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Predictors of defaulting from completion of child immunization in south Ethiopia, A case control study

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Background: Epidemiological investigations of recent outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases have indicated that incomplete immunization was the major reason for the outbreaks. In Ethiopia, full immunization rate is low and reasons for defaulting from immunization are not studied well. The objective of the study was to identify the predictors of defaulting from completion of child immunization among children between ages 9-23 months in Wonago district, South Ethiopia.

Methods: Unmatched case control study was conducted in eight Kebeles (lowest administrative unit) of Wonago district in south Ethiopia. Census was done to identify all cases and controls. A total of 266 samples (133 cases and 133 controls) were selected by simple random sampling technique. Cases were children in the age group of 9 to 23 months who did not complete the recommended immunization schedule. Pre-tested structured questionnaire were used for data collection. Data was analyzed using SPSS 15.0 statistical software.

Result: Four hundred eighteen (41.7%) of the children were fully vaccinated and four hundred twelve (41.2%) of the children were partially vaccinated. The BCG: measles defaulter rate was 76.2%. Knowledge of the mothers about child immunization, monthly family income, postponing child immunization and perceived health institution support were the best predictors of defaulting from completion of child immunization.

Conclusion: Mothers should be educated about the benefits of vaccination and the timely administration of vaccines.

Biography

Henok Tadesse Ayele is completed his MPH (Master of Public Health) from Jimma University in Ethiopia and studied bachelor sciences in Public health in the former Debub University, Dilla College of Health Sciences. He is a distinguished lecturer and director at School of health Sciences, Dilla University, Ethiopia. He is also an active young researcher in Dilla University and conducted a dozen of research on priority community health problems. Some of his research findings are published in local and international peer reviewed journals. He is also presented research findings in national conferences organized by Ethiopian Public Health association in collaboration with federal Ministry of health and in a national conference organized by Dilla University research and dissemination office in collaboration with Federal women's and children affairs.