

**CARE SEEKING PATTERN FOR CHILDHOOD ILLNESS AMONG CARE-GIVERS  
OF CHILDREN ADMITTED TO CHILD WARD OF MYITKYINA GENERAL**

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**ABSTRACT**

A cross-sectional descriptive study was carried out among 180 care-givers of children admitted to child ward of Myitkyina General Hospital in 2016. This study was conducted to find out socio-demographic factors of care-givers and children, knowledge level of care-givers about dangers signs and symptoms of common childhood illness, care seeking pattern and related factors. Data were collected by face to face interview with pretested structured questionnaires and analyzed by using SPSS software.

In this study, majority of care-givers were mothers and 47.8% of respondents were between the age group of 21-30 years. Regarding occupation, 36.7% of the care-givers were farmers followed by dependent (36.1%). Larger group of care-givers had low family income and low education level. Among 180 child patients, under-one year children were the largest group (49.4%). Sixty three percent of care-givers lived in nuclear type and 37.2% of care-givers lived in extending type of family.

When assessing knowledge level, there were 24 knowledge items for danger signs and symptoms of common childhood illness such as ARI, diarrhoea, malaria and DHF. Majority of care-givers had low knowledge level about danger signs and symptoms of common childhood illness.

Regarding care seeking pattern, 67.2% of respondents used self medication, 27.2% of respondents took treatment from health care providers and 1.2% of respondents took treatment from non health care providers.

There was significant association between care seeking pattern and sex of child and affordability of health care services. Illness in boy child and affordable caregivers were more likely to seek treatment from health care providers. Therefore, health education about danger signs and symptoms of common childhood illness and importance of prompt and appropriate care seeking pattern should be done in the community by using local language.