



WHY MALAYSIAN PARENTS REFUSE VACCINATION?



Zaikiah M.Z, Albeny J.P, Norrafizah J, Komathi P, M.Ridzwan Z.
Institute for Behavioral Health Research, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



INTRODUCTION

- Globally, vaccines are vital in preventing infectious diseases and their complications. High immunization coverage has resulted in drastic declines in vaccine-preventable diseases and in overall prevents disability, death and inequity worldwide.
- In Malaysia, the initial National Immunisation Programme was established in 1950's and in 1974, Malaysia is one of the countries that have Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) as recommended by WHO, known as Malaysian National Immunisation Program (MNIP).
- EPI recommended that all countries immunise against 6 childhood diseases, however MNIP has expanded protection against 12 major childhood diseases. (Refer table 1).

Table 1: Malaysian National Immunisation Program

AGE	AT BIRTH	1 MONTH	2 MONTHS	3 MONTHS	5 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	9 MONTHS	12 MONTHS	18 MONTHS	21 MONTHS	7 YEARS	13 YEARS	15 YEARS
TYPES OF IMMUNISATION	BCG Dose 1	Hepatitis B Dose 2	DTaP Dose 1	DTaP Dose 2	DTaP Dose 3	Hepatitis B Dose 3	MMR Dose 1	MMR Dose 2	DTaP Booster	JE Dose 2 (Sarawak Only)	MR Dose 2	HPV Dose 1 & 2	Tetanus Booster
	Hepatitis B Dose 1		Hib Dose 1	Hib Dose 2	Hib Dose 3	Measles Dose 1 (Sabah Only)	JE Dose 1 (Sarawak Only)		Hib Booster		DT Booster		
			Polio (IPV) Dose 1	Polio (IPV) Dose 2	Polio (IPV) Dose 3				Polio (IPV) Booster				

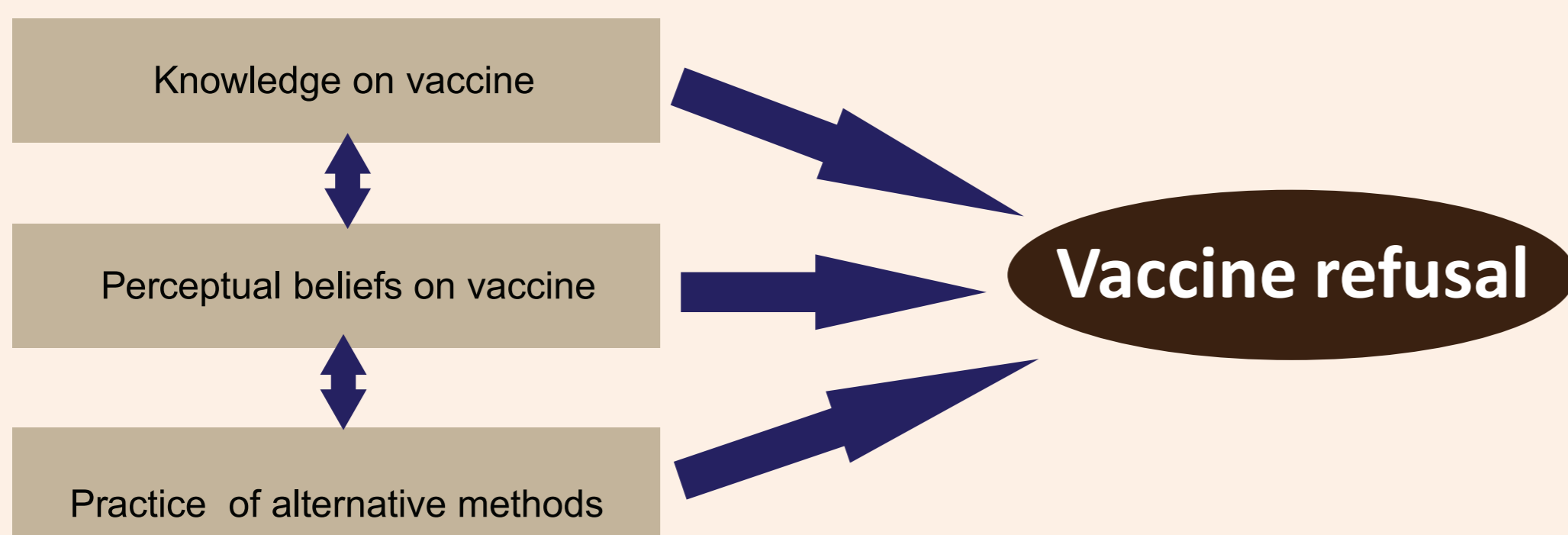
Source: www.myhealth.gov.my

PROBLEM STATEMENT

- Despite vaccination success, there are still a group of people that refuses vaccines and the trend is increasing yearly, including Malaysia.
- In Malaysia, there are a group of parents who are actively campaigning through various social media, especially on Facebook, by posting up unsupported "evidences" that the immunisation programme is a "New World" conspiracy or questioning the "halal status" (permissible according to Islam) of the vaccine.
- This alarming trend will indirectly lead to public health problem as anyone who are not vaccinated, are not protected against the strains of virus or bacteria, thus making them vulnerable to diseases, whereby this would decrease the "herd immunity".

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

The conceptual framework for this study is based on Bandura's Social Cognitive Theory (1977), which explained that vaccination refusal is a continuous reciprocal interaction between cognitive, behavioural, and environmental influences.



OBJECTIVES

- To explore the knowledge of parents/caregivers on vaccination.
- To explore perceptual beliefs of their child's risks to vaccine preventable diseases infection.
- To explore the reason for refusing vaccination among parents/caregivers.
- Explore alternative practices to vaccination among parents/caregivers.
- Explore expectation of parents/caregivers towards health staff and services regarding to information on vaccination.

METHODOLOGY

Research Design	Qualitative Exploratory Study.
Study population	Parents/caregivers who refused vaccination for their children at public health care clinics in Selangor, Malaysia.
Data Collection Method	In-depth Interview (IDI).
Sampling Method	Purposive Sampling using Maximum Variation Sampling method
Instrumentation	An interview protocol will be formulated bilingual (Malay and English) based on issues that are studied. Other instruments used are diary and voice recorder.
Analysis	Thematic analysis.

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Muhamad Ridzwan Bin Zakaria
 Currently working as Assistant Director at Institute for Health Behavioural Research
 Ministry of Health Malaysia
 ridzwanzakaria@yahoo.com
 ridzwan.z@moh.gov.my