Abstract of Master's Dissertation

Course	International Health Development (Master of Public Health)	Name	Mikiko Tsuge Kosako
Thesis Title	Household-specific risk factors for diarrhea among Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh		

Background:

Although many diarrheal cases are preventable, people in certain parts of the world still lose their lives due to diarrhea. According to World Health Organization (WHO), diarrhea is still in the top ten leading causes of death worldwide and the top five leading causes of death in low-income countries in 2019. From another perspective, diarrhea control is the primary concern when responding to complex emergencies, such as civil conflict and war, which usually triggers significant people movement. The Rohingya refugee camp in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, is one of the largest acute refugee camps in decades, and much is unknown about the evidence-based risk factors of diarrhea.

Objectives :

This study aimed to identify the household-specific risk factors for diarrhea among Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh.

Methods :

This study conducted secondary data inferential analyses. The dataset obtained from UNHCR was used. First, descriptive analyses were undertaken to show the characteristics of the dependent and independent variables. Second, bivariate analyses were undertaken to identify relationships between the dependent variable, which is whether a household had member(s) with diarrhea, and 38 independent variables. Third, multivariate analyses were conducted to identify variables associated with the dependent variable through controlling confounders. Prior to multivariate analyses, multicollinearity was examined to exclude the overlap relations.

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Results:

Of the 1,683 households, 305 (18.1%) had at least one household member with diarrhea. Four independent variables having produced significant odds ratio (OR) were identified as household-specific factors. The number of total household members [OR: 1.60, 95% CI 1.10-2.34] and households using latrines cleaned by neighborhood rotation [OR: 9.99, 95% CI 1.30-76.59] were positively significant, and the number of household members under five years of age [OR: 0.18, 95% CI 0.05-0.68], and appropriate excreta disposal of under five years of age [OR: 0.06, 95% CI 0.01-0.37] were negatively significant.

Conclusion :

This study identified four household-specific factors for diarrhea among Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, which were: (i)the number of total household members; (ii) households that used latrines cleaned by neighboring households by rotation; (iii) the number of household members under five years of age; and (vi) appropriate excreta disposal of those under five years of age.

(360 words)