

# **CAPACITY ASSESSMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH MID WIVES ON PREVENTION OF MOTHER TO CHILD TRANSMISSION OF HIV SERVICES IN KALUTARA DISTRICT, SRI LANKA**

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## **Introduction:**

The Public Health Mid wife (PHM) is a grass root level health care worker providing preventive care interventions in Sri Lanka. HIV testing to all pregnant mothers at field antenatal clinics was established with the introduction of the elimination of mother to child transmission of HIV programme in 2013.

## **Objective:**

To determine the knowledge, attitudes and associated practices of PHM in regard to prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV[PMTCT] services in field level in Kalutara.

## **Method:**

A descriptive cross sectional study was carried out among 215 PHMs and data collected by using a self-administered questionnaire. Observational study was done to analyse the current situation of service provision for PMTCT by using an observational checklist. Data analysis was done by using SPSS16.

## **Results:**

Majority (60%) of PHMs have more than 10 years of service as a PHM and Of them (87%) participated training on PMTCT. Three quarter of respondents scored as good knowledge but only 59% obtained good attitudes in this regard. PHMs conducted awareness programmes on PMTCT services for following groups; antenatal mothers (99.5%), Parental classes (78%) and pre-conception counselling (61%), but 42% of PHMs educated the eligible couples on the above aspects. Observational study revealed that PHMs performed many tasks beyond her duty list in related to PMTCT services.

## **Discussion:**

Public Health midwives have a potential to provide PMCT services and increasing her contribution in to PMTCT services at field level is a feasible strategy to enhance HIV testing coverage in Sri Lanka.

## **Disclosure of interest statement**

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