

**FACTORS INFLUENCING ON THE USE OF
ANTIBIOTICS AMONG COMMUNITY IN
KYAUKPADAUNG TOWNSHIP, MANDALAY
REGION: A CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY**

HNIN HAYHMAN

B.PHARM

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University of Public Health, Yangon

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ABSTRACT

Inappropriate use of antibiotics becomes a marker of rapid growth of antibiotic resistance which is widely acknowledged threat to global health. This alarming problem is undoubtedly influenced by several interrelated factors and among them, public knowledge is a prerequisite for judicious use of antibiotics and taper off the spread of antibiotic resistance. In our country, the magnitude of this problem is still undisclosed and the available data on the antibiotic use is still limited. The aim of this study is to examine the factors influencing on the use of antibiotics among community in Kyaukpadaung township, Mandalay region. This was a cross-sectional study which was conducted in four wards and five villages of Kyaukpadaung township. The pretested face-to-face structured questionnaire was applied to 62 urban residents and 119 rural residents and the respondents were ≥ 18 years old who were not healthcare professionals. Fisher's exact test and multiple logistic regression test were used to test the significant relationship between the socio-demographic characteristics and the knowledge and practice of the respondents. Among a total of 181 participants, only 17.1% had good knowledge on antibiotics in general and those with good practice was about 82%. Concerned with antibiotic resistance, nearly half of them had ever heard about it. One fourth of the total respondents knew which infection can be cured with antibiotic and there was about 20% who took any kind of antibiotics within last six months which were obtained from pharmacy without prescription (29.7%), medical prescription (67.6%) and using previous prescription (8.1%). Factors positively associated with good knowledge are education status and the residence and those with higher education had better practice with antibiotic use. Gender, age, occupation and marital status of the respondents have no significant association with their knowledge and practice. The present study clearly spotlights the poor knowledge but the good practice of respondents on the use of antibiotics and antibiotic resistance which point out weakness in conducting public intervention programs to enhance the judicious use of antibiotics and other medication. Moreover, this is the high time the alarming problem of antibiotic resistance should be handled with the multi-sectoral collaboration among the concerning departments and ministries.