

**KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDE TOWARDS PREVENTION OF RABIES AMONG
COMMUNITY IN MYAUNGMYA TOWNSHIP, AYEYARWADDY REGION**

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ABSTRACT

Rabies is one of the major public health problems due to high case fatality rate but almost 100% preventable disease. This cross-sectional study was conducted from September to December 2016 with the total of 186 respondents among community in urban and rural areas of Myaungmya Township, Ayeyarwaddy region aiming to assess the knowledge and attitude related to Rabies and its prevention and control. The respondents were selected by multistage sampling method and interviewed by face to face method with semi structured questionnaires.

Most of the respondents were female (63.4%), married (78%), own business (34.4%), equal and above 40 years of age (57.5%), with low level of education especially primary school level (30.6%) and per capita income was low and most of them were within 100,000-150,000 kyats. Most of the respondents (98.9%) heard about Rabies mainly from hearsays or informal pathways by (63.6%).

Almost all respondents (96.2%) answered that Rabies was transmitted from biting, scratching and licking by infected dogs. More than half (60.3%) of the respondent knew that salivation was one of the sign and symptoms of Rabies among dogs and (28.3%) of respondents answered that hydrophobia was the one of the symptoms of human Rabies. More than half (62.5%) answered that Rabies patients would die following the onset of symptoms of Rabies. More than half of the respondents (75.0%) believed that Rabies can be prevented by immunization. Regarding the knowledge level on prevention of Rabies, (94%) of the respondents had low level of knowledge and (6%) had high level of knowledge.

Regarding attitudes on prevention of Rabies, more than half of the respondents (60.8%) wrongly accepted that Rabies is one of the mental health problem, (92%) believed that Rabies is a preventable disease and all of the respondents agreed that Rabies vaccine must be immunized with correct frequency according to doctor's advice. However, (24.7%) agreed that it should take custom treatment when there was Rabies occurred. Regarding attitude level on prevention of Rabies, only (0.54%) had negative attitude and (99.46%) had positive attitude and it may be due to nature of question (Likert type scale).

Regarding practice on prevention of Rabies among respondents, (82.3%) had not feed stray dog and only (28.6%) of 95 pet owners had vaccinated their dog.

In conclusion, there was low level of knowledge towards prevention of Rabies among the study population. It should give more effective health education programs for increasing knowledge level among community by giving health talks or contributing pamphlets and via mass media.