

ABSTRACT

A cross sectional study was conducted in 2014 to determine the knowledge and attitude on decentralized HIV counseling and testing(HCT) and to explore barriers in performing HCT among midwives in Lewe, Tatkon and Pynmana townships in Naypyitaw Union Territory. A total of 106 midwives were interviewed by using pretested semi-structured questionnaires. In-depth interviews were conducted with 12 midwives. Majority of respondents were between 30-39 years and were graduates. Most of the respondents had 9.26 years as mean of their total service. The present study revealed that only 43% had good knowledge score. Their knowledge in HIV testing and test result were good, but knowledge about HIV was poor. Although they knew what information should be told in counseling, they could not explain well about it in qualitative study. Only 42% showed good attitude on HCT. Barriers including logistic supply, their capacity in providing pre test and post test counseling and place for counseling were identified as important factors in performing HCT. These findings highlighted that midwives who participated in this study possessed poor knowledge and also poor attitude on decentralized HCT. They were faced with barriers in performing HCT. Thus it could be deduced that midwives were partially effective in decentralized HCT, since they had poor level of knowledge, attitude and resources for performance were not always available. There is need for improved knowledge through refresher training and resources needed for performance should be made available.