

**HEALTH SEEKING BEHAVIOR AMONG THE  
CONSTRUCTION WORKERS AT THA-KAN  
BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION (BOGALAY)**

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## ABSTRACT

The construction industry is one of the most hazardous industries and the workers in the construction sites has been facing many occupational injuries and fatality risks because the nature of the work is outdoor operations, working at heights, working in dynamic and complex environments. A cross-sectional descriptive study was carried out to describe the health seeking behavior and the difficulties to find proper health care by health staff among the construction workers at That-Kan Bridge construction (Bogalay). There were nearly 150 workers in this bridge construction and a total of 140 construction workers were interviewed face to face using the pre-tested semi-structure questionnaire. The mean age of the respondent was 32.38 years with SD 11.78 and 86.4% were male. About the half of the respondents were middle school level (50%) and were married (58%). Most of the respondents (75.5%) lived with family and about 40% were migrants and 36% lived at work camp. The average per capital income was 62296 kyats and with SD 3134. Most of the respondents were part-time labour workers. About two third of the respondents (77.1%) had to work the whole week (7 days) and their working hours were  $\leq 8$  hours per day (83.6%). The mean of the service of the respondents were 10 months with SD 12.3. More than half of respondents (57.9%) made decision themselves to seek health care. Although the majority of the respondents (90.7%) suffered some kind of health problem within 3 months before the study. The common symptoms of the illness were musculoskeletal problem (26.8%) and respiratory tract infection (21.3%) and only half of them knew their diagnosis (52%) and 74.8% cannot go to work due to their illness. Most of the respondents (77.2%) accepted that their illness was not serious. The common health seeking behaviour of the respondents were self-care (40.2%), consulted at private clinic (40.2%) and consulted at public service (14.1%). The three main reasons for utilization of public health service were their own choice (88.9%), the severity of the illness (16.7%) and the recommendation by the others (11.1%). Almost all the respondents (88.6%) answered that there was the public health facility. The respondents who had consulted at public health service answered that they can go without any difficulty (96.3%) and satisfied the service of the public health service. In conclusion, most of the construction workers utilized the health care services provided by the formal health care system.