

**A STUDY ON THE PERCEPTION AND AWARENESS  
TOWARDS ATTITUDE OF PARENTS  
ON CHILDREN VACCINATION**

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# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 BACKGROUND OF STUDY

Vaccination is one of the important commitments of health that everybody should focus on especially right after giving birth and having babies. Recently, there have been many issues on the necessary of getting the vaccine for children. Some of the parents choose not to allow their children to get vaccines as they assumed that vaccine is one of the harmful things. Yaqub et al. (2014) quoted from (Andre et al., 2008) stated that vaccines are widely known by health authorities and the medical community as an important tool for achieving public health achievement. Yet, people are still doubting the benefits of vaccines, worry over their assurance and still arguing about the need for getting vaccines, an attitude we refer to as vaccine hesitancy (Yaqub et al., 2014). Vaccines are unquestionably one of the most cost-effective instruments in the health system. It is cheaper although it presents tremendous benefits for the health and well-being of populations (Masadeh et al., 2014).

#### 1.1.1 PERCEPTION, AWARENESS AND ATTITUDE

As there are so many issues towards parents attitude for bringing their children to get vaccines, perceptions and awareness are believed to be the main factors of the problem. Ojikutu (2012) stated in his research that parental knowledge and attitudes is one of the factors of non-immunization of children. The examples of parental knowledge and attitudes are parental practical knowledge, fear of side effects, conflicting priorities, and religious (Ojikutu, 2012). Most of the parents want to do anything possible that can protect their children from getting diseases. At the side of that, attitude and knowledge still become the barriers for bringing their

children for vaccinations. For example, many parents appear to use religious excuse option for nonreligious reasons (Salmon et al., 2005).

The perception of parents towards vaccination contributes a massive effect to their attitude for bringing their children for vaccinations. The personal beliefs that a parent holds about vaccines, the process, and immunity can affect how they see their child's susceptibility to get disease, and the effect that vaccination to the body (Highland, n.d). A study conducted by Anthropologist Emily Martin examined on how the American public viewed the immune system. Among her conclusions, she found that the way the public captures the concepts of immune system and how it works is definitely contradict from the scientific view. The concept that a vaccine can be an anxiety on a healthy immune system is due in part to the nature of the vaccine itself. The vaccine can be as source of disease or contamination because it may contain components of the virus or because of the substances used to secure the vaccine (Martin , 1994).

It is very important for the parents to aware about the uses and benefits of vaccine itself. The knowledge that they have about vaccinations will influence the parental decision making process either to bring their children for getting vaccines or not. When children are not yet able to decide about treatment, according to law that govern both consent to health care and child welfare, their guardians are responsible to act as their substitute decision-makers and decide either to do or refuse for vaccinations on their behalf (Gilmour et al., 2011