

**SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF INSECTICIDE TREATED BED
NET (ITN) USE FOR MALARIA CONTROL AMONG MIGRANT
WORKERS IN RURAL AREA OF SHAN STATE IN MYANMAR**



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M.A. (HEALTH SOCIAL SCIENCE)

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ABSTRACT

Malaria is endemic in the Nawngkhio Township of Shan State in Myanmar. While the local community acquired knowledge of malaria prevention and also received insecticide treated bed nets (ITNs) free from the malaria control project, the high risk group migrant beekeepers were found to have a lack of proper knowledge on malaria and none of them were using ITN. The social determinants of ITN use among the beekeepers were studied from the perspective of critical medical anthropology using the concept of migration.

An ethnographic study was done between July – November 2012 which included in-depth interviews with 25 migrant beekeepers, participant observation, and 4 separate focus group discussions with 6 beekeepers, 7 local villagers, 6 basic health care providers and 3 medical doctors. Content analysis was done.

It was found that the non-profit organization that dominated the health care delivery system related to malaria control in the area, which set the ITN policy, which discriminated against the migrant beekeepers making ITN inaccessible to them. The discriminated social relationship was also observed among the local villagers and the beekeepers. The belief that malaria was caused by drinking unclean water and eating food from the forest, the belief that the bee sting can prevent malaria, the perception of bed nets and ITN, and the economy driven prioritization of success in the beekeeping business, all were found to be leading beekeepers towards poor utilization of ITN for malaria prevention.

A profit making oriented policy of the non-profit organization, the belief system on malaria, prioritization in life, and a discriminatory social relationship in the context of migration were found to be the important social determinants of ITN use among the migrant beekeepers.

**KEY WORDS: CRITICAL MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY/ INSECTICIDE
TREATED BED NET/ MALARIA/ MIGRANT/ SHAN STATE**

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