

**AWARENESS ON DANGER SIGNS OF ACUTE
RESPIRATORY INFECTION AND HEALTH
SEEKING PRACTICE AMONG MOTHERS OF
UNDER FIVE CHILDREN ADMITTED TO
HOSPITALS IN KYAUKSE DISTRICT,
MANDALAY**

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ABSTRACT

Nearly 5.4 million of children under five years in world died from mostly preventable causes including infectious causes and injuries. Acute Respiratory Infection(ARI) is the world's largest infectious cause of death in children. In Myanmar, ARI accounts for third leading cause of death among under-five children. A hospital based cross-sectional descriptive study was conducted in Kyaukse district, Mandalay Region to determine awareness on danger signs of ARI and health seeking practice among mothers of ARI. Mothers are the most responsible ones to identify the illness of children and to seek proper care. A total of 210 mothers of under-five children were interviewed with structured questionnaire. This study found 37.1 percent of mothers had high awareness on danger signs of ARI and, but 58.6 percent of respondents practiced appropriate care about their children's illness. Mothers residing in urban area and having higher education had more aware of danger signs on ARI. Parents with permanent job and less than 2 children were found to have high awareness on danger signs. The study also expressed that the mothers with frequent habit of seeking appropriate care, staying less than 1 mile from nearest health centre and taking less than 7 minutes duration to reach there had high awareness on danger signs. Being residence in urban area, having children less than 2months old, higher education, having permanent job in parents, staying with small family size less than 5 family members and less than 2 children, past experience with similar illness, accessibility of health service (less than 1mile to reach, less than 7minutes duration) were influencing factors on appropriate health seeking practice in this study. The study also described that there is association between mothers with high awareness on danger signs practiced appropriate health seeking practice. It was concluded that the awareness of mothers on danger signs on ARI was low and the percent of inappropriate care among mothers was still notifiable in the study. Further community based health education should be performed about risk factors, mode of transmission, prevention, danger signs of ARI not only to improve awareness on ARI and danger signs but also to have better perception and practice in the community.