

**“Mawlum” performance as a diabetes health  
communication intervention in northeastern Thailand: a  
concept paper**

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The method of caring for diabetes through compliance has been found to not sufficiently motivate people living with diabetes to change their self-care behaviors, a situation that is due to neglect of the social and psychological dimensions involved with the illness. “Entertainment –education” (E-E) has long been proposed as an option for making health communication interventions that empower people to transform themselves and self-actualize. Several forms of E-E have been employed to curb the increased incidence of diabetes around the world by both entertaining people and educating them about the illness and its care. Based on Bandura’s social learning and Larkey and Hecht’s culture-centric narratives (Hernandez and Organista, 2013) on health promotion, E-E is aimed at bringing

about overt behavioral change through affective and emotional aspects of human communication. Post-show talks are highly recommended to highlight the main themes of E-E-conveyed messages. In addition to providing worldwide examples of E-E, the use of *mawlum* performances with post-show talks is proposed in this article as a culturally sensitive form of E-E for health communication interventions among people living with diabetes in Ban Chiang district, Udon Thani Province, northeastern Thailand.

**Keywords:** Mawlum performance, diabetes, health communication intervention, Thailand

## **An Analysis of Women's Engagement in the Thai Labor Market**

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As demographic changes in the past several decades have transformed Thailand into an aging society, the female labor force now plays a significant role in driving the country's economic growth in the context of its declining population growth rate. The purpose of this paper is to analyze the role of women both within and outside the labor market, especially working-age women (aged 25-54), who constitute the so-called prime age group. The study contains data from the period 1984-2014 compiled from labor force surveys which were conducted by the National Statistical Office of Thailand over that period. The findings indicate that the rate of female labor force participation has dropped, and the proportion of women who left the labor market to become housewives is increasing. Considering the age effect, all age groups of women of working age increased their contributions to non-market work over the past three decades. With regard to the cohort effect, more women in older cohorts (aged 25-35) take part in paid labor than is the case with younger ones;

consequently, the share of women who are housewives increased among the younger cohorts. Additionally, the results showed that there is a negative relationship between the hours worked by working-age women and the dependency ratio in their family, a situation that implies that family care responsibilities tend to reduce women's participation in the labor market. Thus, policy advocacy for raising women's engagement in the labor market should be focused primarily on effective measures which would help to balance their role in the labor market with family responsibilities.

**Keywords:** Female labor force participation, housewives, family-friendly policies, Thai labor market

## **Prevalence of Loneliness among Older Persons in Myanmar**

Khin myo wai

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With life expectancy increasing throughout the world, loneliness in old age is becoming an area of great concern. In this study, attempts have been made to assess the extent to which persons in Myanmar aged 60 and older experience feelings of loneliness and to describe variations in the prevalence of loneliness according to social, demographic and economic characteristics. Data are from the 2012 Survey of Older Persons in Myanmar, in which a total of 4,080 participants aged 60 and older were interviewed. The study utilized three measurements of loneliness, with binary responses to describe the prevalence of loneliness: single-item direct measurement; single-item deprivation measurement; and a two-item composite measurement. The study used cross tabulation analysis of the data. Based on the constructed measurements, results showed that almost one-third of the older people reported that they felt lonely. The study

found differences in the prevalence of loneliness in relation to marital status, sex, ethnicity, health status, educational status, age group and economic status, although unexpectedly no differences were found between the residences of the respondents. Interestingly, those who stayed together with both children and spouses were the least lonely, whereas those living with spouses only had a lower level of loneliness than those living with their children only, indicating that partnership is very important in interpreting loneliness. Additionally, it should be noted that those living alone were the loneliest of all those surveyed.

**Keywords:** loneliness, older persons, social, demographic, and economic measurements

## **Verbal Autopsies in Vietnam: Degree of Agreement on Specific Causes of Death with Medical Records and Family-given Causes of Death**

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This study is an initial effort to assess the strength of the consistency of verbal autopsy-derived causes of death by comparing them with causes of death contained in medical records and family-given causes of death in three provinces of Vietnam (Hochiminh City, Binh Duong and Lam Dong). The data cover all deaths occurring between January 2008 and December 2009 in selected areas of those provinces which maintained verbal autopsy records together with medical records or death certificates. During that period, for three-fourths of the deaths that occurred, verbal autopsy-derived causes of death agreed with the causes of death contained in medical records. The causes of death were categorized into seven groups; of those groups, cancer accounted for the highest proportion of agreement. With regard to the agreement between verbal autopsy-derived causes of death and family-given causes of death, transport accidents and senility accounted for the highest proportion of agreement. In nearly

half of the 3,166 cases (47.2%), verbal autopsies agreed with causes of death derived from death certificates. In total, verbal autopsies were reasonably well in agreement with causes of death contained in medical records in determining the underlying cause of death, and they compared moderately well with family-given causes of death.

**Keywords:** Cause of death, verbal autopsy, medical record, Vietnam.