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PANEEPAN CHIATAMPAIWONG : “ MANDLE PAINT” A TRADITIONAL THAI MEDICINE FOR URI AND DI DISEASE : A CASE STUDY OF A FOLK HEALER IN KUIBURI SUBDISTRICT , KUIBURI DISTRICT , PRACHUAPKHIRIKHAN PROVINCE.

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The purpose of this research was to examine the history and background of the folk healer – the body of knowledge on folk healing – illness explanation and healing process for URI (Upper respiratory infection) and DI (Diarrhea) disease , illness beliefs and explanations in villagers', modern physicians' and Thai Traditional Healers viewpoints and also examines factors influencing the survival of the folk healer for URI and DI disease treatment. Data was gathered from a folk healer , 60 parents of URI and DI patients , 2 Thai Traditional Healers and 3 modern physicians between November, 1997 and April, 1998 using qualitative approaches.

The data indicates that the folk healer learned from his fathers' experience as a folk healer. The folk healer, the villagers' and The Thai Traditional Healers believe the same thing, that URI and DI disease is caused by natural and supernatural factors and they also believe that the most appropriate treatment of this disease is Mandle Paint . Modern physicians believe that this disease is caused by bacteria and virus,. And that patients can recover. They suggest that Mandle Paint can heal patients as well, if folk healers improve their sanitation process. However Mandle Paint should be avoided in babies.

The research findings also revealed that factors influencing the survival of the role of the folk healer include :

- (1) The villagers' beliefs about URI and DI disease are the same as the folk healers'.
- (2) Mandle Paint can prevent and cure URI and DI disease as well as promote Healthy children.
- (3) The nature of the service provided is appropriate for the villagers .
- (4) The services of the folk healer are inexpensive.
- (5) The acceptance level of the folk healer is very high.
- (6) Mandle Paint is the pattern of prevention , remedy and promotion of childrens health in

Kuiburi subdistrict that the villagers have accepted for a long time .