

ABSTRACT

Under-five mortality rate is universally regarded as a most important indicator of health status and reflects the impacts of health and health related interventions. It determined not only socio-demographic status of under-five children but also whole population. The objectives of this study were to study the current situation of under-five mortality in South Okkalapa Township, Yangon Region regarding trends, common causes of death and socio-demographic characteristics relating to under-five mortality in that area. It was a community based cross-sectional descriptive study. No sampling approach was used because respondents were all mothers or guardians of under-five children who had been died during 2009 in South Okkalapa Township. Data collection methods were visits, observations, face to face interview and record review using two data sources, primary and secondary. The data was analyzed by statistical software SPSS version-16. The findings showed that U5MR in 2009 in South Okkalapa Township was 22.88 /1000 LB. Neonatal mortality rate was 4.28/1000 LB in male and 4.77/1000 LB in female. Post neonatal mortality rate was 2.86/1000 LB in male and 3.34/1000 LB in female. IMR was 7.15/1000 LB in male and 8.10/1000 LB in female. Children of 1-4 years mortality rate was 2.86/1000 LB in male and 4.77/1000 LB in female. The trend of U5MR in South Okkalapa Township was decreasing trend. Among 48 under-five deaths in 2009, 56.25% were females, and 43.75 % were males. The leading causes of under-five deaths in South Okkalapa Township in 2009 were ARI and preterm/LBW (13.3 % each), birth asphyxia and septicaemia (11.1 % each) and febrile fits and congenital diseases (8.9 % each). Of under-five children deaths, 62.2% had taken antenatal care and 37.8 % had taken post-natal care. Among under-five deaths, 28.9 % were delivered at home and 13.3 % were delivered with unskilled birth attendants. Factors affecting under-five mortality in South Okkalapa Township were socio-demographic characteristics of parents such as occupation, poverty, lack of awareness on child care, and deficient in health knowledge about child care. Family planning and lack of health seeking behavior for effective treatment were also contributing to under-five mortality.