WILLINGNESS TO PAY FOR SOCIAL SECURITY SCHEME AMONG BASIC HEALTH STAFF IN YESAGYO TOWNSHIP, MAGWAY REGION

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ABSTRACT

To achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC), Myanmar needs to reduce the Out of Pocket Payment (OOPP) to less than 30% of total health expenditure as recommended by the WHO. More than 73% of expenditure on health was paid OOPP in Myanmar. Social insurance is an important shock absorber to protect people from impoverishments and financial hardships due to out of pocket health expenditure. Currently, Social Security Scheme in Myanmar does not cover Ministry of Health and Sports. In spite of "Free of Charge" Health Care Policy, there is no enough medicine supply and consequently patients need to buy themselves, including health care workers when they fall ill. To provide valuable inputs in policy making for future expansion of Social Security Scheme in Myanmar for achieving universal health coverage. A study concerning with social security scheme is conducted among basic health staff of MOHS.

Aim of this study was to study the knowledge about social security scheme and willingness to pay for social insurance among Basic Health Staff (BHS) in Yesagyo Township and association between knowledge about social security scheme among BHS and willingness to pay for social insurance.

A cross-sectional study was conducted in Yesagyo Township. Study population was basic health staff in Yesagyo Township. BHS who had work experience less than six months were excluded from this study. Sample size was 151 BHS. They were interviewed using semi-structured questionnaire.

It was found that very few of the participants (only 3) had good knowledge about the social security scheme in Myanmar. However, a vast majority of BHS (89.4%) in the study were willing to pay for the social security scheme.

Knowledge about the social security among BHS was still low. So awareness raising campaign and social mobilization to promote the knowledge about Social Security Scheme should be implemented. However, majority of the BHS were willing to pay for the scheme. Thus, SSS should be introduced to the staff from Mohs.