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**FACTORS AFFECTING 'HEALTH KNOWLEDGE' WITH REFERENCE TO  
IMMUNIZATIONS IN A GROUP OF MOTHERS ATTENDING  
CHILD WELFARE CLINICS**

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Immunization has been well recognised as a measure of reducing childhood mortality. For an immunization programme to be successful, community acceptance is necessary, which would be related to the 'health knowledge' of the community.

A random sample of 150 mothers attending the child welfare clinics in the Kotte Health Unit area was studied using an interviewer administered questionnaire.

Immunization coverage was high in this group. Among the mothers of the children who had been given immunizations, a proportion did not know the illness for which the immunisation was given. This proportion was highest for B.C.G. (54%) and lowest for small-pox vaccination (30%). It was observed that the understanding of the illness for which an immunization was given was significantly associated with the educational status of the mother and the duration of clinic attendance.

The study indicates the necessity for improving the educational activities at child welfare clinics. An improvement of 'knowledge' among this group of mothers would be useful in motivating those in the community to accept immunizations.

**References:**

Jeyaratnam, J. and de Fonseka, T. E. J. (1971), *Ceylon Medical Journal*, **16**, 157.