

ABSTRACT

A health promoting school is one that constantly strengthens its capacity as a healthy setting for living, learning and working. A cross sectional descriptive study using both quantitative and qualitative methods to study the role of primary school teacher on health promoting school activities in Taunggyi Township. Self administered pre-tested questionnaires were used for quantitative study. A total of one hundred and ninety one teachers from twenty eight schools participated in this study. For qualitative assessments, 8 key informant interviews, 4 focus group discussions and an observations checklist were used to assess the status of health promoting school activities in four selected school. The results found that 61 percent of teachers from the Basic Education Primary Schools and 39 percent from the Basic Education Post Primary Schools participated in this study. Nearly all were female with the mean age of 41.4 $\hat{\pm}$ 8.02 year. Sixty six percent were JAT teachers. The mean total knowledge score was 62.21 $\hat{\pm}$ 8.02. Over sixty percent of the respondents had middle score and 18 percent had high score. The mean practice score was 9.24 $\hat{\pm}$ 1.76. Over half of the respondent had satisfactory practice score. There was statistically significant association between training on health promoting school received by the teachers and total knowledge score (p value = 0.003). There was significant association between age of the teachers and total practice score (p value = 0.018). The JAT teacher were more likely to practice health promoting school activities compared to PAT (p value = 0.001). There was no significant association between total knowledge score and total practice score. (p value = 0.098). The qualitative assessment showed that the success of the health promoting school activity would not be possible without the effort of the class teachers and school children. However the parental involvement was weak. In conclusion, this study recommended that training on health promoting school program should be encouraged and regular training course should also be provided.