

**APPROACHES TO MOBILIZE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION  
IN NUTRITION PROMOTION OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE  
AMONG VILLAGE HEALTH VOLUNTEERS,  
WANG NAM YEN DISTRICT, SAKEO PROVINCE, THAILAND**

**KEIKO SUWA**

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KEIKO SUWA: 4637896 ADPM/M

M.P.H.M. (PRIMARY HEALTH CARE MANAGEMENT)

THESIS ADVISORS: PANTYP RAMASOOTA, Dr.P.H., SOMCHAI TOONKOOL, M.S.N., SOMSAK WONGSAWASS, M.P.H.

ABSTRACT

The study objective was to identify the approaches to mobilize community participation in nutrition promotion of children under five years of age among village health volunteers (VHVs). The research was conducted in Wang Nam Yen district, Sakeo province, Thailand. The study design was a cross-sectional study, and self-administered questionnaires were distributed to 260 village health volunteers in the district.

This study revealed the following: Four fifths of VHVs had performed nutrition promotion activities including problem identification, planning and implementation, and half of them had performed evaluation of the activities on their own initiative when they thought necessary. However, the VHV showed low performance on the planning of activities for community participation. Except for implementation of activities that showed 83%, the process of planning was less than 40%. VHV's main activities in nutrition promotion were child growth monitoring, health education, and meeting and discussing with community people. They mostly worked at a Community Primary Health Care Center and had little contact with the community, as confirmed by only 6% who used participation approaches and one fourth who used proactive and inner-initiated approaches. However, VHVs of the younger age group (20-39 years) were more likely to use proactive, inner-initiated, formal, informal and group approaches. Variables that also determined the practice of the VHVs were female, primary or secondary school education level, more than 5 years of VHV work experience and more than 5 successful refresher training course in the last year. VHVs motivated by social support such as free medical care, social recognition, and self-satisfaction tended to practice a high level of positive approaches. However, being family members, health personnel, school teachers, mothers or caretakers showed no influence on VHV's approaches.

The study suggests that guidance from health personnel as well as strong social support to enhance VHV's approaches to mobilize community participations should be encouraged.

KEY WORDS : VHVs, APPROACHES, COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION, MOBILIZATION, NUTRITION PROMOTION, CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS

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