

**KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDE OF
BASIC HEALTH STAFF ON
EXPANDED PROGRAMME ON IMMUNIZATION
IN PAUK-TAW TOWNSHIP, RAKHINE STATE**

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ABSTRACT

Immunization is one of the principles for primary health care. It is an important and cost-effective disease prevention and control strategy. In Myanmar health system, Expanded Programme on Immunization services are mainly implemented by Basic Health Staff at the ground level and their adequate knowledge and favourable attitude are crucial for the success of EPI services. This study aimed to identify the knowledge and attitude of BHS on EPI in Pauk-taw Township, Rakhine State. Cross-sectional descriptive study design was conducted among 105 BHS by guided self-administered questionnaires. Data collection and data entry, cleansing, missing data checking, error checking and analysis were done using SPSS version 16. In this study, 17.1% had not attended any training for EPI and AEFI management. Most of the BHS had got EPI and AEFI training within 2 years (67.6% and 75.2%) respectively. Having supervision for EPI by superior (from Township Health Department) within 6 months was 81%. About 90.5% had received handbook and 93.3% had received pamphlets and posters concerning immunization. In the assessment of knowledge, 20 BHS (19.1%) had good level of knowledge, 56 BHS (53.3%) had moderate level of knowledge and 29 BHS (27.6%) had poor level of knowledge. Regarding their attitude, 94 BHS (89.5%) had positive attitude and 11 BHS (10.5%) had negative attitude. There was significant association between background characteristics (number of attended EPI training ($p=0.030$), number of attended AEFI management ($p=0.041$) and AEFI training interval ($p=0.022$)) and knowledge on EPI among BHS. There was significant association between age and attitude of the BHS ($p=0.029$). Half of the BHS in Pauk-taw Township had moderate level of knowledge and majority had positive attitude. Good knowledge about EPI may not necessarily lead to positive attitude in the studied participants and vice versa. Despite of having moderate knowledge in most of the BHS, majority had positive attitude in this study. Trainings and supervisions should be given by innovative methods if transportation is difficult. Refresher trainings, regular trainings and supervisions should be given to improve knowledge of BHS on EPI.