

ABSTRACT

Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) are important global health issues. However, they have been neglected as a public health priority. Approximately more than 1 million new cases of STIs occur daily in the world. The aim of this study is to explore Knowledge, Attitude and Practice on prevention of STIs.

A community based cross-sectional descriptive study was conducted in rural area of Monywa Township from September to December 2015. A total of 220 married women were included. Two staged sampling method was used for data collection. Face to face interview was conducted using pretested semi-structured questionnaire.

Mean age of respondents was 32.15 years. All were Buddhists and 99.5% were Bamar. Over 40% of respondents completed primary education whereas only 2.7% were illiterate. Mean age at marriage was 21.67 years and ranged from 14 to 40. Respondents who had never pregnant were 7.7% and only once included 36.4%.

About 98.6% of the respondents had ever heard of STIs, among them 98.6% knew HIV, 52.5% knew Syphilis. Only 8.8% knew Hepatitis B as a type of STIs. Regarding the mode of transmission of STIs, unsafe sex, transfusion with infected blood and vertical transmission were replied by 89.1%, 54.5% and 10.5% of respondents respectively. More than 70% of respondents heard of PMCT. Concerning the knowledge of condom, 82.7% replied that condom was one of the method of contraception that could also prevent STIs. About 52.7% of respondents had positive attitude on prevention of STIs. About 66.5% of respondents took STIs test during last pregnancy. Regarding vaccination, 4.5% of respondents took Hepatitis B vaccine and but only 1.4% took HPV vaccine. Respondents with high knowledge level was 53.6% and low level was 46.4%, positive attitude level was 52.7% and negative was 47.3%, good practice was 60% and poor practice was 40%. There was significant association between education and knowledge ($p < 0.001$), attitude ($p = 0.004$), practice ($p = 0.009$) and knowledge and practice ($p = 0.024$). Education was positively contributed to the Knowledge, Attitude and Practice of STIs prevention.

Most of the respondents were more familiar with HIV/AIDS than STIs. Awareness raising for STIs, PMCT and Human Papilloma Virus vaccine should be conducted among married women through mass media, peer and health staff to promote knowledge level.