

**KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE AND PRACTICE TOWARDS EPILEPSY AMONG
URBAN AND RURAL HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS IN NYAUNG LAY PIN
TOWNSHIP**

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ABSTRACT

Epilepsy is a common neurological disorder that affects children and its incidence is highest in the first decade of life. As epilepsy is more common in younger age group, and school children, teacher's attitude and practice based on their knowledge and believes play an important role in nurturing of children with epilepsy. Furthermore, discrimination and misbelieves concerning epilepsy is still present in both developing and developed countries around the world.

A cross-sectional descriptive study of knowledge, attitude and practice towards epilepsy among urban and rural high school teachers was conducted in Nyaunglaypin Township, Bago Region during September to November, 2016. In the study, two hundred and twenty four school teachers from eight Basic Education High Schools were surveyed by face to face interview using pretested questionnaire with the objectives of describing of the knowledge, attitude and practice towards epilepsy among urban and rural high school teachers in the study area.

Regarding to the socio demographic background of teachers, most of the teachers are female, over 40 years of age, graduate and junior assistant teachers having more than 10 years of teaching service.

In the present study, 69.2 percent of respondent had high knowledge score and statistically significant association between place of school and knowledge score ($p=0.014$). Teachers from urban school had high knowledge score than teachers from

rural school. Source of information were mostly from television (43.3 percent). Regarding the attitude, 73.2 percent of the respondents were good attitude and there was no statistically significant association between attitude and demographic characteristics of school teachers ($p > 0.05$). Among the respondents, 81.3 percent had good practice and there was statistically significant association between practice and teaching service ($p = 0.032$), history of epilepsy among student ($p = 0.023$) and knowledge on epilepsy ($p = 0.025$). Therefore the more effective health education strategies for knowledge, attitude and practice towards epilepsy among school teachers especially for teachers from rural school should be provided.