

Knowledge of Mothers with Regard to Immunisation of Children in Vhembe District, Limpopo Province

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ABSTRACT The Extended Programme on Immunisation aims at delivering the primary immunisation series to at least 90 percent of infants. It is considered essential for improving infant and child survival. In spite of the importance of immunisation on child survival, the coverage at the Tshino-Mutsha local area dropped from 85 percent to 75 percent during 2011-2012. The purpose of this study was to determine the knowledge of mothers' regarding immunisation of children below 6 years of age. A quantitative research approach, cross-sectional survey was used and simple random sampling was undertaken to sample 200 mothers at seven clinics, including the mobile clinic. Self-administered questionnaires were used to collect data. The Statistical Package for Social Sciences was used to analyze data. Findings indicated that illiterate mothers and those younger than 35 years with less than 3 children were more knowledgeable with regard to the importance of Immunisation. The government health facilities, especially at the primary level need to be more users-friendly by making it accessible to all and also by creating opportunities of information sharing on immunisation for mothers. Awareness campaigns and capacity building would empower mothers on immunisation.