
**FACTORS INFLUENCING IMMUNIZATION COVERAGE
IN CHILDREN OF AGE 12 TO 23 MONTHS IN FIELD
PRACTICE AREAS OF SDMCMSH, DHARWAD.**

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Abstract

Background and Objectives – Immunization offers a person protection from an infectious disease. Immunization – most successful and cost-effective of public health interventions – averts ~3 million deaths annually. Nationally 62% and in Karnataka 62.6% children aged 12 to 23 months are fully immunized (NFHS-4).

This study was conducted to estimate immunization coverage and determine factors influencing the same in children aged 12—23 months.

Methods – A community-based cross-sectional study was conducted among 91 rural and 134 urban children aged 12—23 months meeting inclusion & exclusion criteria and residing under field practice areas of SDMCMSH, Dharwad. Using a pretested proforma, sociodemographic factors and factors influencing immunization were collected. Data were analyzed using MS Excel, IBM SPSS and associations between variables was studied using χ^2 , Fisher's exact tests and binary logistic regression.

Results – Three-fourths urban children and 89% rural children were fully immunized. Factors like gender or birth order of child, SES, education or age of parents and influencing factors like mother's healthcare utilization indicators, distance of the home from a health centre, vaccination advice, place of delivery could not predict the likelihood of child being fully immunized. Likelihood of full immunization was 78% more for a rural child than urban child (OR 0.22; 95% CI 0.59—0.81) and 2% more for child delivered in government centres than at home (OR 0.98; 95% CI 0.01—0.99).

Conclusion – Committed efforts of healthcare workers and missions like Indra Dhanush, have reduced proportion of partially immunized children. The

immunization status is influenced by some factors of which residing in urban slums, non-institutional deliveries may predict partial immunization. These factors need to be addressed and the awareness be strengthened to improve immunization.

Keywords – Immunization coverage, 12-23 months, factors influencing immunization coverage, rural and urban.