Assessment of malaria caseload in forest related workers

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Abstract

Aim of the study was to assess the risk of malaria infection in forest related workers during rainy season and summer season. Small-scale cross-sectional survey was done. The study village situated at forested hilly area in Pyin Oo Lwin where 677 populations were resided. Out of 677 populations, 444 villagers worked in the forest area. Among those, 263(59.23%) villagers slept at the hut in the forest. Out of 263 villagers, 49.81% (131) did not use mosquito nets. Only 25% of villagers knew that malaria was transmitted by the bite of mosquito. Malaria caseload during March was 0.59% and during August was 5.17% among all villagers. The risk of having malaria in adults of 15 to 60 years age was significantly higher than respondents of age under 15 and over 60 years. And risk of having malaria in male had 2.2 times more than female. It was because; majority of adults especially males went to forested areas for working. Workers who slept in the farms at the forested area had 2.46 times more risk of malaria incidence than workers who did not stay overnight. This study confirmed the high risk of malaria morbidity in study village during August (rainy season) than March (summer). Majority of workers went to the forest and slept there without using mosquito nets.Significant proportions were unaware of how malaria was transmitted and its prevention by using mosquito nets.Poor socio-economic status and regularly working and sleeping in the forest were a strong effect on the odds of malaria infection.