

ABSTRACT

A community based cross-sectional descriptive study was conducted to identify the treatment seeking behavior on diarrhea among caregivers of under five children in rural area, Myeik Township, Thanintharyi Region. A total of 200 caregivers of children who had history of diarrhea within last one year in nine villages were selected by simple random sampling. Caregivers were interviewed by pre-tested semi-structured questionnaire. The mean age of the caregivers was 30.87 years and ranging from 19 to 56 years. Most 97.5% of the caregivers were Bamar, Buddhist and almost all were female and mothers. Majority of caregivers 98.5% were married women and 65% were dependent. About one third (38.5%) of the caregivers completed primary school education. About 76.5% of the families were nuclear family type and there were 76.5% of families with monthly family expenditure more than 150000 kyats per month. Monthly family expenditure ranged from 40000 to 350000 kyats. The most frequent age group of children was 25-36 months which was 29.5% and the second most age group was 37-48 months. Regarding the knowledge level of caregivers on diarrhea, mean knowledge score was 25.27, highest score was 44 and lowest score was 7. As the first treatment, 51% of caregivers took the treatment for their children diarrhea with professional persons, 27.5% with skillful persons and 14% with self treatment. Children who were not cured after first treatment were 19 (9.5%). Among these children, 78.9% sought with professional persons for the second treatment and 21.1% sought with skillful persons. Although the study conducted in the rural area, there were no hard to reach areas and no difficulties to reach the health centers and can go to health facilities at anytime and any season. Almost all of the caregivers satisfy the treatment and services given by the health centers. The study showed that there were no barriers about the accessibility, availability and affordability to health facility in this community. It was noted that among the various factors, high occurrence of diarrhea may be due to low knowledge level and improper practice about prevention of diarrhea.