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AMORNTHIP NA BANGCHANG: THE EFFECTIVENESS OF PROBLEM-BASED LEARNING IN FAMILY HEALTH SERVICES AMONG NURSING STUDENTS AT THE NAVAL NURSING COLLEGE. THESIS ADVISORS: SULEE TONGVICHEAN, M.Ed., JARIYAWAT KOMPAYAK, Dr.P.H., RUJIRES THANOORUK, M.Ed, YUWADEE RACHA, Ph.D. 169 p. ISBN 974-664-462-9.

The aims of family health services are to treat and to solve health problems within the family context. Nurses should be educated to integrate their knowledge of solving family problems in a systematic way. Problem-based learning is a method that enhances nursing students to develop critical thinking and problem solving skills which are important for family health services. The research design was a quasi-experiment which aimed to study the effectiveness of utilizing problem-based learning in the teaching of student nurses at the naval nursing college. The study subjects were 60 junior nursing students of the naval nursing college in 1999. The subjects were divided into two groups by matching their GPA and by randomization procedure. The experimental group was taught by problem-based learning procedures, whereas the control group was taught by conventional methods. There were three study instruments : (1) learning module, (2) academic achievement test (multiple choice questions and modified essay questions), and (3) teaching method questionnaires. Data were analyzed by percentage, mean, standard deviation, and different t-test.

Results of the research showed that the mean scores of academic achievement and opinion toward teaching method between the experimental group and the control group were statistically and significantly different at 0.05 level. The mean scores of academic achievement and the opinion toward teaching method in the experimental group were significantly higher than those of the control group.

The research findings suggest that nursing instructors should apply the problem-based learning method in the family health services courses. Furthermore, the problem-based learning method should also be applied to other nursing teaching programs.