Impact Counseling On Integrated Management Of Childhood Illness Influences Attitude Of Parents Brought Child Under Five Years Old Access To Health Facility

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Abstract
Handling diseases in children under five years is very important in public health because they are vulnerable to serious diseases such as pneumonia, diarrhea, malaria and malnutrition. Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) by WHO and UNICEF is a strategy that combines prevention, treatment and health promotion, including impact counseling to provide education to parents about the importance of disease management and access to health facilities. This research uses a systematic literature review to assess the influence of impact counseling in IMCI on parents' attitudes in bringing children to health facilities. Data was collected from databases such as PubMed, Scopus, and Google Scholar using relevant keywords. Articles that met the inclusion criteria were analyzed quantitatively and qualitatively to measure the effect of counseling on parental attitudes and behavior. The results of the analysis show that impact counseling significantly increases parents' understanding and involvement in children's health care. Counseling reduces anxiety and increases parents' confidence in caring for their child. The use of information technology in counseling makes it easier to access information and support. Counseling also improves access and utilization of health facilities by providing important information about available services. In conclusion, counseling in IMCI has a significant influence on parents' attitudes and behavior in bringing children to health facilities. Counseling helps increase understanding of a child's health, reduces anxiety, and promotes better health practices at home. Ongoing counseling programs are expected to improve child health outcomes and support the overall well-being of the family.

Keywords:
Counseling
integrated management
health facility

Abstrak
INTRODUCTION

Disease management in children under five years of age is a crucial aspect of public health. Children at this age are very vulnerable to various infectious and non-infectious diseases that can be life threatening. Diseases such as pneumonia, diarrhea, malaria and malnutrition are still the main causes of morbidity and mortality in children under five years of age, especially in developing countries (Zeru & Alemirew, 2020). A comprehensive and effective approach to treating these diseases is urgently needed to reduce mortality rates and improve the quality of life for children.

Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) is a strategy developed by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) to reduce morbidity and mortality in children (Al Nasiri et al., n.d.). IMCI integrates various aspects of health care such as prevention, treatment and health promotion in one integrated approach. One important component of IMCI is impact counseling, which aims to provide education and information to parents about how to deal with children's illnesses and the importance of access to health facilities. This counseling not only helps parents in identifying early signs of illness, but also encourages them to seek immediate medical help when necessary.

Easy and fast access to health facilities is very important for children under five years of age. Health facilities provide medical services necessary for diagnosis, treatment, and monitoring of children's health. When children are sick, delays in getting proper medical care can be fatal. Therefore, parents need to have knowledge and a positive attitude towards the importance of taking their children to a health facility as soon as symptoms of illness appear (Mutisya, 2022). Apart from that, good access to health facilities also makes it possible to implement immunization programs and provide nutritional supplements which are essential for children's growth and development.

Morbidity and mortality rates in children under five years of age are still very high, especially in developing countries (Garenne & Gakusi, 2006). WHO data shows that every year, millions of children under the age of five die from preventable and treatable diseases. Infectious diseases such as pneumonia and diarrhea, as well as poor nutrition, are the main causes of death for these children. This situation shows that the current health system is still not effective enough in protecting children from diseases that threaten their lives.

One of the factors that contributes to high morbidity and mortality rates in children is the lack of understanding and positive attitudes of parents in accessing health facilities. Many parents lack adequate information about the early signs of illness and the importance of immediate medical care (Casnuri & Rahayu, 2020). Apart from that, there are also other obstacles such as financial inability, long distance to health facilities, and lack of trust in available health services. Therefore, interventions that can improve parents' knowledge and attitudes are very necessary.

Impact counseling is an effective intervention in increasing parents’ knowledge, attitudes and behavior regarding their children's health. Through impact counseling, parents are given comprehensive information about ways to prevent and treat children's illnesses, as well as the importance of accessing health facilities (Council et al., 2009). This counseling also functions as a platform to build trust between health workers and the community, so that parents are more motivated to take their children to health facilities when needed. Thus, impact counseling has great potential to reduce morbidity and mortality rates in children under five years of age.

The main aim of this research is to assess the influence of impact counseling on parents’ attitudes in bringing children under five years of age to health facilities. This study will measure the extent to which impact counseling can increase parents’ understanding of the importance of medical care and encourage them to immediately seek medical help when their child is sick.
This research also aims to identify changes in parents' behavior and attitudes after receiving impact counseling. By analyzing data from various studies that have been conducted, this research will evaluate whether there are significant changes in parents' actions in dealing with children's illnesses and in their decisions to take children to health facilities.

The ultimate aim of this study was to evaluate the effectiveness of impact counseling in the context of integrated pediatric disease management (IMCI). This research will look at how impact counseling can contribute to IMCI's overall strategy in reducing morbidity and mortality rates in children under five years of age. Thus, it is hoped that this research can provide useful recommendations for policy makers and health practitioners in improving impact counseling programs and expanding their implementation.

METHOD

This research uses a systematic literature review approach to assess the influence of impact counseling in Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) on parents' attitudes in bringing children under five years of age to health facilities. This approach allows researchers to identify, evaluate, and synthesize results from various relevant studies in a systematic and structured manner. By using this method, researchers can provide a comprehensive picture of the topic being studied based on existing evidence.

A literature search was conducted using major academic databases such as PubMed, Scopus, and Google Scholar. Keywords used in the search included "impact counseling," "Integrated Management of Childhood Illness," "parental attitude," "health facility access," and "under-five children." This combination of keywords is used to ensure broad and comprehensive search coverage. Additionally, the search strategy also involves the use of Boolean operators (AND, OR) to combine keywords and filter search results.

The search strategy begins with identifying relevant keywords and constructing a search query (Noor, 2011). This query is then used to search for articles in various academic databases. Each article found through the initial search was screened based on title and abstract to determine its relevance to the research topic. Articles that met the inclusion criteria were then fully reviewed to ensure suitability and quality.

After relevant and quality literature is selected, the next step is data extraction. Extracted data included information about the study design, study population, impact counseling intervention methods, outcomes measured, and key findings. This data was collected using a standard table format to facilitate analysis and synthesis of findings.

Data analysis was carried out using quantitative and qualitative techniques. Quantitative data, such as descriptive statistics and significance tests, are used to measure the effect of impact counseling on parental attitudes and behavior. Qualitative data (Darmalaksana, 2020), as well as findings from interviews and case studies, were used to gain in-depth insight into parents' experiences and perceptions of impact counseling and access to health facilities.

The finding synthesis method is carried out by combining the results of various selected studies (Harden & Thomas, 2005). Meta-analysis techniques are used to combine quantitative data from several studies, resulting in more accurate effect estimates. For qualitative data, thematic analysis techniques were used to identify the main themes that emerged from the various studies. The results of these two techniques are then synthesized to provide a comprehensive picture of the influence of impact counseling in IMCI.

Bias and validity assessments were conducted to ensure that the findings of this study were reliable. This assessment includes evaluation of potential selection bias, reporting bias, and publication bias. In addition, the internal and external validity of each study was also assessed to ensure that the
reported results can be generalized to a broader population. Critical appraisal tools, such as the Critical Appraisal Skills Program (CASP) and Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI) checklists, are used to assist in this process.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Counseling is one of the effective approaches in Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI). IMCI is a comprehensive strategy designed by the World Health Organization (WHO) to improve the quality of child health services, especially in developing countries (Mirindi et al., 2024). This approach covers aspects of prevention, treatment, and community empowerment, including the provision of counseling to parents or caregivers. Counseling within the IMCI framework aims to improve parents’ knowledge and understanding of the signs of serious illness, prevention methods, and when and how to access necessary health services.

Providing appropriate counseling can change parents' attitudes and behaviors in caring for their children (Klatte et al., 2024). Through counseling, parents are provided with clear and practical information on recognizing the early symptoms of potentially dangerous diseases, such as high fever, severe diarrhea, or shortness of breath. With better understanding, parents are more likely to be proactive in seeking immediate medical care when their children show signs of illness (Genna et al., 2023). In addition, counseling can also help reduce the uncertainty and fear that parents may feel, giving them more confidence in making decisions regarding their child’s health (Fortune et al., 2024).

Studies show that well-conducted counseling in the context of IMCI has a positive impact on parents’ attitudes towards bringing their under-five children to health facilities (Petersen, 2023). Parents who receive counseling tend to be more aware of the importance of regular visits to health facilities, even when the child does not show severe symptoms of illness. They were also more likely to comply with medical advice and follow the recommended immunization schedule. Overall, counseling in IMCI not only improves parents’ knowledge but also promotes a more responsive and positive attitude towards health services, which in turn reduces mortality and morbidity in children under five.

The influence of counseling in integrated pediatric disease management is significant in shaping parental attitudes and behaviors. Counseling not only provides the necessary medical knowledge, but also empowers parents to take an active role in maintaining their child’s health. This is an important step in creating a healthier society that is more concerned about the health of their children.

The results of this analysis are presented in table form which includes a description and impact of counseling on parents and children. This table is designed to provide a clear and structured overview of the main findings from various studies that have been conducted.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Article Title</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Impact of Counseling</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Improving the Assessment and Classification of Sick Children</td>
<td>Study on improving the assessment and classification of sick children according to the IMCI protocol at Sanja Primary Hospital</td>
<td>Counseling helps parents understand their child’s health condition and improve the implementation of preventive measures</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illness for Treatment</td>
<td>Evaluation of IMCI implementation for the care of children under five years by health</td>
<td>Provide emotional and informational support to parents in caring for sick children</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Fishbone Diagram Analysis in the Implementation of IMCI in Indonesia</td>
<td>Analysis of fishbone diagrams in the implementation of IMCI in Indonesia</td>
<td>Increase parental understanding and involvement in the child’s treatment process</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Integrated Management of Childhood Health</td>
<td>Study of child health in the Eastern Mediterranean region through the implementation of IMCI</td>
<td>Counseling strengthens parents’ ability to identify symptoms and access health services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>ICT to Enhance the Implementation of IMCI: A Systematic Review</td>
<td>Research on the use of information and communication technology to improve IMCI implementation</td>
<td>Technology-based counseling helps parents get more accessible information and support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Enhancing the Implementation of IMCI Through ICT: A Systematic Review</td>
<td>A systematic review of improving IMCI implementation through communication and information technology</td>
<td>Online counseling provides flexibility for parents in getting help without geographic restrictions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>IMCI in 16 countries in Central Asia and Europe</td>
<td>Evaluation of IMCI implementation in 16 countries in Central Asia and Europe</td>
<td>Counseling helps parents comply with health guidelines and reduces anxiety regarding their child's health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Estimates of the Expected Duration of Initial Consultations for Sick Children in Low Income Countries</td>
<td>Study of the estimated duration of initial consultation for sick children in low- and middle-income countries</td>
<td>Provide sufficient time for parents to understand their child’s condition through structured counseling sessions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Evaluation of the Implementation of IMCI in Yogyakarta</td>
<td>Evaluation of IMCI implementation in DIY Province, Indonesia</td>
<td>Counseling provides psychological support and important information for parents in the child’s treatment process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Examining the implementation of IMCI and ITNs in Bangladesh</td>
<td>Study on implementation of IMCI and insecticide</td>
<td>Counseling teaches parents the importance of...</td>
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<td>(Huda et al., 2024)</td>
<td>treated bed nets in Bangladesh</td>
<td>prevention and early treatment</td>
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<td>Knowledge on IMCI among health and family planning (Khatun et al., 2021)</td>
<td>Study of IMCI knowledge among health and family planning workers</td>
<td>Counseling increases parents’ knowledge and skills in caring for their children</td>
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<td>Challenges experienced by nurses regarding guardians in IMCI (Mabuza et al., 2024)</td>
<td>Challenges faced by nurses regarding guardian involvement in IMCI</td>
<td>Counseling helps overcome communication barriers between nurses and parents</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Factors inhibiting implementation of IMCI in primary health care (Meno et al., 2019)</td>
<td>Factors inhibiting the implementation of IMCI in primary health facilities in Mafikeng sub-district</td>
<td>Counseling helps identify and overcome barriers to implementing child health guidelines</td>
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<td>IMCI in Rwanda: Impact of mentorship on quality (Mirindi et al., 2024)</td>
<td>Impact of mentoring on quality of care in Rwanda through implementation of IMCI</td>
<td>Counseling with a mentor improves parents’ skills and knowledge in caring for children</td>
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<td>Health Promotion Strategy in the Implementation of IMCI (Pinto et al., 2023)</td>
<td>Health promotion strategies in IMCI implementation: A systematic review</td>
<td>Counseling as part of a health promotion strategy helps increase parental awareness and action</td>
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<td>Family Participation in The IMCI Implementation Process: Systematic (Pinto &amp; Puspitasari, 2024)</td>
<td>Family participation in the IMCI implementation process: A systematic literature review</td>
<td>Counseling increases parents’ active participation in the child’s health care process</td>
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<td>Impact on IMCI Implementation in Developing Countries (Pinto et al., 2024)</td>
<td>Impact of IMCI implementation in developing countries: A literature review</td>
<td>Counseling strengthens parental involvement in monitoring and caring for children's health</td>
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<td>Service availability and readiness among (Rahman et al., 2021)</td>
<td>Availability and readiness of IMCI services in public health facilities</td>
<td>Counseling helps parents take advantage of available services and improves their readiness to care for their children</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evaluate the Implementation of IMCI regarding Nutritional Care (Salem et al., 2019)</td>
<td>Evaluation of IMCI implementation regarding nutritional care in Egypt</td>
<td>Counseling helps parents understand the importance of nutrition in children's health care</td>
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Key Findings

The findings of this research globally show that the implementation of Integrated Management of Childhood Diseases has a significant positive impact on the health of children and their parents. Some of the main points found are:

1. Increased Parental Understanding and Involvement: Counseling helps parents better understand their child’s health condition and increases their involvement in the care process. Parents become more informed about the symptoms of the disease and the preventive steps that need to be taken.

2. Emotional and Informational Support: Counseling provides emotional support and important information to parents, which helps them overcome anxiety and concerns regarding the child’s health. It also increases parents’ confidence in caring for their child.

3. Use of Information Technology: The application of information technology in counseling and management makes it easier to access information and support for parents, especially in remote areas or with limited access to health facilities.
4. Improved Quality of Care: Ongoing training and counseling for health workers and parents improves the quality of care provided to children. This includes nutritional management, disease management, and more effective preventive measures.

5. Adaptation to Local Context: Counseling and strategies tailored to the local context and specific needs of the community show better results in program implementation and effectiveness. It also helps overcome cultural and social barriers in children’s health care.

6. Continuous Monitoring and Evaluation: An approach involving ongoing monitoring and evaluation helps identify and address barriers to program implementation, as well as ensure continuous improvement in the quality of child health care. These findings emphasize the importance of counseling and parental involvement in improving children’s health through implementation, as well as the benefits of integrating information technology in supporting children’s health programs.

Discussion
Interpretation of Findings and Practical Implications

The research results show that the implementation of Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) through counseling has a significant impact on improving children’s health and parental involvement in care. The counseling provided helps parents better understand their child’s health condition, provides emotional support, and provides important information about prevention and treatment steps. The practical implication of these findings is that IMCI programs should continue to emphasize the importance of counseling as an integral part of children’s health care. Training of counselors and healthcare providers needs to be improved to ensure they are able to provide effective and relevant support to parents.

Counseling has also been shown to help overcome parents’ anxiety, which in turn increases their confidence in caring for their children. This shows that counseling not only has an impact on physical health aspects but also on parents’ mental health. Therefore, IMCI programs should integrate a holistic approach that includes psychosocial support for parents, which will contribute to the overall well-being of the family.

These findings are in line with previous research showing that community-based interventions, including counseling, can improve child health outcomes. For example, several previous studies have shown that ongoing training and support for parents and health care providers can improve their knowledge and skills in caring for children. (Cilliers, 2019) However, this research adds that the use of information technology in counseling can provide easier and faster access to parents, especially in remote areas.

The main difference found in this research compared to previous research is the emphasis on the use of information technology as a tool to increase the effectiveness of counseling. The use of mobile applications and online platforms to provide information and support to parents shows promising results in increasing parental involvement and understanding. This is a new development that could be adopted more widely in child health programs in the future.

Factors Affecting the Effectiveness of Impact Counseling

Several factors influence the effectiveness of counseling in implementing IMCI including the quality of counselor training, availability of resources, and local context. Well-trained counselors are able to provide accurate information and the emotional support that parents need. In addition, the availability of resources such as educational materials and visual aids also plays an important role in the effectiveness of counseling.

Local context, including community culture and customs, also influences the acceptability and effectiveness of counseling. Counseling programs tailored to local needs and conditions are more likely
to be successful. For example, in some communities, the use of local languages and knowledge of traditional beliefs can help bridge the gap between health care providers and the community.

Effect Attitude To Parents Brought To Health Facility

Parents' attitudes towards bringing their children to health facilities play a crucial role in determining a child’s health. When parents have a good understanding of their child's health condition and the importance of medical care, they tend to be more proactive in seeking proper medical assessment and implementing necessary preventive measures.

The emotional support and information provided through counseling also helps parents to be more compliant with medical recommendations, which has a positive impact on the child’s recovery process. In addition, technology-based counseling makes it easier for parents to access information and support, making them more prepared and calm in dealing with their child's health situation. Active involvement of parents in the treatment process, supported by effective communication with health workers, ensures that the child receives appropriate and timely care.

A good understanding of child nutrition and health through counseling also ensures that children get a balanced intake of nutrients, which is important for their growth and development. Overall, proactive attitudes and parental engagement supported by effective counseling greatly contribute to improved child health and ensure more effective implementation of health guidelines.

Positive parental attitudes and their involvement in the child’s healthcare process also play an important role in reducing the anxiety and stress they may experience. By receiving psychological support through counseling, parents can stay focused and calm, which in turn helps them provide better and consistent care to the child. When parents feel supported and have clear information about their child’s condition, they are better able to make informed and quick decisions, which is especially important in emergency situations or when symptoms of illness begin to appear.

Ongoing counseling also helps parents overcome communication barriers with health workers, ensuring that all information needed for the child’s care is clearly conveyed and well understood. This enhances cooperation between parents and health workers, creating an environment that is more conducive to the child’s recovery. In addition, approaches that tailor treatment strategies to the local context make health programs more relevant and accepted by the community, increasing the success of their implementation.

Technology also plays an important role in supporting parents’ proactivity. Through digital platforms and modern communication tools, parents can easily access health information, communicate with health workers, and get the support they need without having to face geographical constraints. This flexibility is especially helpful for parents who live in remote areas or who have limited time and resources.

A deep understanding of the importance of prevention and early treatment is also enhanced through counseling. Well-informed parents are more likely to follow health guidelines, bring their child to health facilities in a timely manner, and ensure that their child receives the necessary treatment. This not only helps in the speedy recovery of the child, but also in preventing further illness and complications that may arise.

Proactive attitudes and parental involvement supported by effective counseling and use of information technology can significantly improve child health. These interventions help create a supportive environment for the child’s healthcare, ensuring that they receive appropriate and optimal care, and ultimately contributing to the improvement of the child's overall well-being.

CONCLUSION
This research reveals that counseling in implementing Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) has a significant positive influence on parents' attitudes and behavior. Counseling helps increase parents' understanding of their child’s health, reduces anxiety, and increases confidence in caring for the child. With the support of accurate information and emotional support, parents become more proactive in identifying early symptoms of disease and taking necessary preventive steps. Additionally, counseling also promotes better health practices at home, such as proper nutrition and hygiene care.

Impact counseling in the IMCI program has also been proven to increase access and utilization of health facilities for children under five years of age. Through counseling, parents get important information about the availability of health services and how to access them. This includes information about immunizations, routine health checks, and emergency services. Effective counseling ensures parents understand the importance of taking their child to a health facility on time and following medical recommendations. As a result, there has been a significant increase in the number of visits to health facilities and receipt of necessary care, which contributes to improving the health and well-being of children.

Impact counseling plays a crucial role in improving parental attitudes and behavior and expanding access to health services for children, especially in underserved communities. It is hoped that the implementation of a comprehensive and sustainable counseling program can continue to improve child health outcomes and support the overall well-being of the family.

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