

# **Male involvement in reproductive health issues of women in rural settings of Upper Myanmar**

**Hla Soe Tint, Phyo Maung Thaw, Kyaw Ko Ko Htet, Myitzu Tin Oung, Thida, Theingi  
Myint &**

**Than Tun Sein**

***Myanmar Health Research Congress, 2014***

## **Abstract**

A cross-sectional, community-based, analytic study was conducted with 500 married couples in 16 rural villages of Mandalay Region from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2012 to 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2013 to determine the level of male involvement in women's reproductive health (RH) and how it affects on utilization of women's RH services. Multistage sampling method was used to select the places of study and the respondents. Among 14 states and regions, Mandalay region was chosen purposively. Out of 26 townships of Mandalay region, two townships were selected randomly. In each township, two village tracts were selected randomly. In each village tract, five villages were selected randomly. Finally, in each village, 25 married couples were interviewed through household survey using systematic sampling method. The majority of husbands were involving in women's RH issues either fairly or highly. Majority of husbands were heads of families and the most powerful persons in the family. Approximately 30% – 40% of wives had wife's autonomy. Husbands' knowledge levels on sources of reproductive health services, reproductive health information and reproductive health issues of mothers were found to be lower than wives ( $p<0.005$ ), with exceptions of knowledge on contraception and attitude towards reproductive health issues. In multivariate analysis, with good husband's power in the family with relatively lower wife's autonomy, good wife's knowledge on maternal healthcare and husbands' good attitude on reproductive health care were collectively favorable to achieve male involvement ( $p<0.05$ ). A highly significant positive association between male involvement and utilization of reproductive health services was found in this study ( $r=0.395$ ,  $p<0.001$ ).