

# CAPACITY ASSESSMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH MIDWIVES ON PREVENTION OF MOTHER TO CHILD TRANSMISSION OF HIV SERVICES IN KALUTRA DISTRICT, SRI LANKA



Dharmakulasinghe V.S, Ranatunga J.D

## Background;

Sri Lanka has a population of 20 million, with approximately 3500 people living with HIV including 100 children living with HIV. The Elimination of Mother to Child transmission of HIV programme was implemented in 2013 and introduced the HIV testing to all pregnant mothers at field antenatal clinics. Public Health Mid wife [PHM] plays an important role in primary health care in Sri Lanka. Traditionally these Public health Mid wives focused only on midwifery, but now PHM's have evolved in to a professional cadre, playing a role in preventive health covering many aspects other than Midwifery. Their services are immensely valued in rural settings, where health resources are scarce. In reaching the target of 'Elimination of Mother to child transmission of HIV' PHM's roles and responsibilities delivering PMTCT services at the field level has not been studied properly.

## Objectives

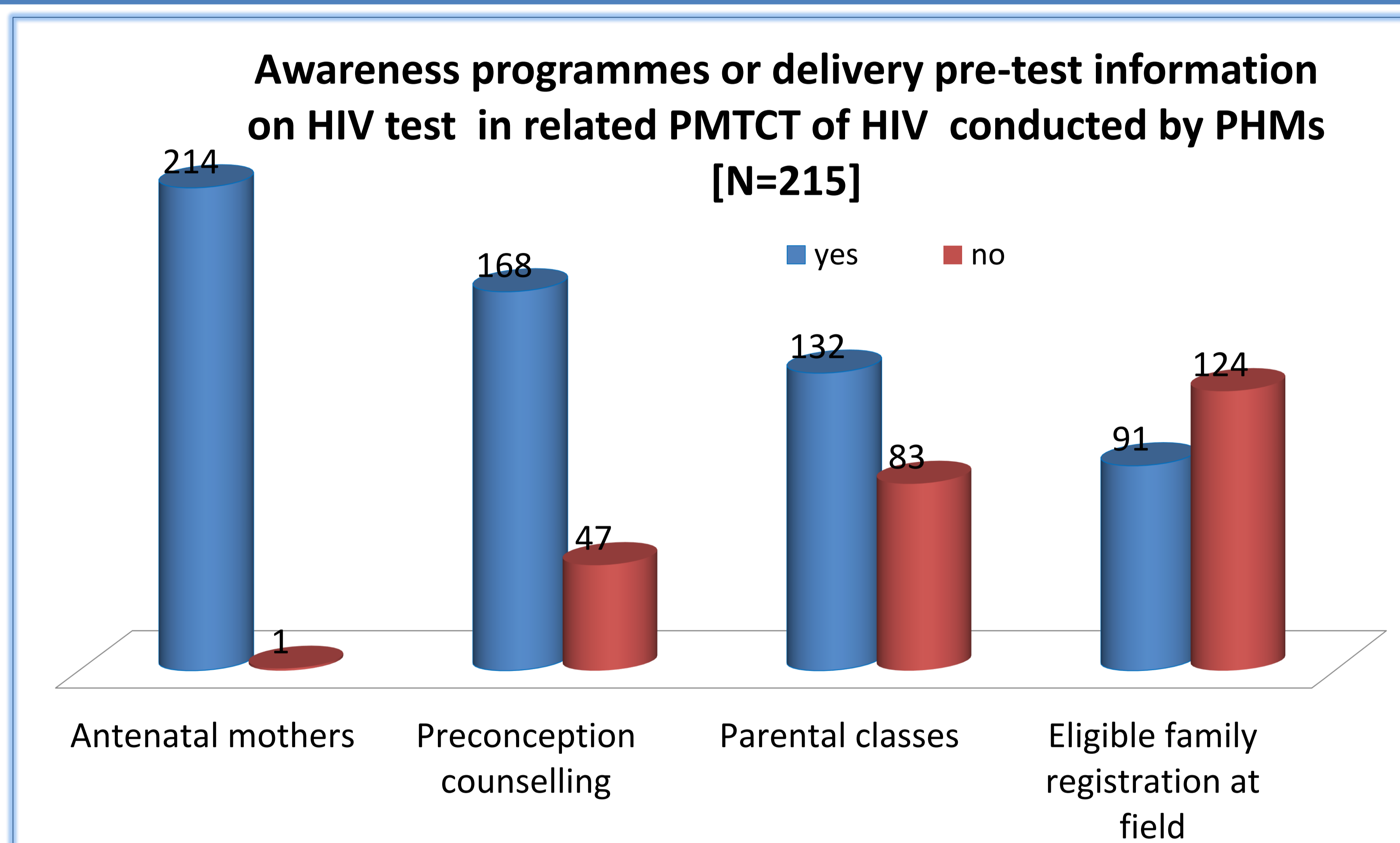
Determine the knowledge attitudes and associated practices of PHM in regard to the prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV services in field level at Kalutara district.

## Methods;

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 analyze the current situation of service provision for PMTCT services by using an observational check list during 01/05/2017 to 31/07/2017. The study was approved by Ethical review committee, Post graduate Institute of Medicine, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

## Results;

Median age of the sample was 42 years. Majority 60% of PHM's had more than 10 years of service as a PHM and of them most[87%] have participated training on PMTCT of HIV services. Three quarter of respondents scored as good knowledge but 59% obtained good attitude in this regard. 33% believed that HIV positive mothers do not get pregnant and 30% thought that HIV positive mother has a right to refuse the blood test. However, 95% PHM's were willing to give care to a HIV positive mother.



Observational study revealed the PHM's performed many tasks beyond her duty list in related to PMTCT services..

## Conclusion;

Public health mid wives have a potential to provide PMTCT of HIV services and increasing her contribution for in PMTCT of HIV services at field level is a feasible strategy to increase HIV testing coverage. Further, Public Health Mid wife being the frontline health care worker in Sri Lanka for provision of maternal and child health services, her role on PMTCT services will prevent HIV among entire families in the country.

Key words; PHM-Public health Midwife, PMTCT-Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV.

Corresponding author; <sup>1</sup> Dr. V. S. Dharmakulasinghe, Acting Consultant Venereologist, Ministry of Health, Colombo, Sri Lanka Contact ;vinodharmakulasinghe@gmail.com,

Dr. J. D. Ranatunga , Consultant Venereologist, North Colombo Teaching Hospital, Ragama,Ministry of health , Sri Lanka

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