

PREVENTIVE BEHAVIOURS AMONG HEALTH PROMOTING
PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN UNDER SOIL-TRANSMITTED
HELMINTHIASIS CONTROL PROGRAM IN NAKHON SI
THAMMARAT PROVINCE, THAILAND

KATSUYUKI TSUKAMOTO

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KATSUYUKI TSUKAMOTO 4637899 ADPM / M

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

THESIS ADVISORS: BOONYONG KEIWKARNKA Dr. P.H.,
PANTYP RAMASOOTA Dr. P.H., SOMSAK WONGSAWASS M.P.H.

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this cross-sectional study was to assess preventive behaviors against soil-transmitted helminthiasis (STH) among school children under STH control program and to identify factors concerning preventive behaviors of school children. Preventive behaviors against STH consist of using latrine, washing hands, washing vegetables, wearing shoes, cutting fingernail, accepting stool examination and keeping sanitary facilities clean.

The target group was 5th and 6th grade primary school children in approved schools and not approved schools, categorized by the Ministry of Public Health, in high a prevalence district in Nakhon Si Thammarat, Thailand. Data was collected in January 2004. Self-administered questionnaire was conducted to 314 cases of school children for socio-demographic factors, knowledge, attitudes and preventive behaviors (KAP). Health personnel conducted home interview questionnaires to collect the data of sanitary facilities. Self-administered questionnaires for health personnel and teachers collected information regarding activities of health education in both schools. KAP questionnaires were analyzed and categorized as good and poor, positive and negative, and proper and improper. This study was analyzed with Chi-square test.

The study found that socio-demographic factors, including grade, sex. Caretaker, family size, siblings, parents' occupation, religion, income didn't have a relationship to preventive behaviors in both schools. Activities of health education by health personnel provided a demonstration of preventive behaviors for a greater number of school children in approved schools. Regarding sanitary facilities, proper preventive behaviors had a relationship to sanitary condition involved in food preparation ($p=0.001$) and restriction in fecal fertilizer use ($p=0.041$) in approved schools only. Toilet, water disposal, water resource tended to have a relationship to preventive behaviors in approved schools.

Demonstration of preventive behaviors by health personnel was conducted more in approved schools and proper preventive behaviors were related to sanitary facilities in approved school. This study concluded that demonstrations by health personnel reinforced the use of sanitary facilities at home in approved schools under STH control program.

KEY WORDS : PREVENTIVE BEHAVIORS / SOIL-TRANSMITTED
HELMINTHIASIS / PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN

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