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# Caregivers' Satisfaction Regarding Childhood Vaccination Services in Mansoura Primary Health Care Facilities, Egypt





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### 1.ABSTRACT

Background Caregivers' satisfaction with vaccination services is an indicator of provider competency. However, evaluating this indicator is very relevant as it is likely affecting the clinical and revisit adherence, service quality, and the global vaccination coverage.

Aim: This study aimed at assessing caregivers' satisfaction regarding childhood vaccination services in primary health care facilities. Design: A cross-sectional study was conducted from the first of January to the end of December 2019 at Mansoura district primary health care facilities. Total sample size of 384 parents/caregivers chosen by using convenient sampling technique. Structured interview satisfaction assessment questionnaire was used for exploring children's parents/caregivers' satisfaction about the actually provided vaccination services. Results: The study demonstrated that more than half of caregivers (57.3%) were diploma with mean age of 28.6±8.1 years old. Regarding the study scope, 93.2% of caregivers reported lower satisfaction score with childhood vaccination services at primary healthcare facilities, compared to 6.8% who were highly satisfied with the provide services. Conclusion and recommendation: The study concluded that most of the caregivers were unsatisfied with the provided vaccination services. The level of satisfaction was very low regarding to the primary healthcare facilities structure, vaccinator nurses' performance, the provided health education, and child health screening. Consequently, more efforts need to be exudated towards improving the PHC delivery system, and provision of vaccination health education.

**Keywords**: Caregivers' satisfaction, Primary health care (PHC) facilities, vaccination services.

### 2.Introduction:

Vaccination is a cornerstone of public health and one of the most critical investments of child health available. It has contributed significantly to the decline of child morbidity and mortality in recent decades (The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), 2019; Quah, 2017). As declared by World Health Organization (WHO) 2020, global coverage of childhood vaccination against many important infectious diseases has eradicated smallpox, lowered the global incidence of polio by 99% since 1988. Moreover, childhood vaccination efforts achieved dramatic reductions in diseases such as measles, diphtheria, whooping cough (pertussis), tetanus and hepatitis B.

Egyptian ministry of health is considering childhood vaccination coverage in the top priorities of healthcare services (Ministry of health and population, Egypt, 2015). Vaccination coverage in Egypt and expansion of primary health care service, implementation of an integrated health extension package, and training of front-line vaccinators are the major interventions implemented (GebreEyesus, et al., 2020).

To continuously improve the quality of a service, provided healthcare beneficiaries'

satisfaction is one of the most frequently used outcome measures for quality of care. It needs to be addressed to raise the quality and efficiency of health care service provision within the health care delivery system. It provides relevant feedback on how the service is functioning according to clients' perception and what changes might be required to meet clients' expectation (Timane, Oche, Umar, Constance, & Raji, 2017). Unfortunately, this measure has been relatively unexplored in relation to childhood vaccination (Panth, & Kafle, 2018; Haile Tadesse, 2017).

Basically, evaluating the caregivers' satisfaction towards the vaccination service is clinically relevant as satisfied caregivers are more likely to comply with attendance of childhood vaccination service. It will also help to pass on encouraging messages to others, take an active role in their care, continue using medical care services, and recommend center's services to others (Acharya, Sharma, Dulal, & Aryal, 2018). However, caregivers who are dissatisfied with a service delivery may share undesirable experiences with others and less likely to continue the use of vaccination service and it is a important

determinant of child under-vaccination in developing countries (GebreEyesus, et al., 2020).

Hence, information on factors associated with the level of caregivers' satisfaction related to childhood vaccination is urgently requested. Therefore, the current study aimed to assess caregivers' satisfaction regarding childhood vaccination services in Mansoura primary health care facilities, Egypt.

### Aim of the study:

The study aimed to investigate caregivers' satisfaction regarding childhood vaccination services in Mansoura primary health care facilities

### **Study question:**

What is the caregivers' satisfaction level regarding childhood vaccination services in primary health care facilities?

### 3.Method:

### 3.1. Study design:

The study design is cross-sectional. The study was carried out in the time frame from the first of January to the end of December 2019, at 28 primary healthcare facilities affiliated to Mansoura district, El Dakahlia Governorate.

### 3.2Subjects and sampling:

Sampled caregivers whose child age is less than two years, who resides in the selected facilities; receiving vaccination services within the catchment area of Mansoura district; and willing to participate in this study were included in the study population. Convenience sampling technique was utilized to recruit caregivers of children who come usually to these health care facilities for vaccinating their children. The sample size for this study was calculated by using a single population proportion formula by considering the proportion of parenteral satisfaction 68% (GebreEyesus, et al., 2020), and at 95% confidence interval  $Z\alpha/2 = 1.96$ with 5% margin of error. By taking a 10% nonresponse rate, the total sample size becomes 368. Additionally, 16 respondents wanted to participate after completing data collection, they were added to final study sample to be 384 caregivers.

### 3.3. Data collection:

Data collection was accomplished by using children's caregivers' structured interview satisfaction assessment questionnaire that was developed by the researcher and translated into simple Arabic to collect the necessary data for this study. This tool included caregivers' Sciodemographic variables such as age, gender, education, occupation, and residence. Children's caregivers' satisfaction about the actually rendered vaccination services questions were organized into 7 dimensions; all of these dimensions are constituted from 52 questions. 23 questions requiring a response on 5-point Likert- rating scale with 5 continua (always, sometimes, often, never, I don't know). 21 questions requiring a response on 5-point Likert- rating scale with 5 continua (strongly agree, agree, I don't know, disagree, strongly agree) ,6 questions require response on 2point scale satisfied & not satisfied and 2 multiple choice questions. 2 questions require response on two different 4-point scale (very far, somewhat far away, somewhat close and very close) and (very suitable, suitable to some extent, somewhat unsuitable and very unsuitable) respectively. This tool was designed based on the highlight of relevant literatures (Samadi, Abdollahi Boghrabadi, & Mcconkey, 2018; Sarkar et al., 2015; Hussen, 2016).

Scoring system: The categorization of total caregivers' satisfaction level was determined according to Sarkar et al. (2015). The scoring system assigned (4) marks to always, (3) marks to sometimes, (2) mark to often, (1) mark to never and (0) to I don't know,(4) marks was given to strongly agree, (3) marks was given to agree, (2) marks was given to I don't know,(1) mark was given to disagree and (0) mark was given to strongly disagree and concerning the other choices (I) mark awarded to yes and satisfied choice &(3) mark awarded to very suitable, very close, always, (2) mark was given to very frequently ,somewhat close or suitable, (1) mark awarded to sometimes ,further or suitable to some extent and (0) mark to rarely, not suitable and very far which made up a total score of (188) mark which classified into categories as the following Table (1, 2):

Table (1): The scoring system of satisfaction categories scores with its included number of items:-

	The satisfaction categories	No of items	Scores/points
1.	Pre vaccination caregivers' health education	9	30
2.	Confirmation of previous child's vaccination history	5	17
3.	Pre - vaccination child's health screening	6	21
4.	Management of any immediate side effects	4	13
5.	Post-vaccination caregivers' health education	5	17
6.	Primary health care facilities	17	66
7.	Primary health services providers	6	24
The	e total satisfaction score	52	188

*Table (2):* The scoring of total satisfaction score classified as the following:

Categories	Threshold	Scores/points
High Satisfied	$\geq$ 75% of the total scores	≥141.00 points
Low satisfied	< 75% of the total scores	<141.00 points

### 3.4. Tool validity and reliability:

Validity of the developed tool was examined for content and face validity: The content validity of the developed tools was tested by ten experts of community health nursing. Additionally, *Pilot study* was hired for testing face validity of the designed tool on 10% of children's caregivers (38 caregivers) who were selected conveniently from different Mansoura primary health care facilities and were not included into the studied sample. The pilot study aimed to evaluate the clarity and applicability of the research tools, in addition to, estimation the approximate time required for data

collection, distinguishing the potential barriers or problems that may hinder data collection and overcome measures. Accordingly, the necessary modifications of both experts and piloted caregivers were done, some questions were added, and others were. Tool reliability was tested by assessing the internal consistency by using Cronbach's  $\alpha$ . that was emerged as very good (0.84).

### 3.5. Data collection framework:

After finishing the final tool design and testing its accuracy, the tool was collected according to specified framework as mentioned in

**Table (3):** The description of data collection framework:

Logistics of data collection	Description		
Duration	14 weeks (3.5 months)		
Duration of data collection session/day	4 hours/day (9:00 am -1:00 pm)		
Assigned time for collecting one tool	15 minutes were enough for collecting the tool from each participant		
Numbers of data collection sessions/days	27 days were assigned for data collection phase		
Week Day	Depend on each facility predetermined vaccination days.		
Number of respondents	15:17 respondents per day		

### 3.6. Ethical considerations:

Before conducting the study, ethical approval was obtained from the research ethics committee of the faculty of Nursing, Mansoura University. An official letter from the dean of Faculty of Nursing- Mansoura University was submitted to MOHP directorate to obtain approval for conducting the study at the selected primary healthcare facilities. In addition, verbal informed consents were also secured from children's caregivers to participate in the study after

illustrating the purpose of it. The collected data is considered confidential and kept in a closed cabinet for three years and reached only by the research team only

### 3.7. Statistical analysis:

The collected data were coded and entered to the statistical package of social sciences (SPSS) version 24. After complete entry, data were explored for detecting any error, then, it was analyzed by the same program for presenting frequency tables with percentages. Qualitative data

was presented as number and percent. Besides, Quantitative data were described as arithmetic mean  $\pm$  standard deviation. The Chi-Square, Monte Carlo and fisher's exact test were used to check if there significant difference in the variables proportions and to test dependency between variables. All tests were performed at a level of significance (P-value) equal or less than 0.05 was considered to be statistically significant.

#### 4. Results:

Scio-demographic characteristics of the respondents. A total of 384 caregivers were involved in the study giving a response rate of 100%. Over 85% of the respondents were female. The highest proportion of respondents (38%) were under the age group of 20-30 years, with a mean age of 28.66 (SD: 8.12) years. The respondents (57.3%) were diploma, and resided in rural areas (51.8%). Regarding respondents' occupational status, 67.2% of them were a housewife as portrayed in **Table (4)**.

**Table (5):** reflects children's caregivers' viewpoints toward distance to PHC centers and the suitability of working hours. The respondents (47.9%) reported somewhat close distance between their houses and PHC centers. while 51.6% of them rated PHC center' working hours as unsuitable.

The percentages of respondents' satisfaction categories with the rendered childhood vaccination services are presented in Table (6). Most of them demonstrated lower satisfaction (<75%) toward PHC facilities structure (89.6%), pre-vaccination health education (92.7%), Confirmation of previous history (90.6%), Pre - vaccination screening (92.7%), Performance of vaccination nurses (92.2%). Management of any side effects (91.9%). and Post-vaccination health education (91.4%). Mean satisfaction score was the highest for confirmation of history level of (8.32) of total (17) points and was the lowest for management of side effects (3.7) of total (13) points. Generally, the respondents exhibited lower level of satisfaction among 93.2% of the respondents with mean of 76.98 (SD: 22.37) of total (188) points.

**Table (7):** portrays insignificant association between the caregivers' satisfaction level and their Scio-demographic characteristics as age (P=0.116); gender (P =0.773); residence (P=0.847); Occupation (P=0.115). However, statistically significant association of educational level was detected at (P=0.028). This conclusion indicates there is no effect of Scio-demographic variables on caregivers' satisfaction except for educational level.

Table (4): Distribution of the studied caregivers according to their Scio-demographic characteristics.

Demographic and occupational characteristics	N=(384)	%			
Gender					
Female	330	85.9			
Male	54	14.1			
Age					
≤20	86	22.4			
-30	146	38			
-40	104	27.1			
-50 and More	48	12.5			
$B \pm SD$	28.66	$\pm$ 8.12			
Educational level					
Illiterate	56	14.6			
Read and write	34	8.9			
Diploma	220	57.3			
University	74	19.3			
Residence					
Rural	199	51.8			
Urban	185	48.2			
Occupation					
Not working (housewife)	258	67.2			
Worker	96	25			

Table (5): Distribution of the studied caregivers' views of distance to PHC center and suitability of working hours.

Items	N=(384)	%			
The distance between home and PHC center					
Very far	4	1			
Somewhat far away	22	5.7			
Somewhat close	184	47.9			
Very close	174	45.3			
The working hours at the Primary Health Care Center					
Very suitable	8	2.1			
Suitable to some extent	32	8.3			
Somewhat unsuitable	198	51.6			
Very unsuitable	146	38			

Table (6): Distribution of caregivers according to their satisfaction level regarding the rendered vaccination services, PHC facilities, and performance of vaccinator nurses.

	Score level				
Satisfaction categories	Low satisfactory (<75%)		High Satisfactory (≥75%)		
	N=(384)	%	N = (384)	%	
1. PHC facilities structure (score = 66)	344	89.6	40	10.4	
$_{ m B}\pm{ m SD}$		31.95±8.	10		
2. Pre-vaccination activities					
health education (score $=30$ )	356	92.7	28	7.3	
$B \pm SD$		11.31±4.	3 36 9.4		
Confirmation of previous child's vaccination history (score =17)	348	90.6	36	9.4	
$_{ m B}\pm{ m SD}$		8.32±2.6			
Child's health screening (score =21)	356	92.7	28	7.3	
$_{ m B}\pm{ m SD}$		8.16±3.4	19		
3.Performance of vaccination nurses (score = 24)	354	92.2	30	7.8	
$B \pm SD$		8.58±4.4	13		
4. post-vaccination activities					
Post-vaccination parents / caregivers' health education (score =17)	351	91.4	33	8.6	
$_{ m B}\pm{ m SD}$		4.92±3.1	1		
Management of any immediate side effects (score = 13)	353	91.9	31	8.1	
$_{ m B}\pm{ m SD}$	3.71±2.38				
Total satisfaction score= (188)	358	93.2	26	6.8	
$B \pm SD$	76.98±22.37				

Table (7): Association between the studied caregivers' satisfaction toward the rendered vaccination services and their Scio -demographic characteristics:

	Total number of caregi				4	
Scio- demographic		tisfactory =358	High Satisfactory N=26		Test of Significance	
characteristics	No.	%	No.	%	$\chi^2$	P
Age						
≤20	82	21.4	4	1	5.916	0.116
-30	134	34.9	12	3.1		
-40	94	24.5	10	2.6		
-50 and More	48	12.5				
Gender						
Male	50	13	4	1	FE	0.773
Female	308	80.2	22	5.7		
Residence						
Rural	186	48.4	13	3.4	0.037	0.847
Urban	172	44.8	13	3.4		
Education						
Illiterate	54	14.1	2	0.5	MC	0.028
Read and write	30	7.8	4	1		
Diploma	210	54.7	10	2.6		
University	64	16.7	10	2.6		
Occupation						
Not working	242	63	16	4.2	4.33	0.115
(housewife)						
Worker	86	22.4	10	2.6		
Clerk	30	7.8				

(\*) Statistically significant at p  $\leq$ 0.05,  $\chi^2$  = chi square, MC=Monte Carlo test, FE: Fisher exact test.

## 5. Discussion:

Caregivers' satisfaction is one of the most leading factors of determining the utilization of childhood routine vaccination services. Dissatisfaction with vaccination services results in a decline in routine vaccination uptake and coverage (Uwaibi, & Akhimienho, 2020). Thus, this cross-sectional study was implemented to investigate caregivers' satisfaction regarding childhood vaccination services in Mansoura primary health care facilities.

The overall caregivers' satisfaction level revealed that most of caregivers reported a lower satisfaction score, while the remaining of them conveyed higher satisfaction score toward the rendered vaccination services. This finding is a minimal score than other reports implemented in different African and Asian regional areas: in Egypt, 63% lower satisfaction reported by Salem, Khalil, & Mahmoud, (2018); in south Nigeria, 80% of dissatisfaction were conveyed by Uwaibi, & Akhimienho, (2020); in Iraq, 50.2% outlined diminished satisfaction score as indicated by Alkhazrajy, (2016). This variation might be due to

a real difference in the services quality in the governorates, the expectation of parents, type of healthcare facilities, or a combination of them. Sociocultural difference and focus of attention by MOHP to reduce child mortality through EPI service could also be another justification.

None of the socio-demographic characteristics considered in the study showed significant association with the total satisfaction level of caregivers. These findings concur with the Ethiopian study where age-group and education had no association with satisfaction (GebreEyesus et al. 2020). Also, it is consistent with Iraqi study of Alkhazrajy, (2016) that indicated to elevation of dissatisfaction level with the higher educational level of the participants. By assuming that highly educated individuals have higher expectation on the quality of rendered vaccination services compared to less educated ones.

Long waiting time and the distance to primary health care centers are known as major barriers to caregivers' satisfaction, and consequently utilization of vaccination services. Thus, it was important to assess these two negative

factors. The current study showed that more than half of the respondents reported unsuitability of working hours. This negative result was compatible with **Alghamdi**, et al. (2020), who cited limited and unsuitable working hours of primary health care centers especially for the working women. However, the present study revealed that the majority of caregivers live near to the healthcare center. This finding was congruent with study of **Al-Sadaway**, (2020), which indicated close distance from home to the health center.

In relation to pre and post vaccination health education, most of the respondents were dissatisfied by the delivered education and conveyed absence of this health education in many vaccination sessions, which is a significant predictor and contributor of dissatisfaction to childhood vaccination services in many studies implemented by different researchers (Hussen, & Bogale, 2016; Cohen, et al., 2015; Salah, Baraki, Egata, & Godana, 2015).

As regard to vaccination nurses' performance, the present study demonstrated lower satisfaction score among over nighty percent of respondents. In congruent with different studies that agreed on the effect and importance of vaccinators' communication approach vaccination acceptance as well as maternal These studies highlighted satisfaction. "appropriate communication approach vaccinator nurse had a positive effect on the level of maternal satisfaction towards childhood vaccination". Conclusively, an effective interaction between the vaccination providers and clients can address the concerns of caregivers and motivate a hesitant one towards vaccine acceptance (Hussen & Bogale, (2016, Yusuf, et al., 2018 and GebreEyesus, et al. (2020).

Literatures also pointed out the most significant influencer of caregivers' satisfaction; this is an acceptable PHC facilities infrastructure. The present study reflected lower satisfaction score among majority of respondents. This finding is in the same line with conclusive finding of Sah, & Kumar, (2015) and GebreEyesus, et al. (2020), which demonstrated inacceptable infrastructure of primary care centers due to lack of supplies, equipment, medications, and well-trained health personnel.

In spite of the current Egyptian ministry of health improvement actions, the level of caregivers' satisfaction towards childhood vaccination is still unsatisfactory (Dana, Asefa, Hirigo, & Yitbarek, 2021). The underpinning reasons of low level of satisfaction may be partly due to the fact that

Mansoura is a district with large population density, accordingly vaccinator nurses are overwhelmed with the relatively large number of children attending the PHC centers. Therefore, vaccinator nurses would be unable to provide satisfactory health services for caregivers and their children. Additionally, this work pressure effects on building good ties and relations between the nurses and the caregivers. According to the retrieved field notes throughout the data collection of the present study shortage of nursing staff, inadequate policies for healthcare provision and financial resources for providing necessary supplies, as well as insufficient training of the PHC staff. All of these factors lead to the observed lower satisfaction among the studied group.

### 6. Conclusion and recommendations:

This study concluded low caregivers' satisfaction score with childhood vaccination services. On-going monitoring of caregivers' satisfaction is recommended to improve the quality of vaccination process. Strict adherence of vaccinator nurses to rules of providers-clients relationship and giving all rights to health service beneficiaries is also requested.

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