

ASSESSMENT OF KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDE ON PHARMACY PRACTICE AMONG URBAN AND RURAL
DRUG SELLERS IN NAY PYI TAW UNION TERRITORY

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M.B., B.S
2016

ABSTRACT

Since the urban- rural inequalities of health services, health workforce and shortage of pharmacists, the drug sellers in the pharmacies are the ones who are functioning as the pharmacists in most areas of Myanmar. And drug sellers are often the very first and last connection between the medication and the patient, so it is important that the drug sellers should have correct and appropriate knowledge and attitude on pharmacy practice in their pharmacies. This study aimed to determine the socio-demographic characteristics of the drug sellers, background characteristics of the pharmacies and their knowledge and attitude on pharmacy practice in the selected townships of Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory.

This study was cross-sectional descriptive study and conducted in 107 drugs sellers from urban and rural area of the selected four townships in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory. In this study, 71 drug sellers from urban pharmacies and 36 drug sellers from rural pharmacies from the selected townships were selected proportionately. The drug sellers were interviewed with structured questionnaire. The data entry and analysis was done by using SPSS version 16.0.

The mean age of the drug sellers was 35 year (34.8) and about half of them were female. Over half of the rural drug sellers and (48%) of urban drug sellers had a kind of bachelor degree. Ten out of seventy-one urban drug sellers got professional degree as (Medical doctor or Nurse or Pharmacist). Their mean working experience was 8 years. Approximately 40% of urban drug sellers attended the private pharmacy training; however, only 20% of the rural drug sellers attended the private pharmacy training. Medical doctors (5.6%), Pharmacists (7%) and Nurse (1.4%) were seen as the drug sellers in urban area. The mean years of establishment of the pharmacies were 9 year, and only 20.6% of the pharmacies had pharmacist but there was no proper pharmacist in the rural pharmacies. Only one in fourteen pharmacies applied for control drug selling license.

In this study, the urban drug sellers had **statistically significantly** higher knowledge and attitude on pharmacy practice than the rural drug sellers. However, both areas had poor knowledge on control drug selling license, prescription only medicine selling and drug storage condition. In conclusion, there is great need for