

**KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE AND PRACTICE ON CHILDHOOD ACUTE RESPIRATORY  
INFECTION AMONG MOTHERS OF UNDER-FIVE CHILDREN IN RURAL  
CHAUNGOO TOWNSHIP, SAGAING REGION**

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**ABSTRACT**

A community based cross-sectional descriptive study was conducted to assess the knowledge, attitude, preventive practice and health care seeking behaviour on ARI among mothers of under-five children in rural Chaung Oo Township, Sagaing Region. By using multistage sampling method, 182 mothers of under-five children were selected from eight villages. Mothers were interviewed by pre-tested semi-structured questionnaire.

The mean age of the mothers was 31 years (min-19, max-50). All of respondents were Bamars and Buddhist. Nearly half of the respondents completed primary school and only 4.4% of them were graduates. It was found that illiterate were still present in the villages. Half of mothers (49.5%) were farmers and 13.2% was dependents. Monthly per-capita income ranged from 6250 to 750,000 kyats. Family of the respondents had at least three members to highest eleven members in their family. Level of knowledge, attitude and practice were classified into two categories based on mean scores. The present study found that 52.7% of mothers had good knowledge, positive attitude and 40.6% had good practice. More than half of the under-five children had been experienced with ARI and duration of illness was two to three days. As the first treatment, half of mothers took the treatment for their children with health personals such as HA, LHV, MW and 28% treated at home and if their children were not relieved, they went to professional person such as doctors or specialists for the second or third time treatment. Most of mothers (around 50%) sought the treatment because they thought that the disease is serious. Regarding the knowledge on ARI such as cause, risk factors and complications, they had poor knowledge, but knowledge on ARI such as signs & symptoms and danger signs of a sick child were good among the respondents. Regarding the preventive practice, about 70% of mothers used exclusive breast feeding up to six months and there were some mothers who never practiced it. Feeding practices of sick child were poor and only 85% of children was completely immunized. In this study, there was significant association between knowledge level and attitude level ( $p=0.005$ ), education level ( $p=0.038$ ) and per-capita income level ( $p=0.005$ ). There was significant association between attitude level and residences ( $p=0.002$ ) and preventive practice level and occupation level ( $p=0.024$ ). This study highlighted that there was poor knowledge on ARI, improper feeding practices of sick child and incomplete coverage of immunization status and exclusive breast feeding practice. Therefore these findings will be very useful for awareness arising and health education promotion program concerning ARI.