing Pharmacy (AADP) adopted "Protect your child" project designed by Healthy Egyptians' Association. We educated children through using tools including, a cartoon movie, coloring books and educative puppet show designed to educate children about pneumonia and anemia.

Results: Education was delivered among children in schools, and hospitals. We started in September 2014 where we have contributed in the education of 325 children. During 2015, we reached 1205 children, and 148 adults (representing parents). We also represented our association in national radio and television of Alexandria to reach more audience.

Conclusion: Involvement of pharmacists in educating children through the use of creative ways is among the forgotten areas of practice. An important part of reducing burden of disease especially in the future includes health education for children.

Recommendations: We recommend the use of campaigns which are directed to both children and parents. Furthermore, more research is needed to measure the impact of educating children on reducing disease burden.

Biography

Dalia Yehia Abo Zahra has completed her Pharm D from Alexandria University and she is now a PhD candidate from High Institute of Public Health, Alexandria University. She is working as an Assistant Lecturer at Faculty of Pharmacy, Pharos University. She is a Board member of Association of Applying and Developing Pharmacy (AADP), a non profit organization based in Alexandria, Egypt.

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