

Striving Towards the “Research for Health” Goal: A dozen years of experience of Department of Medical Research (Upper Myanmar) (1999-2011)

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Abstract

With the objective of determining the types of Health Systems Research (HSR) related papers conducted during 1999-2011, content analysis of the research findings was performed. Out of 17 functioning divisions of the department, eight research divisions have carried out 95 HSR-related studies including 16 workshops since 2001. Fifty-one papers (64.6%) were cross-sectional descriptive studies, 12 (15.2%) clinical trial, 11 (13.9%) analytical study and remaining 5 (6.3%) were operational research. Among them, 38.9% were related to communicable diseases, 23.1% to Reproductive Health, 11.5% to non-communicable diseases and 26.3% to workshops and others. Most of the studies were conducted by Epidemiology Division (40%), Pathological Division (20%), Health Systems Research Division (14.7%), Parasitological Division (14.7%) and Medical Statistic Division (4.2%). Out of them, 32 (33.7%) were presented orally—30 presented at Myanmar Health Research Congress and two at Myanmar Medical Association Conferences. Eighteen (18.9%) papers were published—14 (77.8%) in Myanmar Health Sciences Research Journal and four (22.2%) in the International Journals. A poster was displayed at the Global Symposium held in Switzerland. Although unpublished, 29 (30.6%) HSR-related studies were reported. Fifteen (18.9%) research works were conducted in collaboration with authorities from respective programmes in order to ensure the utilization. Apart from studies on CD and RH, other existing health problems including emerging communicable as well as non-communicable diseases related to life style changes should be covered under HSR. (226 word counts)

