

**AWARENESS ON PANDEMIC INFLUENZA AMONG
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ABSTRACT

Pandemic influenza has become a serious health problem in Myanmar as well as the whole world because it has to consider as public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) and includes diseases under international health regulation (IHR,2005). The role of international airports in the world is very important in prevention and control of pandemic influenza as rapid response and containment at source strategy. This cross sectional descriptive study was conducted from 3rd week of October to 1st week of November, 2013 to assess the levels of knowledge about, attitude towards and practice on pandemic influenza among Airport staff in Yangon International Airport. A total of 280 respondents (from all departments, all positions/ranks and sellers of both sexes) selected by simple random sampling method were face to face interviewed with pretested and structured questionnaires. The majority of respondents were aged between 25-34 years, male, graduate level, from company and officer/ in charge accounted for only 9.7 percent as their rank. Out of total 280 respondents, nearly 4 percent confessed that they had never heard about this disease.

By exploring the knowledge, attitude and practice on pandemic influenza, 55 percents of the respondents had high knowledge and 45 percents had low knowledge. Regarding attitude, 54 percents had positive attitude and the rest possessed negative attitude. More than 50 percents of the respondents had good practice and the remainders gained poor practice to prevent the disease.

In this study, total knowledge, attitude and practice scores of the respondents were significantly influenced by their rank level. And there are also strong relationship between knowledge and attitude, knowledge and practice, attitude and practice were observed. That is why the most important way to prevent the rapid transmission of pandemic influenza is to raise the level of knowledge about how pandemic influenza is transmitted and how to be protected.