

**PERCEPTION OF CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATION  
AMONG CAREGIVERS OF CHILDREN UNDER  
THREE YEARS OF AGE AND IMMUNIZATION  
UPTAKE OF THEIR CHILDREN IN SINTGAING  
TOWNSHIP, MANDALAY REGION**

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## ABSTRACT

Immunization is important to prevent from deaths due to vaccine preventable diseases. Every year immunization deters four million of infant deaths globally from deadly vaccine preventable diseases. An estimated 25 million of infants worldwide, still miss basic vaccines. A cross sectional analytic study was conducted to assess perception and uptake of childhood immunization among 443 caregivers of under three years children in Sintgaing Township, Mandalay Region during August to December 2023. The findings showed that among 2-3 years old children, 63.9% (95%CI: 59.2%, 68.4%) of children received complete immunization from the immunization card and caregivers' s report. Therefore, the proportion of complete immunization uptake in the study area was substantially low compared to national and district level coverage (80%). This study was found 57.1 %of respondents with positive perception towards immunization. Relating to the perception of caregivers, most of caregivers have positive perception to convenient access to immunization and negative perception to long waiting time. About 40% of caregivers have negative perception to the statement of “children have to take too many vaccinations”. Regarding the knowledge level of the caregivers, most of the participants could not correctly identify the vaccine-preventable diseases and the child's age at which each vaccine has to be administered, as well as the dosage of childhood vaccines. Multivariable analysis using binary logistic regression model revealed caregivers who had positive perception [AOR:2.09, (95%CI: 1.38, 3.18) , p = 0.001] , caregivers who lived in urban residence [AOR: 2.24, (95%CI: 1.27, 3.94), p = 0.005], caregivers who had secondary and above education level [ AOR: 1.55, (95%CI: 1.02, 2.38), p = 0.042] and children who were third and above order [AOR: 0.52, (95%CI: 0.29, 0.93), p = 0.028] were identified as significant determinants of immunization completeness among 2-3 years old children. Health care providers should be encouraged to provide the health education emphasizing about the importance of immunization to the community at to the grassroots level. Further studies that can explore challenges and barriers on immunization uptake using qualitative methods should be conducted.