

## **Community acceptance on insecticide treated bed-nets (ITNs) in selected rural community**

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### **Abstract**

Malaria control program in collaboration with Non-Governmental Organizations has been launched Insecticide Treated Bed-nets (ITNs) projects in selected malaria endemic areas since 2002. This study investigated the community perception, acceptance and utilization of ITN in the selected rural communities in Pyin Oo Lwin township. Four focus group discussions were carried out in March, 2010. These discussions explored community perceptions, acceptability, preference on types of bed-net and the barriers to use ITNs. Free availability, mosquito nuisance, and popularity were the main determinants of ITN use. Forest related works and evening social activities had negative impact on compliance with ITN usage. Majority of participants in Twin-nge village (received free ITN for every household) reported using ITN regardless of any unfavorable characteristics. Most of the participants in Si-kar village (received limited ITN distribution) described unfavorable characteristics of ITN as reasons for their intermittent use or non-compliance. The main reason for ITN acceptability was effectiveness in killing mosquitoes and other insects. Discussions highlighted considerable confusion around ITN care and washing. Not only adequate and free distribution based on sex and age composition of household members, but also provision of information about ITNs will be important for improving compliance.