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SURASAK SUVOUTTHO: COMPARATIVE STUDY ON SOIL-TRANSMITTED NEMATODIASIS WITH KNOWLEDGE ATTITUDE AND PRACTICE BETWEEN TOWN AND HILLTRIBE PEOPLE. THESIS ADVISORS : PAKPIMOL MAHANNOP, Ph.D. WONGDYAN PANDII, Dr.PH. CHALERMPOL TANSAKUL, Dr.PH, 171 p. ISBN 974-662-405-9

A comparative study on soil-transmitted nematodiasis and the knowledge, attitudes and practice of Karen hilltribe people was conducted between Tumbol Wat-Chan and town people at Tumbol Tha-Pha, Mae-Cham District, Chiang Mai Province. Two population groups of were studied. The first group consisted of 727 Karen hilltribe people and the other group consisted of 462 town people. Subjects feces were collected and examined under a light microscope by using Formalin-ether sedimentation technique. These people were interviewed for their knowledge, attitudes and practice on soil-transmitted nematodiasis by a questionnaire.

The results of fecal examination of Karen hilltribe people (group 1) revealed 20.2% single intestinal parasites and 5.8% mixed intestinal parasites. The soil transmitted nematodes were 23.0% i.e., hookworm 62.0%, *A.lumbricoides* 26.0%, *T.trichiura* 9.0% and *S.stercolaris* 3.0%. The town people (group 2) were positive for intestinal parasites 14.7%, classified as soil-transmitted nematodes 29.4% i.e., hookworm 60.0% , *S.stercolaris* 35.0% and *T.trichiura* 5.0%.

It was found that knowledge and attitudes between the 2 groups (hilltribe and town people) , were not significantly different (p-value>0.05), but the practices of the 2 groups of people produced high risk factors to soil-transmitted nematodes. Finally, It was also found that knowledge and attitudes are not correlated.