

**COMPREHENSIVE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT  
HIV/AIDS AND DISCRIMINATORY ATTITUDES  
TOWARDS PLHIV AMONG MYANMAR  
REPRODUCTIVE AGED POPULATION:  
EVIDENCE FROM 2015-2016 MYANMAR  
DEMOGRAPHIC AND HEALTH SURVEY**

**YE PAING**

**M.B.,B.S**

**Dip.Med.Sc (STD)**

**Master of Public Health (MPH)**

**University of Public Health, Yangon**

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## **ABSTRACT**

Myanmar is one of the thirty-five countries that account for 90% of new HIV infections globally, and one of the six Asian countries that was prioritized to carry the Global Fast Track Strategy to End the AIDS Epidemic by 2030. The aim of this research was to assess the comprehensive knowledge about HIV/ AIDS and discriminatory attitudes towards PLHIV and their associated factors among Myanmar reproductive aged population. This study was performed by processing secondary data analysis based on Myanmar Demographic and Health Survey conducted in 2015-2016. The weighted sample of 17,622 Myanmar reproductive-aged men and women were considered the sampling units to assess the comprehensive knowledge about HIV/AIDS and a weighted sample of 16,155 study participants who had only heard about HIV/AIDS were considered the sampling units for discriminatory attitudes towards PLHIV. In this study, 20.4% of the study participants had comprehensive knowledge about HIV/AIDS and 77.2% of the study participants had discriminatory attitudes towards PLHIV. The prevalence of the study participants who had comprehensive knowledge about HIV/AIDS were 22.3% among men and 19.7% among women. The prevalence of those expressing discriminatory attitudes towards PLHIV were 78.5% among men and 76.8% among women. In this study, the respondents who had comprehensive knowledge were significantly reduced in discriminatory attitudes towards PLHIV compared with those who lack of comprehensive knowledge. The participants in hilly region had lower odds of having comprehensive knowledge about HIV/AIDS and lower odds of having discriminatory attitudes towards PLHIV compared to other regions. The married participants had more comprehensive knowledge about HIV/AIDS and discriminatory attitudes towards PLHIV comparing the never married participants. The findings expressed that the rural living status, younger aged (15 – 19) group, low educational status, lowest/second wealth quintile, and no exposure to media had lower chance of having comprehensive knowledge about HIV/AIDS and higher chance of having discrimination towards PLHIV compared with their other corresponding groups. Therefore, the activities of National AIDS Program should emphasize those population groups.