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There was significant association between perception level of ARI and educational qualification of the respondents. Respondents who were upto primary level; 72(64.3%) had poor perception and no one had good perception. On the other hand, who were above primary level; 58(33.5%) had poor perception and 2(1.2%) had good perception. Higher educational qualification is associated with a higher probability of good perception about ARI.

Perception level was found to be associated with total monthly family income of the respondents. Respondents who were below 40000 income group; 107(50%) had poor perception, 106(49.5%) had fair perception and rest 1(0.5%) had good perception. On the other hand, respondents who were 40001 and above income group; 23(32.4%) had poor perception, 47(66.2%) had fair perception and rest 1(1.4%) had good perception. Higher income is associated with a higher probability of good perception about ARI.

Among the respondents having age group 18-25 years, the mean perception score was 19.81. On the other hand, among respondents having age group 26 and above years, the mean perception was 21.37. The difference was statistically significance ( $P < 0.05$ , pulled from Student's t- test).

Association between perception score and education level of the respondents, it was seen that among the respondents having upto primary level, the mean perception score was 18.30. On the other hand, among respondents having above primary level, the mean perception was 22.29. The difference was statistically significance ( $P < 0.05$ , pulled from Student's t- test) and also association between perception score and total monthly family income of the respondents was statistically significant. It was seen that among the respondents having monthly family income upto 40000 taka, the mean perception score was 20.18. On the other hand, among respondents having monthly family income 40001 and above taka, the mean perception was 22.35. The difference was statistically significance ( $P < 0.05$ , pulled from Student's t- test).

## Conclusion

This cross sectional study was conducted among the mothers in selected rural areas in Tangail city from January to December 2016. The study was carried out to identify the perception regarding acute respiratory tract infection by mothers of under five children. It was also undertaken to find out perception level in respect of age, educational qualification, along with the monthly income of the respondents. Acute Respiratory Tract Infection is a major public health problem accounting for more than a quarter of all child deaths of the world. But the incidence of ARI could be reduced to a great extent by applying simple preventive measures and basic knowledge about it. Nearly half of the ARI and its related deaths could be prevented through the correct use of case management approach. The study revealed that most of the respondents were 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> class and in the age group between 26-30 years.

The study also disclosed that maximum number of children were vaccinated. Around half of the mothers had a considerable perception on causes, common and severe symptoms/ signs of the ARI but rest of them had lack of perception about ARI. Very few percent of respondents were taken preventive measure against acute respiratory tract infection. Majority of the respondents heard of the ARI, mostly from mass media and doctors. Fever and running nose were described as the common symptoms of ARI by a large number of mothers.

Study showed that the mothers consulted various categories of practitioners. Most of the respondents consulted with MBBS doctors and second most respondents consulted with pharmacy drug seller.

It is generally accepted that educated mothers have good perception level about ARI. In this study, perception level was found to be associated with education level and also, perception level was found to be associated with total monthly family income of the respondents. Higher educational qualification of the respondents had good perception level regarding ARI and respondents with higher family income group had more good perception level than the less family income group.

Less than half of the respondents were poor perception level and minority (only 1%) were good perception level. So, it is essential to bring about a significant change in their **level of perception** and its practice to save the death of children.

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