

**FACTORS INFLUENCING HAND WASHING  
PRACTICE AMONG GRADE FIVE STUDENTS IN  
MYITTHA TOWNSHIP**

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**2017**

## ABSTRACT

Hand washing has been globally acknowledged and accepted as a low cost & effective technique in preventing communicable diseases by countries all over the world, including WASH programme. This study aimed to assess the factors influencing hand washing practice among Grade Five students in Myittha Township, Mandalay Division, 2017. Cross sectional study design was employed on Grade Five students from Myittha Myoma Basic Education High School (B.E.H.S) at urban area and Lankhwa B.E.H.S at rural area. Data collection was done from the study participants using structured questionnaires. Demonstration of hand washing steps of study participants and general observation for hand wash facility at schools by checklists. This study revealed that more than half of the study participants had good knowledge and also had proper hand washing behavior. The mean(SD) of hand washing knowledge score was 18.89 (2.55) and 37.43 (3.62) was for hand washing practice score. Age, gender, place of school, mother's education, and father's education were associated with hand-washing behavior in this study. Regarding knowledge on prevention of diseases by hand washing, all of the participants knew that hand washing could prevent diarrhoea and 131 (46.8%) of the students were aware of respiratory tract infection. About 65% of total students did correctly for six steps of hand washing demonstration. There was significant association between knowledge of the study population and proper hand washing practice ( $p < 0.001$ ). Concerning to enabling factors for children hand washing practice at home, it showed strong statistical association with hand washing practice ( $p = 0.05$ ). Regarding to reinforcing factors for children's hand washing practices, it was also statistically associated with proper hand washing practice ( $p < 0.001$ ). There was also statistically significant association between gender and hand washing practice of the students ( $p = 0.030$ ). Place of school, availability and of water, and soap, and pressure from important referents were significantly associated with hand washing practice.