

Thesis Title            Community Support in Prevention and Curing of  
Rabies : A Study in A Village of Ratchaburi  
Province  
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#### ABSTRACT

This research was a qualitative study, aimed to investigate the knowledge, belief, behavior of people about Rabies and their community support in prevention and curing. The study was conducted in a village of Ratchaburi province where was prevalence of Rabies. The study has been done in December 1991 - February 1992 during peak season of Rabies. Twenty-five persons who was bitten and their families, ten community leaders and four hospital personals were subjects in this study. Methods used for data collection were indepth and informal interviews and participant observation.

It is found that the people in the village do not really know about cause of Rabies. They belief that the dogs catch Rabies because the climate is hot. However, they know about Rabies in the dogs, Rabies in the people by their experience in the village.

To prevention from dog's biting people hold the long stick, call the host to protect the dog, try not to go the neighbour house while the owner is absent, forbid the children to hurt the dog,

stand still when the dog barks and reduce number of dogs. When the dog bites anyone he will go to the hospital. Unfortunately, people do not know about first aids by washing the wound with water and soap.

Community support in prevention of Rabies is shown by means of villagers are motivated to vaccinate their dogs, to take care of themselves, not to let the dog bite during summer, and to forbid children to annoy the dog. People are also suggested to go to the hospital, to decrease raising dogs. they are supported to get rid of unwanted dogs. They are as will informed to observe the mad gods and how to kill it.

Community support in curing Rabies is evident that the dog's owner is responsible for hospital cost. The dog's owner visits the patient, encourages him until the patient is discharged. In addition, the hospital personnel always give health advice to the villagers. These mentioned community supports affect prevention and curing of Rabies.