

GHOSTWRITING ACADEMIC PAPER SAMPLE

Factors that Impact Practices on Infant Feeding



Introduction

The controversy regarding melamine during the latter part of 2008 has directed the attention of people starting debates between the use of breast milk substitutes and breastfeeding (Smith, 2009). These breast milk substitutes usually come in the form of commercial infant formula. This was not the first instance wherein infant formula has resulted to illnesses as well as fatalities all over the world, thus the continuous campaign of UNICEF and World Health Organization (WHO) along with other advocates of breastfeeding, encouraging mothers to breastfeed their children until they reach 6 months of age at least.

Practices involving infant feeding generally refer to meet both immunological and nutritional needs of babies (Califer, 2010). A study involving practices in infant feeding was conducted on a sample involving 100 pairs of mothers and infants. The results show that about 20% of mothers included in the study exclusively breastfeed their babies exclusively. It also reveals that socio-economic factors such as the work status, educational attainment and marital status of mothers had direct impact on the practices.

Working mothers tend to stop breastfeeding their infants, eventually stopping and resorting to feeding with formula as they have to go back to work. The study showed also that married mothers, living with their mates are more likely to prefer breastfeeding compared to single mothers. At the same time, mothers with higher educational attainment also choose formula feeding as well as mixed feeding compared to those with lower educational attainment.

Methodology

The type of research which will be used in the study involves quantitative and qualitative research (Callahan, 2004). Qualitative researchers focus further on gathering in-depth understanding behind human behavior, as well as the different reasons governing such behaviors. The “whys” and the “how’s” of decision making will also be investigated.

Aside from this, the research will also investigate on the phenomenon by means of observations in various numerical representations via statistical analysis. Together with the use of questionnaires which will be given to respondents for the statistical representation of the study findings, interviews with respondents and experts.

Sampling Method

The sampling method used in the research is random sampling in order to attain a more scientifically specific results which may be used in representing the entirety of the population. The institutions and health care facilities of three towns was acquired, and random samples will be selected.

The institutions and health care facilities will be contacted in order to attain a verbal consistent in administering the questionnaire to the mothers right at their places. A letter of content will be sent to the selected samples, including the protocol and the guidelines of the researcher. A letter will also be sent to the City Health Officer, obtaining consent and endorsement to perform a research in the selected towns.

Questionnaire

The questionnaire needs details and information regarding the demographic and socio-economic background of the mothers. Questions that are related to the previous practices in infant feeding, as well as the birth of the youngest baby and the general health condition will also be recorded.

Perceived statements that will serve as factors that may influence the infant feeding decisions of mothers will be presented. The analysis and description of the specific type of infant formula as well as mixed feeding options from mothers will also be asked and presented in the material.

Respondents

The respondents who will be participating in this research will come from a particular location. The researcher chose the places due to the socio-economic conditions that currently exist in the area which are relevant to the study, and because it fits the resources and time frame of the researcher.

The respondents who are randomly sampled will be asked by the researcher for approval and consent to answer the questionnaire until the number of respondents is reached. The opinion of professionals and experts will also be sought in this study in order to give explanations about the infant feeding practices of the respondents.

Conclusion

Most of the mothers included in the study formula feed their children, and only a relatively few breastfeed their children exclusively, according to the recommendations of the World Health Organization. While most of the mothers showed a positive response towards breastfeeding, most mothers have decided to formula feed due to various reasons including work and insufficient supply of milk.

References

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Smith, P. (2009). The importance of breastfeeding among infants. *Mother and Children Society*, 11(1), 4-6.