

Abstract

Knowledge, Attitude and practice of mothers/female guardians regarding discipline of children in the age group 0-9 years in the parish of Clarendon.

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This study was designed to assess the factors which influence the knowledge, attitude and practice of mothers/female guardians regarding discipline of children 0-9 years in Clarendon.

The study was carried out on 186 mothers/female guardians attending child health clinics in health centres in Clarendon. The health centres were selected from eight Type 3 health centres, stratified by geographic location (north, central and south).

The instrument used was a questionnaire administered by trained assistants.

The results have shown that respondents tended to discipline their children using the same methods used by their (respondents) parents, supporting the fact that disciplinary practices are learnt. Unfortunately, the majority of respondents practice the physical methods of discipline such as spanking/beating which are negative reinforcement.

A high percentage of respondents discipline their children for lying and stealing suggesting that these are two major problems faced by parents in rearing their children.

Because physical methods of discipline can result in child abuse, it is very important that appropriate child rearing practices be taught in schools.