

The Study of risk factors in filariasis patients related to microfilaria infection (Wuchereria bancrofti) was carried out in the Mae-Ramat District, in the Province of Tak. The study aimed at finding the association of factors which relate to individual factors (individual factors include age, sex, occupation, education), environment, knowledge, attitude and practice. The study design was analytic case control. The study group was concerned with 151 microfilaraemia cases as compared to 171 control cases without microfilaraemia that live in the same village and are similar in sex, tribe and age (within a five year age group). The diagnosis of microfilaraemia was done through blood smear technique. Information about risk factors was obtained by using questionnaires from October 1, 1988 to December 10, 1988.

The result of the study showed that there is a statistically significant relationship between individual factor and acquiring the disease. That factor is occupation (planting upland rice and flatland rice). Other statistically significant behavioural factors at 95 % confidence interval include passing fecal matter in the forest, mosquito biting while passing fecal matter in the forest, the frequency of entering the forest, working in the forest, wearing clothes that expose skin to mosquitoes and using mosquito nets rarely or never.

By studying the risk factors, we find the following statistics to be significant for microfilarial infection: the distance from house to cluster of trees or bamboo forest, the frequency of entering the forest for primary or secondary occupations while wearing clothes that expose the skin to mosquitoes, and absent of basic mosquito bite prevention (use of insect repellent or mosquito nets).

Studying the knowledge and attitude level which we believe to have direct influence on a given individual's behaviours, we found that the knowledge and attitude of the control population is not significantly higher than that of the filariasis patients.