

ABSTRACT

The issue of husband's involvement in maternal health is relatively new in Myanmar scenario, both at governmental and non-governmental sectors. Also at the community level, the term "husband's involvement" may sound unfamiliar or not considered as a critical issue, although husbands are already getting involved knowingly or unknowingly to a varying degree. Maternal health is generally considered important, but husbands do not adequately realize their key roles and responsibilities. This study was cross sectional descriptive study to explore the knowledge, attitude and practice of husbands regarding maternal health in Pway Gyt village tract, Kyauk Padaung Township. A total of 165 husbands who had under one year old child were selected from sampling frame of 727 by systematic sampling method. The respondents were interviewed by using pre-tested structured questionnaires.

The age of respondents ranged from 18 to 48 years and nearly half of them were 25 to 34 years. Mean age was 33.19 years with ($SD \pm 6.7$). About 37 percent and 32.1 percent of respondents had passed primary and middle school education respectively. Nearly half of them (47.9%) were agricultural workers and 38.8% were manual workers. Just over half of the family (50.3%) earned 50,000-100,000 kyats per month. Regarding knowledge on maternal health 54.5 percent had high knowledge but twenty one percent of respondents did not know about iron tablet and only 27.3 percent mentioned four times regarding AN visit. Over fifty percent (58%) of respondents knew the true starting time for breast feeding ; that is within half hour after delivery. Regarding total attitude towards maternal health, 86.1 percent of the respondents had positive attitude. Regarding practice on safe motherhood, 60.6 percent of their wives received antenatal care (ANC) at rural health center and 45.5 percent got AN services by Midwife (MW). Nearly thirty percent of their wives were attended at birth by MW and 73.9 percent delivered their last child at home. Almost all (98.8%) of husbands supported their wives financially for pregnancy and delivery. Regarding information about maternal health, 88.5 percent of the respondents got ii

information from adult-relatives and elderly person and 73.3 percent from basic health staff (BHS). Over eighty percent of respondents got information from television and video and 76.4 percent of respondents preferred television and video as their sources of information.

Saving mothers' lives is widely recognized as an imperative for social and economic development. Husbands, families and communities need to be empowered to contribute positively to safe motherhood by husband's involvement in maternal health.