

Deanship of Graduate Studies
Al-Quds University



**Assessment of Knowledge, Perception and Practices of
Mothers of rachitic Children in Gaza Governorates**

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**Assessment of Knowledge, Perception and Practices of
Mothers of rachitic Children in Gaza Governorates**

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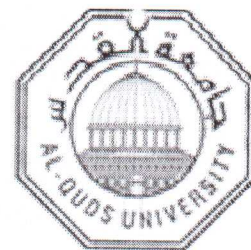
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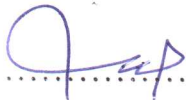
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Jerusalem – Palestine

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Dedication

This work is dedicated to my father who did everything easy for me,

my mother who is a model of great strength and love and praying for

me every time

My husband, my sons whose support, encouragement, and love made

this endeavor possible

Declaration

I certify that this thesis submitted for the degree of Master, is the result of my own research, except where otherwise acknowledged, and that this study (or any part of the same) has not been submitted for a higher degree to any other university or institution.

Signed

Heba Nadi Zien Al Dien

Date: / / 2018

Acknowledgment

First of all, praise to Allah, the lord of the world, and peace and blessings of Allah be upon the noblest of all Prophets and messengers, our prophet Mohammed, all thanks for Allah who granted me the help and capability to complete this thesis.

I would like to thank my thesis advisor, Dr Hamza Abdeljawad, he provided me with guidance and support. Also, thanks is extended to the academic and administrative staff of Al Quds University, for their guidance and support.

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Last but not least, I would like to express my gratefulness to my friends for their support and encouragement.

I hope this work could be helpful for the practice and for anyone concerned.

Heba Nadi Zien Al Dien

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Abstract

Globally, rickets has received considerable attention from the public health concerns in a number of developed and developing countries, in which attention has been focused because of its effect on bone growth and mineral homeostasis; however, research studies revealed an inadequate knowledge of mothers with regard to this problem. This study aimed to assess the knowledge, perception and practices of mothers of rachitic children in the Gaza Strip. The study adopted cross-sectional design on 235 mothers. Number of cases from Gaza and Khanyounis was (99 mothers from Khanyounis), and (136 mothers from Gaza Governorate). These two numbers were taken as a convenience sample. The researcher used valid and reliable questionnaire as a tool for data collection. Different statistical procedures were used for data analysis including percentages, mean, independent sample t test, and One-way ANOVA. The study results revealed that the mean percentage of mothers' knowledge regarding rickets is 49.21%, the mean percentage of their practices is 36.34, while the mean percentage of perception regarding the causes of rickets is 59.0%. Also, the results revealed that there are significant differences in the level of mothers' knowledge and perception among their different educational levels ($p < 0.05$) in favor of those who have university degree and higher. On the other hand, there are significant differences in the level of mothers' knowledge regarding rickets among their different areas of residence ($p < 0.05$) in favor of the mothers who are living in Gaza governorate. On the other hand, there are significant differences in the level of mothers' practices between their different level of income ($p < 0.05$) in favor of the mothers who have average income more than 1500 Shekel monthly, while there are no significant differences in the level of mothers' knowledge and perception between their different level of income ($p > 0.05$). Additionally, the mothers who are working have significantly higher knowledge score than those who are not, while there are no significant differences in the level of mothers' knowledge, practices, and perception between those who have other children with rickets and who do not ($p > 0.05$). The study results also revealed that there is a weak significant correlation ($r = 0.589$) between the level of mothers' knowledge and their practices regarding rickets ($p < 0.001$). Also, there is a weak significant correlation ($r = 0.130$) between the level of mothers' perception and their level of practices regarding rickets. The study concluded that the mothers of children with rickets in the Gaza Strip have low level of knowledge and practices regarding rickets. The researcher recommends conducting health educational sessions for the mothers of children with rickets. Additionally, training workshops are needed to enhance mothers' practices regarding rickets and how to prevent the problem.

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List of Abbreviations

AEI	Ard El-Insan Palestinian Benevolent Association
MCH	Mother and Child Health
MOH	Ministry of Health
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NR	Nutritional Rickets
PCBS	Palestinian Centre Bureau of Statistics
PHCC	Primary Health Care Centers
RDA	Recommended Daily Dietary Allowance
RTI	Respiratory Tract Infection
UK	United kingdom
USA	United States
VDD	Vitamin D Deficiency
WB	West Bank
WHO	World Health Organization