

## ABSTRACT

Snake bite is a global health problem associated with high morbidity and mortality, particularly in tropical regions of South Asia, South-East Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America. A community-based cross-sectional descriptive study was conducted to study knowledge, attitude and practice among rural population of Salin township regarding snake bite prevention and first aid treatment and to identify the association factors upon them. Total of 213 respondents aged 18 to 55 years were selected by two stages, first stage was purposive sampling and simple random sampling being the second. They were interviewed with pretested semi-structured questionnaire.

This study found that the mean age of the respondents was 39.7 ( $\pm$ SD 11.06) years. About 62% of the respondents were farmers. Most of the respondents (99.5% and 91.5%) had a knowledge on common poisonous snake, Viper and Cobra, less than 10% knew their significant features and 6.1% knew renal complication. About 42% of respondents had high knowledge for snake bite prevention and first aid treatment. Moreover, 56.8% of respondents had positive attitude and the rest had negative attitude and it may be due to influence of traditional beliefs and cultural factors. Regarding practice on preventive measures for snake bite, 93.9% always bring the lamp and torch light when going out in the dark and 91.1% always check the cloth before going to the bed. Moreover, 62.9% of respondents had the experience on snake bite in themselves or their neighbors or friends. Among them, 50% of respondents did wrongly incision of the wound as the first aid measure. Over half of respondents (50.3%) had good practice for snake bite prevention, however, the remaining (49.8%) practiced poorly.

There were statistically associations between education, occupation and attitude level ( $p=0.003$ ,  $p=0.027$ ) among the respondents. Moreover, it was found that male respondents had good practice on prevention snake bite than female respondents (63.38% vs 43.66%) and it may be due to their experience on occupational hazard of snake bite than females. This study highlights that it is necessary to improve community awareness on correct messages for snake bite prevention and first aid treatment by community education activities and peer education.