

**CONTINUUM OF CARE OF MOTHERS AND
IMMUNIZATION STATUS OF THEIR CHILDREN**

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ABSTRACT

The continuum of care is very important in utilization of each and every level in the reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health (RMNCH) care to get sound childhood and healthy productive life. Even with increased RMNCH and immunization services, Myanmar is still struggling with high maternal mortality and vaccine preventable diseases outbreak. Secondary data analysis using Myanmar DHS survey (2015-16) was conducted to assess the association between the continuum of care of 15-49 years old mothers and the immunization status of their 12-23 months old children. As unit of analysis is mother, individual recode (IR) file was used. A total of 1,669 mothers aged 15-49 years and their 12-23 months old children included in this analysis. Immunization status of children as the outcome variable was categorized as fully immunized and no/not fully immunized based on information obtained from asking their mother and reviewing immunization card. Continuum of care of mother (COC) as the predictor variable was defined if women received antenatal care ≥ 4 times, delivered with skilled birth attendances and getting post-natal care within 48 hours after delivery. Multivariable logistics regression was done using STATA version 15.1 using survey command (svyset). Results were presented with aOR with 95% CI. Although the prevalence of COC was 42.5% (95% CI: 39.0%, 46.1%) and that of fully immunized children was 33.5% (95% CI: 30.7%, 36.5%), the overall prevalence of the continuum of care reduced obviously to about one-fifth of the study population. The odds of getting fully immunized status among children of mothers who received COC have 1.48 times more than the children of mothers who did not receive COC (aOR=1.48, 95%CI: 1.21, 2.13, $P < 0.001$) showing that the presence of the COC mothers favored the immunization status of the children. Factors which favor the fully immunization status of the children are; children of male gender, children of currently working mothers, increased maternal age and the wealth status of the households. The study concluded that receiving the COC in mothers influenced the childhood vaccination status. So maternal and child health program and the immunization program should be planned and implemented together as well as the awareness raising programs for the development of the COC should also be performed at the different levels of the health sectors. And further researches should also be performed to explore the reason of gender difference in the immunization status of the children and the challenges to achieve the continuum of care for both mothers and children.