

**AWARENESS AND PRACTICE ON RETENTION
OF VACCINATION CARDS AMONG
CAREGIVERS OF CHILDREN AGED 12-35
MONTHS IN SELECTED URBAN AREAS OF
MAWLAMYINE TOWNSHIP, MON STATE**

THAE SU WIN

M.B., B.S

**Master of Public Health (MPH)
University of Public Health, Yangon
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ABSTRACT

Vaccination cards are the essential tools for recording the children's immunization status properly. This study aimed to assess the proportion of vaccination card retention and its determinants among caregivers of children aged 12-35 months in selected urban areas of Mawlamyine Township, Mon State. From September to December 2019, a cross-sectional study was conducted to assess the vaccination card retention and its determinants in Mawlamyine Township. In this study, 150 caregivers were selected by systematic random sampling from 5 wards of Mawlamyine Township. Caregivers were interviewed by face-to-face interview using structured questionnaires and vaccination cards were checked by the researcher. In this study, proportion of vaccination card retention was 72 %. Most of the caregivers (61.3%) had low knowledge on immunization and vaccination cards (9marks and below). Of the 108 children of caregivers who retained the cards, 70.4% had full immunization status and 29.7 % were partially immunized. The immunization status of children whose cards were not retained was assessed by caregivers' recall. Of 42 caregivers who did not retain the cards, only 4.8% were recalled to be fully immunized. On binary logistic regression, caregivers of high school and above education level are 3.65 times the odds of retaining the vaccination cards of the children when compared to those with education below high school level (aOR=3.65, 95%CI: 1.394, 9.578). On the other hand, caregivers who had 25-35 months-old children were 86.3% less likely to retain the vaccination cards than those having 12-24 months-old children (aOR=0.14, 95%CI: 0.056, 0.334). The study concluded that the proportion of vaccination card retention was high although most of the caregivers had low knowledge. Moreover, most of the caregivers did not know vaccine preventable diseases mentioned in vaccination card well. Caregivers who knew above five vaccine preventable diseases was only 12%. These findings highlighted that Ministry of Health and Sports especially Central Expanded Program of Immunization needs to implement community-based educational programs on immunization and vaccination cards among caregivers of children to improve full immunization coverage and vaccination card retention for children in Myanmar.