

ABSTRACT

A cross-sectional study was conducted in Paung Township, Mon State from September to November, 2012 on randomly selected sample of 180 women, who had under one year child to explore the factors associated with choice of delivery place. It was found that 46.6% of respondents delivered in health facilities for their recent delivery. Half of respondents were well-informed on the danger signs during pregnancy, delivery and postnatal period. The respondents were more familiar with the danger signs which could be encountered in pregnancy than that of the danger signs during delivery and postnatal period. The mean knowledge scores on danger signs during pregnancy, delivery, postnatal period were 3.53 (0-9), 3.21 (0-8) and 2.89 (0-8) respectively and danger signs of newborn was 3.04 (1-6). The mean total knowledge score was 12.66 (1-30). Regarding the source of knowledge on danger signs during pregnancy, delivery and postnatal period, most of the respondents gained their knowledge from health units by BHS, followed by relatives. The main reason for choosing health facility was for safe delivery and that for choosing home delivery was their belief that their pregnancies were normal. Effect of education level of respondents on choice of delivery place was statistically significant ($p=0.04$). There was significant association between place of residence and delivery place ($p=0.008$). It was also revealed that the more children they had, the more likely to choose home as a delivery place ($p=0.009$). Among 81.82% of respondents who got less than 4 times of ANC delivered at home but 51.48% of women receiving ANC four times and more delivered at home ($p=0.051$). It was found that among the women who made preparations for delivery at home, 72.27% had given their child birth at home ($p=0.000$). Women with complications during previous pregnancy and in current pregnancy were more likely to deliver in health facility ($p=0.018$ and $p=0.001$). There was no significant association between total knowledge score on danger signs and delivery place. As safe delivery is important in reducing MMR, all mothers should be educated to utilize institutional delivery practice.