

**REASONS FOR INCOMPLETE IMMUNIZATION
OR NO IMMUNIZATION AMONG CHILDREN
AGED 12 -23 MONTHS IN HSIPAW TOWNSHIP,
NOTHERN SHAN STATE**

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ABSTRACT

Immunization is one of the most successful and cost-effective public health intervention and is vital to reduce childhood mortality and morbidity. Although immunization program has been implemented throughout the country, the coverage was low in some regions of the country. Hence this study was conducted to find out the reasons for incomplete immunization or no immunization among children aged 12-23 months in Hsipaw Township, Northern Shan State. Total 140 caretakers of children aged 12-23 month in Hsipaw Township were included in this study. A cross sectional analytical study was done by face to face interview to care taker of children aged 12-23 month with semi-structure questionnaires and in-depth interview to unimmunized mother and key informant interview to basic health staff by using guidelines. Among 140 children, 80% were received complete immunization, 15.7% were incomplete immunization and 4.3% were no immunization. According to sociodemographic characteristics of participants, most of caretakers were 20-29 years and 55% had attained low educational level and 20% were illiterate. Almost all of caretakers were Buddhist and Shan. Sixty five percent of caretakers were known the time table of immunization and received information of time table of immunization mainly from basic health staffs. There was statistically significant association between immunization status of children and educational level, occupation, place of delivery, received antenatal care, birth attendant. The main reasons for incomplete or no immunization of caretakers was busy of caretakers and fear of adverse effect and false belief regarding immunization. Basic health staff stated that reasons for incomplete or no immunization were fear of adverse effect and false belief about immunization, low security and hard to reach area and low educational status of caretakers. As conclusion, local action should be taken to raise knowledge of caretakers by proper health education targeting the low educated group and focusing on correct and more detail information regarding benefit of immunization.