

INTRODUCTION

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Vaccination is the procedure of giving an individual an antigen derived from or similar to, a pathogenic organism in order to induce specific, active protection against the disease caused by that organism. The aim of vaccination is to create a controlled focus of infection, successful vaccination is an immunization, that is it produces a protective immunity against the virulent effects of the organism. (Forfor, 1984).

Every six seconds, a child dies and another is disabled from a disease which can be immunized against. Many more suffer setbacks to normal health and growth.

All infections are nutritional setbacks. Often, the climb back to normal weight and growth takes several weeks. Immunization against the six main infectious diseases of childhood would therefore be a partial "immunization" against malnutrition itself. And it is because it strikes against infection and malnutrition that immunization is one of the sharpest tools for cutting into the vicious cycle and reducing the severity and frequency of setbacks to the normal development of the child in its most formative years. (Grant., 1984)

Immunisation is one of the most powerful and cost-effective health interventions. If potent vaccines, which have been correctly stored, were administered to all infants

and women at appropriate stages in their lives, they would prevent a very high percentage of the estimated 5 million death and 5 million residual disabilities still caused annually by the six target diseases of W. H. O. Expanded programme of immunization (Ward, 1985).

Different countries have different immunization scheduels designed to suit the local epidemiological patterns, the available resources and health services. (Henessin, 1976).

According to Moffet, vaccination failure can be define as the occurance of unmodified natural disease in vaccinated individuals. (Moffet, 1980).