

**KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICES ON DIARRHEA
PREVENTION AMONGST MOTHERS WITH
CHILDREN LESS THAN FIVE YEARS OF AGE IN
LOBATSE (BOTSWANA)**

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OCTOBER 2014

ABSTRACT

Acute diarrheal disease among children younger than 5 years old remains a major cause of morbidity and mortality worldwide. It is estimated that in 2010, diarrheal diseases accounted for 60.1 million disability-adjusted life years (DALYs) and for 666 000 deaths among children aged under five years - down from 70.6 million DALYs and 782 000 deaths in 2005 (Global Burden of Disease, 2010). The main objective of this study is to determine the mother's level of knowledge and practices on prevention of diarrhea and to determine whether mothers apply knowledge of diarrhea prevention into practice. A cross sectional study was conducted through Internet on mothers of children less than five years in Lobatse. A structured questionnaire through a link was pasted on Lobatse groups in Facebook assessing socio-demographic variables, knowledge on diarrhea on signs and symptoms, causes and mode of transmission and practices regarding water, sanitation and hygiene and other domestic practices. The study was conducted for 2 weeks in July 2014. A total of 80 respondents submitted the questionnaire. This study concludes that mothers had high knowledge ($n=57$, 71.2%) on diarrhea and poor practices ($n=50$, 62.5%) towards prevention of diarrhea. However, there is a wide gap in the knowledge and practices of mothers regarding the prevention of diarrhea. The high knowledge revealed in the study had not influenced the practices of mothers in preventing childhood diarrhea. From this, the interventions are needed to enhance mothers' practices to improve on prevention of diarrhea.

Keywords: knowledge on diarrhea prevention, practices on diarrhea prevention, mothers with children under five years and Lobatse.