

EFFECT OF MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH HANDBOOK ON
MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH PROMOTING
BELIEF AND ACTION

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ABSTRACT

A cross-sectional study was conducted to assess the utilization of a maternal and child health (MCH) handbook, and to analyse the relationship to mother's maternal and child health promoting belief and action. The data was collected from 224 mothers at Phanom Thuan district in Kanchanburi province, Thailand, from 16th January to 11th February in 2005. For analysing mother's belief, 216 cases were used. Pearson correlation method and stepwise multiple regression model were applied to analyze the relationship to mother's MCH promoting belief and action.

The utilization of MCH handbooks by mothers was mostly at the moderate level (59.8%), and there was a low rate of reading (only 14.3% had read all of the contents of handbook) and self-recording was remarkably (only 0.9% had self-recorded every part in the handbook). Multiple regression coefficients showed utilization of MCH handbook was related to both mother's MCH promoting belief ($p=0.001$) and action ($p=0.039$). This was the strongest predictor variable of mother's MCH promoting belief. Reading a large amount of the handbook was related to high confidence and benefits, also high performance on regarding MCH promoting action. Other factors which significantly related to MCH promoting belief were family income ($p=0.003$), age ($p=0.004$), and education ($p=0.039$). The factors related to mother's MCH promoting action were marital status ($p=0.01$), occupation ($p=0.031$) and age ($p=0.033$). Mother's marital status was the strongest predictor variable of mother's MCH promoting action. According to the findings of this study, for MCH promotion, mothers' belief and action can be inspired through utilizing MCH handbooks and comprehensive assessment.

KEY WORDS: MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH HANDBOOK/ HEALTH PROMOTING BELIEF/ HEALTH PROMOTING ACTION

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