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**ASSESSMENT OF KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICES REGARDING ADVERSE EVENTS FOLLOWING IMMUNIZATION (AEFI) AMONG COMMUNITY HEALTH NURSES IN ALIPURDUAR DISTRICT, WEST BENGAL**

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**ABSTRACT**

Background: Adverse events do occur following immunization; majority of which are minor and self limiting. However fear of Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI) adversely affects vaccine uptake in a community. Hence a correlational survey was undertaken to assess knowledge and practices regarding AEFI among community health nurses in Alipurduar District, West Bengal.

Methods:A non-experimental survey approach and correlation survey research design was adopted. Purposive sampling of 148 community health nurses from 92 sub-centers was done. Predesigned and validated tools were used i.e. semi structured questionnaire for demographic variables and for assessment of AEFI training status, structured knowledge questionnaire for assessment of knowledge, structured interview schedule for assessment of stated practice and an observation checklist to observe few subjects practices.

Results: Majority (53.38%) of the respondents had good knowledge and few also had (6.76%) excellent knowledge. Stated and observed practice in approximately 40% of respondents was good with another 8% showing excellent practices. Remaining respondents’ practices were suboptimal. There were certain gaps in stated and observed practice. Significant association was found between knowledge and demographic variables and also found between practices and some demographic variables. Positive relationship was found between knowledge and practices [r(147)=0.86\*].

Conclusion: Poor knowledge and practices still persist among health care workers. Therefore, periodic training and in-service education to ensure quality of immunization in this setting is recommendation.

Keywords: Community Health Nurse, AEFI, Knowledge, Practice.