Assessment of urban immunization practices among urban mother’s in Sri Lanka

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Although vaccine coverage in Sri Lanka is close to 100%, with the widely spreading vaccine rejection trend reaching South Asian regions, it is essential to catch on whether Sri Lankans are being misinformed from the common misconceptions regarding vaccines. As the rates of target diseases decrease, parents become less accepting of even minor common adverse events. It is essential to preserve the integrity of immunization programs and protect public health by finding out the prevalence of anti-immunization trends. The primary objective of this study was to assess the immunization practices & prevalence of trends related to anti-immunization among urban community in Sri Lanka A descriptive cross-sectional quantitative study on 323 participants using convenient sampling with 213 self-administered questionnaires. Additionally, 110 online questionnaires were distributed. 31% of the study population doesn’t maintain immunization records for their children. While majority seek information regarding immunization from reliable sources such as the family physician or specialist pediatricians, 30% also refer to unreliable sources such as online communities for their opinion. 31% of study population had not vaccinated for Japanese encephalitis. 73% of the study population had encountered with side effects of vaccination such as fever & 47% believed that such side effects are rare. 52% of the population had hostile attitude regarding the administration of several doses multiple vaccines within a child’s first year. Majority of the population were aware of the existing misconceptions regarding immunization. Disturbingly 22% of the study population believed that vaccines are useless in preventing diseases nowadays.

Biography
Kasun Palihakkara is currently a third year nursing student following Advanced Diploma in General Nursing at International Institute of Health Sciences, Welisara, Sri Lanka. He’ll be completing his last year of Bachelors of Nursing at Deakin University, Geelong in 2020. He’s a member of the IIHS Scientific Committee which pioneers in research. Since his first year he has been interested in research & presented researches related to nursing at the BioInquirer research conferences & many other local conferences. Additionally he has volunteered at several medical service health camps at “Dewsiri Sevana” elderly home in Welisara, Sri Lanka.

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