

**CURRENT SITUATION OF INFANT
MORTALITY IN HLEGU TOWNSHIP,
YANGON DIVISION**

YE MIN HTWE

**MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH
UNIVERSITY OF PUBLIC HEALTH
YANGON**

2008

Abstract

Infant mortality rate is universally regarded as a most important indicator of health status not only of infant but also of whole population and of socioeconomic conditions under which they lived. The objective of the present study is to study the current situation of infant mortality in Hlegu Township, Yangon Division regarding trend, common causes of death, factors relating to infant mortality in the area and difficulties in infant death data. It is a community based cross-sectional exploratory and descriptive study. Hlegu Township is one of the townships of Northern District of Yangon Division where higher infant mortality was seen than others districts. Participants were Midwives and Lady Health Visitors of all RHC in Township and all mothers whose infant had been deceased within 1st six months of 2008. Sampling is total sampling approach and data collection methods were face to face interview, in depth interview and using two data sources, primary and secondary. After reviewing and analyzing the data, the findings showed that the trend of IMR in Hlegu Township was different from division and national trends, and also depended on different data sources. The leading causes of infant death were ARI (35%), fever with convulsion (30%), LBW (15%), Malnutrition (10%), diarrhea (5%) and congenital defects (5%). But validity of cause of death data was uncertain. Most of infant deaths within first six months of 2008 were female, in rural area and happened in neonatal period. Factors relating to infant mortality in township were socio-demographic characteristics of parents like occupation, education especially mother's education, poverty, lack of awareness and health knowledge concerning MCH services and family planning, child order and lack of health seeking behavior for effective treatment. So reliability and validity of infant mortality data still remained a major public health problem in rural area of Hlegu Township and depended on socio-demographic characteristics of the area. Vital registration system in rural area and community awareness of importance of infant death registration should be strengthened in the area. Health inequalities between urban and rural area were present and made a major challenge for health services in Hlegu Township.