

**ASSESSMENT OF THE REFERRAL STATUS FOR
PRESUMPTIVE TB AMONG MEDICINE
SELLERS IN HLAING TOWNSHIP,
YANGON REGION, 2013**

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YANGON

2013

ABSTRACT

A cross sectional study was conducted among pharmacies which had willingness to collaborate in TB control and participated in the advocacy and training for referral of presumptive TB in Hlaing township, Yangon Region in 2013. The study was aimed to review the referral status for presumptive TB among medicine sellers and to assess their knowledge; attitude and practice. A total of 85 pharmacies advocated and trained by INGOs {JICA (MIDCP) and PSI} were involved in this study.

Among 85 respondents, 86% (73/85) had attended the advocacy and training for referral of presumptive TB during June, 2012. Face to face interview was performed to medicine sellers in November, 2013 to know the knowledge; attitude and practice. Regarding the knowledge level, 46% (39/85) were categorized as high level of knowledge and 54% (46/85) were categorized as low level. In relation to the attitude towards referral activity, 98% (83/85) of the respondents had positive attitude but only 2% (2/85) had negative attitude. Concerning the practice, 45% (38/85) of the respondents had favorable practice but 55% (47/85) had unfavorable practice.

The registers, records and reports were reviewed during the period from July, 2011 to June, 2013 to compare township sputum examination for presumptive TB and TB case detection between one year before and one year after the training. Among 85 pharmacies, 84% (71/85) participated actively by referring at least one presumptive TB for screening. Sputum examination for presumptive TB during one year period after the training was obviously improved by 1.6 times than the year before training. About 20% could be contributed from this referral activity to Township sputum examination. Although TB case detection (all types) was not apparently increased, smear positive PTB case detection was 1.2 times higher.

The practice towards referral was significantly associated with training for referral of presumptive TB. The high level of knowledge was also statistically associated with favorable practice.

Therefore, it is beneficial to improve TB case detection by providing training and organizing medicine sellers to involve in TB control by referring presumptive TB.