STARPORN TAWCHANTUK : KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS OF NURSES' FOR APPLYING INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IN DISTRICT HOSPITALS CENTRAL REGION. THESIS ADVISORS : CHOUNCHOM CHAROENYOOTH, Ph.D., PANUDDA PRIYATRUK, M.S., CHAILERD PICHITPORNCHAI, Ph.D. 139 p. ISBN 974-664-425-4

Information technology has rapidly taken an important role in the lives of almost all working areas, especially in public Health and Nursing. This descriptive survey research was aimed to study nurses' knowledge and skills concerning information technology, factors related to their knowledge and skills in using information technology and to study problems and ideas to improve and develop utilization of information technology. The data was collected between August, 10 and September, 30 1998. A sample of four hundred staff nurses was taken from district hospitals in the Central region of Thailand. The questionnaires were constructed by the researcher and validated by experts. The reliability coefficients of the knowledge part and skills of the questionnaire were 0.72 (KR-20) and 0.90 (Cronbach's Alpha Coefficient test), respectively. The data were analyzed by using SPSS/FW. The statistical methods used for testing the hypotheses were Chi-square test and Pearson's Correlation Coefficients at statistical levels of .05.

The findings of this research showed that staff nurses' information about technology were at a low level. This level was lowest concerning computer hardware. Skills for using information technology were at a low level too. The lowest skill was using statistical analysis programs. The factors that related to information technology knowledge were : experience in using computers, experience in learning or training on computers, education levels and owning a computer oneself. The factors related to skills in using information technology were : experience in using computers, experience in learning or training on computers, the number of computers in the hospital, the number of computers in the workplace, the educational level, and owning a computer oneself. These results suggest that hospital administrator need to support acquisition of computer hardware, software and provide training for nurses in using computers in the workplace.