

C 630482 : MAJOR SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY (DEMOGRAPHY)

KEY WORD: KNOWLEDGE / BELIEFS / CERVICAL UTERI CARCINOMA /
PAP SMEAR / ANG THONG

SUPUNNEE KUMLAMAI : FACTORS AFFECTING KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEFS ABOUT CERVICAL UTERI CARCINOMA OF WOMEN IN ANG THONG PROVINCE WHO REQUEST PAP SMEAR.

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This research aims to study background characteristics of women who received Pap smear screening and to examine factors affecting their knowledge and beliefs about cervical uteri carcinoma. Data were collected from 559 women in Ang Thong province who received PAP smear screening during 1990 and 1994.

As hypothesized, women with abnormal cells differed from those with normal cells in the following characteristics: age, experience in first sexual relations, first pregnancy, duration of marriage, number of children, income, education, request for Pap smear screening with no symptoms, knowledge about cervical uteri carcinoma, and beliefs about cervical uteri carcinoma.

In examining factors affecting knowledge and beliefs about cervical uteri carcinoma of these two groups of women, four independent variables were included, namely, occupation, income, education, and media exposure. Three other variables, age, number of children, and request for Pap smear screening with no symptoms, were also included as covariates.

When all other independent variables and covariates were controlled for, the only independent variable that significantly influenced knowledge about cervical uteri carcinoma of women with abnormal cells was income, whereas all four independent variables significantly influenced the knowledge of those with normal cells.

The only independent variable that significantly influenced beliefs about cervical uteri carcinoma of women with abnormal cells, when all other independent variables and covariates were controlled for, was education, whereas all four independent variables significantly influenced beliefs of those with normal cells.

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