

ABSTRACT

A cross-sectional descriptive study of knowledge, attitude and practice on epilepsy among school teachers was conducted in Thingankyun Township, Yangon from September to November, 2014. Two hundred and sixteen numbers of school teachers from four Basic Education High Schools were surveyed by using structured self-administered questions with the general objectives of studying of the knowledge, attitude and practice on epilepsy among the school teachers in the study area. According to the results of survey, 53.2 % of teachers had low level of knowledge and 46.8 % of teachers had high level of knowledge. All of the teachers had heard about the epilepsy and 9.7% of teachers thought that epilepsy was a kind of insanity and 3.7% of teachers answered that epilepsy was a contagious disease. And 4.2% of teachers had wrong knowledge that smoking can cause epilepsy and 24.5% of teachers answered that epilepsy was a blood disorder. Half of teachers 50.5% did not know that epilepsy can be treated with anti-epileptic drugs. Some of teachers 14.4% thought that person with epilepsy should avoid schooling and 23.1% answered that person with epilepsy should avoid routine works. Regarding attitude levels, 53.2% of teachers had poor level of attitude and 46.8% had good level of attitude. And then, 34.3% of teachers agreed that epilepsy was one of the mental disorders. 9.3% of teachers agreed that epilepsy was a fearful and incurable disease. Half of the school teachers 50.5% disagreed that the student with epilepsy may be as intelligent as other students. Some of the teachers 11.6% agreed that child with epilepsy should be placed in a special classroom. Regarding practice level, most of the teachers 53.7% had poor level of perceive practice and 46.3% had good level of perceive practice. Most of teachers chose wrong methods of first aid measures. Although most of teachers 91.7% answered that they would suggest their family members, relatives and friends who all have epilepsy to go to hospitals and health staff, 0.9% chose the suggestion to traditional medicine and 4.2% did not know what to recommend. In the present study, junior assistant teachers had higher knowledge level about epilepsy than primary assistant teachers ($p=0.003$). Senior assistant teachers had higher level of good attitude toward epilepsy than junior assistant teachers ($p=0.001$). There was no statistically significant association between socio demographic characteristic of school teachers and level of perceive practice and also between knowledge and attitude and perceive practice ($p>0.05$). On conclusion, overall level of knowledge, attitude and perceive practice of epilepsy among school teachers were at the lower level and effective health education programs about epilepsy should be provided among school teachers