

ABSTRACT

Lymphatic filariasis is the second leading cause of permanent and long-term disability worldwide. But low-cost, safe and very effective drugs are available for prevention of lymphatic filariasis infection through Mass Drug Administration (MDA). This study was intended to assess knowledge and attitude on lymphatic filariasis and compliance on MDA in Chan-Aye-Thar-San Township, Mandalay Region.

Community based cross-sectional descriptive study was conducted in total 295 respondents who were 18 years old and above, both male and female. House to house survey was done by using pretested semi-structured questionnaires after obtaining written informed consent. More than fifty percent of study population were within 31 to 50 years, male-female ratio was 1:2, one third of respondents were graduate and about seventy percent were employed.

There were 15 questionnaires to assess the knowledge level of respondents and total given marks was 29. Out of 29 marks, the respondents got minimum 0 and maximum 15 and the median of getting score (7) was used to determine the level of knowledge. Among 295 respondents, fifty-one percent got high knowledge score (>7) and forty-nine percent had low knowledge score (≤ 7).

Regarding to attitude, forty-seven percent had good attitude (>23) and fifty-three percent had poor attitude (≤ 23). There was statistically significant association between age group, level of education of respondents, occupation of respondents, per capita income and level of knowledge of respondents. There was association between sex and level of attitude. And there was statistically significant association between age group, marital status, occupation of respondents and consumption of drugs. The knowledge of respondents was also associated with attitude towards filariasis and mass drug administration and consumption of drugs. But there was no association between attitude and consumption of drugs. These results were calculated by using chi-square tests and it was significant when p value is <0.005 .

Out of 295 respondents, 263 received the MDA drugs and among them 186 respondents swallowed the drugs completely. So the observed compliance rate on MDA in this study area was 63.1%. The main reason of not receiving drugs in this study was being absent from home at the time of drug distribution. And the common reason of not taking drugs was that they forgot to take drugs. The achievement of positive attitude and good compliance rate depends on increasing knowledge level of the community.

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