

**PERCEPTION AND PRACTICE ON
IMPLEMENTING THE HEALTH PROMOTING
SCHOOL ACTIVITIES AMONG EDUCATIONAL
STAFF IN PAKOKKU TOWNSHIP,
MAGWAY REGION**

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ABSTRACT

A cross-sectional descriptive study using both quantitative and qualitative methods was conducted in Pakokku Township to assess the perception and practice on implementing the health promoting school activities among the educational staff. Quantitative assessment by using self-administered pre-tested questionnaires was done to 130 teachers (PAT, JAT and SAT) and five key informant interviews (one Township Education Officer, two Headmasters and two focal persons of school health) were done for qualitative assessment. An observation checklist was used to assess the status of health promoting school activities in selected 12 BEMS.

Nearly half of the school teachers (46.2%) had high knowledge level score and (53.8%) had low knowledge level score. Teachers had inadequate knowledge on components of health promoting school and proper refuse disposal method.

Nearly half of the school teachers (48.5%) had good practice level score and (51.5%) had poor practice level score.

There was statistically significant association between school health training receiving from additional program (teacher training course, refresher course and training from Red Cross and NGO) and practice level ($P = 0.010$).

Regarding assessment of health promoting school activities among 12 selected middle schools, eight schools got high score and four schools got low score. Although school health committee was well organized and school environmental sanitation was satisfactory in all schools, there was inadequate distribution of health education posters and health education booklets for comprehensive health education in most of the schools.

In qualitative findings, all of the respondents had positive attitude and perception on health promoting school program and they thought that health promoting school activities were basic and important for the children for better qualitative and healthy life. Poor collaboration between health and education sectors, limitation of resources and poor interest of teachers in school health activities were barriers for progress of implementation of program. Therefore, most of them

suggested that health promoting school training for teachers and provision of IEC materials were needed and well collaboration of education and health department will implement health promoting school activities successfully.