

Socio-behavioral study on malaria prevention and control among forest related workers in hard-to-reach areas

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Myanmar Health Research Congress, 2010

Abstract

This study was done to determine the socio-behavioral factors on malaria prevention and control among the forest related workers in hard-to-reach areas of Pyin Oo Lwin Township. Community based cross sectional survey was carried out by collecting data on socio-demographic characteristics, knowledge, practice and behaviors of forest related workers using both quantitative and qualitative approaches. Study population consisted of people who were working the forest related jobs in hard-to-reach areas of the township. A total of 204 workers were interviewed using pre-tested, closed-ended questionnaire. Twenty males and ten females of forest related workers were discussed at three focus group discussion (FGD) sessions. Among 204 interviewees, 149 (73%) had history of malaria and only 55(27%) were free from malaria duration the last two years. A total of 141 workers did not use the bed net. The old aged persons of frequent living in the forest without using bed net were having greater risks for getting malaria infection than the bed net users ($p=0.001$). Their reasons for not using bed nets were unaffordable condition and inconvenience for hanging of bed nets in the forest. According to the recommendations, the forest related workers should be supplied with specific kind of bed nets which are convenient for using in the forested sites.