ABSTRACT

The aims of this study are to describe socio-demographic characteristics, knowledge, perception and sources of information and children's immunization status. The study tried to find out the relationship between these variables and child immunization status. A cross sectional study was conducted on knowledge and perception of mothers with children under two years of age on immunization status in Nongbok district, Khammuane province, Lao PDR. Two hundred and seventy three mothers who had children under two years old were chosen from fifteen villages.

The results of study was found that most of the respondents (93.8%) their children were vaccinated and most of them (87.5%) went to get vaccination for their children at mobile services. The total immunization rate among children under two years old were very low (37.0%). Only BCG vaccination was quite high (80.6%), other vaccines were found to be less than 50%. The results also indicated that the mothers' occupation, education, number of children alive and residences were significantly related with children immunization status, while the mothers' ages and family income were not related. Regarding the mothers' knowledge about diseases and immunization programmes, a few more, one-third, of respondents had a similar knowledge level (good, fair and poor). The median scores of knowledge about disease transmission, disease prevention, immunization schedules and the overall knowledge scores were significant difference between the incomplete and the complete immunization groups. In the perception of the respondents the majority of them (74.7%) had a moderate level of perception while a few of them had a high and low level. The result of this study also found that, the different median scores of perception on susceptibility, severity, barrier and the overall perception scores were significantly different between the incomplete and the complete immunization groups. Regarding sources of information on the knowledge of immunization and the side effects of vaccines, most of the respondents got information from health personnel and also got from the village commission for mother and child. It was found that only information on side effects DPT / MsV vaccines were significantly related to immunizational status of children.

The implication from these findings will provide useful information for the improvement and strengthening of immunization programmes in Khammuane province by the health personnel, commission for mother and child, village health volunteers and private sectors for giving mothers' knowledge and perception toward immunizable diseases and immunization programme.