

ABSTRACT

Skin piercing becomes widely popular in mainstream culture in recent years over the world. With the higher demand, the number of unprofessional piercers has been increasing and creating more negative health consequences. If practitioners and users do not know the health risk of skin piercing, it can lead to adverse health effects. Therefore, a community-based cross-sectional study was conducted during September 2015 with the objective of assessing knowledge, attitude and practice on tattooing among young people aged between 18 to 35 years in Mandalay Region as skin piercing is popular among people in Mandalay. Randomly selected 401 persons with male-female ratio 1:1.46 were interviewed using pre-tested semi-structured questionnaire and in-depth interview (IDI) with ten practitioners using pre-tested IDI guideline were done. The mean age of young people was 25 ± 5.192 years, 57.4% were married and 60.2% had completed at least middle school. Persons with own business, manual worker and dependent were represented 31.9%, 38.7% and 28.9% respectively. According to the practitioners, tattooing was common among males aged between 16-40 years and earlobe piercing was common among females. About 92% of participants answered tattooing can transmit infections especially HIV/AIDS (85.3%) while HBV and HCV were 9.5% and 7.1% respectively. Most participants (84.3%) answered they have not received health information on risks of skin piercings. More than 60% answered tattoo cannot be removed and 9.2% wanted to tattoo in future. Most of the tattoo practitioners answered laser method for removal of tattoo. About two-third of the respondents (65.8 %) pierced their earlobe only while 15.7 % pierced both earlobe and tattooing and only 3.74 % tattooed alone. Among 78 participants with tattoo, 85.9% were male and 57.7% were youths (between 18-24 years) and they tattooed to improve their aesthetic aspect (30.8%) and they envy others with tattoos (18.8%). Earlobe piercing was common among females (97.5 %), dependents (91.4 %), persons with low educational level (85.5 %), married persons (87 %) and persons who were not living with guardians (88.1 %). About one-third of the respondents tattooed in open places like pagoda festivals while more than