

Thesis Title The Effectiveness of Health Education Program on
Prevention of Rabies among Heads of Household In
Ladyoa District, Nakornsawan Province

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Abstract

Rabies is a communicable disease among human beings and animals. Rabies might cause mortality to man if prompt and proper treatment was not carried out after he had been bitten by rabies infected dog. In 1991, it was reported that five people residing in Ladyoa District, Nakornsawan Province were died of rabies of which transferred through dogs. It is therefore necessary to prevent rabies from man and animal.

The main objective of the study is to determine the effectiveness of the proposed health education program for rabies prevention. In this study some attribute based on the Health Belief Model, The Motivation Theory and The Learning Theory, were used for developing a one-month health education program (January 2-February 2, 1992) and the experimental design was adopted as research design.

Samples were heads of household possessing dogs residing in two villages which were purposively selected under the criteria of the coverage of rabies immunization of less than 10 percent with 310 dogs. The sample size was 118 heads of household in which was further divided into two groups. The first group, experimental group consisted of 67 heads of household with 183 dogs (Moo 13, Ladyoa Subdistrict, Ladyoa District) and the second group, control group, of 51 heads of household with 137 dogs (Moo 1 Wangmuang Subdistrict, Ladyoa District). The structured interview using developed questionnaires and the vaccination records were used as the tool for data collection.

Results from this work revealed that at the end of the health education program, the levels of knowledge about rabies and its prevention, perception of susceptibility to rabies, and proportion of dogs that had been taken of rabies vaccination of heads of household in the experimental group were statistical significantly higher than those of heads of household prior to the experiment. 85 percent of dogs in the experimental group were also taken for vaccination. In addition, these were positive relationship with statistical significance between age and perceived severity, negative relationships with statistical significance between income and perceived susceptibility and severity, devoutness and perceived, number of dogs in each house and proportion of dogs that had been taken for rabies vaccination.

Results from the finding showed that the health education program for rabies prevention developed in this study would be

effective among heads of household possessing dogs, if attributable factors as knowledge of rabies disease and prevention, perceived severity of rabies, perceived susceptibility to rabies, and perceived benefits and barriers to taking action for taking dogs for rabies vaccination of those heads of household were taken into consideration.