

**COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVES ON UNSKILLED  
BIRTH ATTENDANTS AMONG RURAL WOMEN  
WHO HAD CHILDBIRTH WITHIN THREE  
YEARS IN PANTANAW TOWNSHIP,  
AYEYARWADY REGION**

**MOH MOH WIN**

**M.B.,B.S**

**Master of Public Health (MPH)**

**University of Public Health, Yangon**

**2017**

## ABSTRACT

An unskilled birth attendant means a birth attendant who is not recognized as a skilled provider. Throughout history, traditional birth attendants (TBAs) have been the main birth attendants for women during childbirth in rural area of developing countries. Some countries including Myanmar use auxiliary midwives (AMWs) within their health care systems, who are trained to deliver specific health interventions in communities and health care facilities.

A community based cross-sectional descriptive study using both quantitative and qualitative methods was carried out to study community perspectives on unskilled birth attendants (UBAs) among rural women who had childbirth within three years in Pantanaw Township, Ayeyarwady Region in 2017. Total 310 respondents participated in quantitative data collection and 12 women participated in In-depth Interviews.

Majority were 25-34 years (50.8%), pregnant 2 to 4 times (53%), attained up to primary education level (72.9%), farmer (33.5%), Buddhist (92.6%) and Kayin ethnic (52.3%). Most of the women (57.7%) were residing near the health center and 50% had health care person in their village. The proportion of women who utilized UBAs was 45.2%. About 90% of rural women had positive attitude towards TBAs while 96.5% of them had positive attitude towards AMWs. Factors determining on utilization of UAB in this study were respondents' number of previous pregnancy ( $p < 0.001$ ), number of children ( $p < 0.001$ ), education level ( $p < 0.001$ ), occupation ( $p < 0.001$ ), race ( $p < 0.05$ ), religion ( $p < 0.01$ ), walking distance to nearest health centre ( $p < 0.001$ ) and attitude on TBAs ( $p < 0.05$ ), with statistically significant at 95% confident interval.

From the qualitative analysis, the seven key themes were emerged: accessibility, economic reason, services offered by UBAs, social services, cultural belief, trustworthy and different performance between skilled birth attendants (SBAs) and UBAs (TBAs and AMWs). The results indicated that UBAs still play a role in the community in maternal care services.