

ABSTRACT

Ngazun was highest MMR township in Mandalay Region according to RH statistics (2008). Male involvement is one of the RH components and it is essential in their wives' RH services utilization.

A cross-sectional descriptive study was conducted to explore the male involvement in selected RH components such as safe motherhood, complications during pregnancy, delivery and post-natal period, and birth spacing among husbands of reproductive aged women in Ngazun, Mandalay Region from September to November, 2010. A total of 153 respondents were interviewed by using pre-tested structured questionnaires.

Findings revealed that half of respondents were in the age range of 25 to 34 years and most had studied primary and middle school level education. Majority were farmers and low-middle socio-economic status. Regarding knowledge on the signs and, symptoms of pregnancy, quality services, indications for hospital delivery, signs of abortion and complications during pregnancy, delivery and post-natal period, majority of respondents had low knowledge. About half of respondents mentioned four times and above regarding AN visits and only one-third mentioned the correct time regarding starting time for breast feeding.

Regarding the contraception practice, 81.7% of couples (male or female) used contraceptive methods, among them 79.7% used female contraceptive methods. Regarding ways and preferred methods of RH information, less than half of respondents got information through printed media (books, pamphlets, journals, posters etc) and secondly, one third got from health talk. Approximately half of respondents chose printed media.

Men play in the sexual and reproductive health (SRH) of their families, and especially their sexual partners. Their decisions and actions make a difference during pregnancy, delivery and the postpartum period. The study results showed that knowledge, attitude and practice of husbands of reproductive aged women in selected reproductive health components need to be strengthened by all health and health related sectors.