

**AWARENESS AND UTILIZATION OF PENTAVALENT
IMMUNIZATION AMONG INFANTS' MOTHERS IN
THAKETA TOWNSHIP**

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ABSTRACT

A cross sectional descriptive study was conducted from October to November, 2013 to assess the awareness and utilization of pentavalent immunization among 7 months to 12 months aged infants' mothers in Thaketa Township, Yangon Region. A total of 250 respondents were selected by random sampling method and face to face interview was done with pretested, semi-structured questionnaires. According to socio-demographic characteristics of participants, the mean age of mothers was (29.6±5.7) years and majority of infants' mothers (66.8 %) were dependent, 51.2% of respondents had attained low education level and 49.6% of studied mothers had only one child. Most of the families (51.2%) had monthly family incomes of 100,000 to 200,000 kyats per month and 72.8% had nuclear family type. Among the respondents on pentavalent immunization, 50.4% of the respondents had high awareness scoring level and 49.6% had low awareness. Concerning the utilization status of pentavalent immunization, more than 90 % of the respondents had taken pentavalent vaccine to their children. Among them, 68.4% of children were completely immunized, 27.6% were incompletely immunized and four percent were non-immunized against pentavalent vaccine. There was statistically significant association between maternal awareness status and education level of participants. There was also statistically significant association between maternal education level and utilization status of infants' mothers on pentavalent immunization. This study revealed that there was statistically significant association between maternal awareness and utilization of pentavalent immunization. Therefore mothers should be health educated about the benefits and vaccines included in new pentavalent immunization and the timely administration of vaccines. Awareness raising program on new pentavalent immunization should also be implemented.