

**AWARENESS OF MOTHER TO CHILD
TRANSMISSION OF HIV AMONG PREGNANT
MOTHERS IN MONYWA TOWNSHIP,
SAGAING REGION**

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2017

ABSTRACT

Mother to Child Transmission of HIV is the main way of vertical transmission from an HIV positive mother to her infant. Children can be prevented from HIV infected mother by adequate information on PMCT. A total of 200 pregnant mothers were accessed for the knowledge and attitude of pregnant women about PMCT. Thirty percent was within 20-24 age-group and the mean age was 27.8 years. Equal number of both urban and rural pregnant mothers was interviewed. The 15.5% of pregnant mothers was graduated and about half were dependent. Almost all of the pregnant women took AN care (90.9%) from basic health staff. They mostly received AN care from public health center (95.5%). About 59% of the women were primigravida. Almost all of the pregnant mothers had previous exposure to PMCT counseling from health staffs. Almost all pregnant women received HIV testing. Knowledge of PMCT by giving score, 42% had low score value and 58% had high score value. Most of the pregnant mother (92%) knew that HIV positive woman can transmit to her baby. About 90% of pregnant women perceived that HIV could be transmitted during pregnancy, 61.3% during delivery, and 84.5% during breast feeding. Respondents correctly answered on most possible transmission period of MTCT was only 7.6%. All mothers answered that every pregnant women and their husband should be done HIV testing (98.5%). Knowledge of HIV by giving total score, 11% have low score value and 89% have high score value. Knowledge on PMCT was significantly associated with knowledge of HIV ($p < 0.05$) and level of education ($p < 0.001$). Attitude of PMCT by giving score, 9% had low score value and 91% had high score value. Attitude on PMCT was significantly associated with level of education ($p < 0.001$), knowledge of HIV ($p < 0.001$) and type of health center ($p = 0.023$). These findings highlighted the level of awareness of pregnant mothers in Monywa Township and may be useful in some extent to apply in not only the regional program but also National AIDS program.