

Thesis Title                    A Study on the Effectiveness of ARI Control Program in a  
Township in Myanmar.  
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Degree                         Master of Science ( Medical Epidemiology)

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ABSTRACT

A cross-sectional study on morbidity, mortality and health care practice of ARI was conducted in North Oakalapa township, Myanmar in February 1993. The objective of the study was to assess the effectiveness of ARI control program, which had been implemented in that township since 1989. For the purpose of assessment, the results of 1993 survey were compared with those of 1987 (pre-project) survey. The parameters selected for comparison were: prevalence and severity of ARI, specific mortality rate of ARI and health care seeking practice of ARI cases.

In 1993, ARI prevalence was 425 and ARI specific mortality rate was 2.2/1,000 children under 5 years. In terms of severity, 57(9.3%) of total ARI cases were in moderate and severe categories. Regarding health care seeking practice, 42.0% of total ARI and 84.2% of moderate and severe ARI cases were treated by health personnel. Moreover, 19 (33.3%) of moderate and severe ARI cases were admitted to hospital. In the treatment pattern of ARI, 18.4% of all ARI cases and 56.1% of moderate and severe ARI cases had been prescribed antibiotics.

In comparison of 1987 and 1993 surveys, detection of ARI prevalence and proportion of moderate and severe ARI cases were significantly higher in 1993 than 1987. In the health care seeking practice of ARI cases, proportion of cases treated by health personnel, proportion of hospitalization and proportion of referral to hospital were also significantly higher in 1993 than 1987. However, ARI specific mortality rate in 1993 was significantly decreased from 1987. In comparison of hospitalization of death cases, no significant difference between two survey was found but in referral system, proportion of referred cases in 1993 was significantly increased in 1993.

It was concluded that the program was effective in terms of increasing case detection, by reducing disease specific mortality rate and by improving the health-care seeking practice of ARI cases. Moreover, rapid program expansion, introduction of ARI vaccine and study on "KAP" of mothers were recommended for the future program.