

**KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE AND USAGE ON
REGISTERED MYANMAR TRADITIONAL
MEDICINE AMONG PEOPLE IN AUNG LAN
TOWNSHIP**

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ABSTRACT

WHO defined traditional medicine as the sum total of the knowledge, skill and practices based on the theories, beliefs, and experiences indigenous to different cultures, whether explicable or not, used in the maintenance of health as well as in the prevention, diagnosis, improvement or treatment of physical and mental illness. This cross-sectional descriptive study was done to assess knowledge, attitude and usage on registered Myanmar traditional medicine among people in Aung Lan Township, Magway Region. The total of 158 respondents were interviewed by face-to-face method with structured questionnaires. Three wards were selected randomly among the existing 9 wards. Collected data were entered and analyzed using SPSS version 16 software. Bivariate analysis using Chi square test was used. Most of the respondents were within 39 to 58 aged group, female (61.4%), and married (82.3%). One fourth of the respondents had middle school level. Nearly one fourth of the respondents were dependent. Average family income per month of respondents was about 300000 kyats. More than half of the participants (52.5%) had good knowledge level while (56.3%) had good attitude and slightly more than one fourth of the participants (27.8%) had proper usage. Knowledge level of the participants was significantly associated with education ($p=0.005$), having TM clinic near home ($p=0.034$) and time needed to get TM clinic ($p=0.003$). Attitude level of the participants was significantly associated with occupation ($p=0.015$). There was significant association between proper usage on TM and age ($p=0.028$), education ($p<0.001$), occupation ($p=0.001$) and having underlying diseases ($p=0.002$). There was statistically significant association between knowledge and attitude level ($p=0.020$) as well as knowledge and proper usage ($p=0.014$). Traditional medicine is wide spread use among the general population of Aung Lan township, Magway Region. Most of the participants believed that using traditional medicine has no side effects and could not distinguish between traditional medicine and herbal remedies. Thus, this condition pointed out that more health education programs are needed to improve knowledge, attitude and usage about traditional medicine.