

**AWARENESS AND UTILIZATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY SERVICES FOR  
STEVEDORE WORKERS IN PORT INDUSTRY**

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**ABSTRACT**

Myanmar aspire to establish the principle of universal health coverage (UHC), social health insurance is one of the health financing system. Social security scheme has been implemented by Social Security Board since 1954 and insured workers under the scheme are provided health care, medical benefits and cash benefits.

The cross sectional descriptive study was carried out in Port Industry of Myanmar Port Authority (MPA) to assess the awareness and utilization of SSB services for stevedore workers. A total of 246 stevedore workers were interviewed using standardized pre-tested semi-structured questionnaires. According to socio-demographic characteristics of participants, the mean age of the respondents was (46.46 ± 8.72) years, more than half (63%) of the participants were labourers and their average service was 20 years. About 95% of respondents were aware of SSB contribution, medical care at registered SSB clinic and inpatient care at Workers" hospital. Awareness about maternity benefit was 51% and medical treatment after retirement was 44%. More than half of them were aware of all types of cash benefits except paternity cash benefit (47%). Although around 60% of total respondents knew location of clinic and Workers" hospital and opening days of clinic, nearly two third of the respondents did not know opening hours of clinic and specialist OPD at Workers" hospital. Most of them were aware of reporting to SSB

clinic on hospitalization and claiming cash benefits. About half of the respondents utilized SSB clinic and one third of them utilized Workers' hospital.

There was statistically significant association between awareness and background characteristics of stevedore workers; work place of the participants ( $p = 0.04$ ) and presence of acute illness ( $p = 0.002$ ). There was significant association between utilization of the SSB services and some of the background characteristics of workers; age group ( $p = 0.004$ ), work experience ( $p = 0.002$ ), monthly family income ( $p = 0.014$ ), work place ( $p = 0.003$ ) and presence of acute illness ( $p = 0.001$ ). The participants who had been utilized SSB clinic were more aware of SSB services (Mean  $\pm$  SD=  $25.8 \pm 6.23$ ) and there was also significant association between awareness and utilization of SSB services ( $p < 0.001$ ). This study highlighted that presence of higher awareness may lead to increase utilization of SSB services among stevedore workers and improve coverage of SSB services. The findings may be useful for awareness raising program of SSB services and to advocate responsible persons for strengthening infrastructure and improvement of SSB coverage.