

Thesis Title Quality of Life of Gardeners in Damnernsaduak
District : Paraquat Using Behavior.
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ABSTRACT

This research was undertaken to study the paraquat using behavior of gardeners in Damnernsaduak District. The paraquat using behavior has been divided into three stages i.e. during mixing, during spraying and after spraying. The factors related including the population, economics, social, knowledge of paraquat and health were investigated. The gardeners' opinion, belief as well as self protective measure were also included in the study. The research was conducted both quantitatively and qualitatively. The quantitative data were the secondary data of the research project entitled "The Relationship between the Gardeners' Behavior in Using Paraquat and Their Knowledge and Belief", conducted by Sawalak Lekuthai and colleagues. The data were collected during February to March 1991. The sample in the present study comprised of 310 cases drawn from the above maintained project. The qualitative data were collected by the researcher in October 1991. Of the 310 (of those who gave quantitative data), 20 samples were purposive selected for indepth interview on the opinion, belief and self-protective measure related to the using of paraquat.

It was found in the quantitative study that ; During the mixing stage, the following factors i.e. age, sex, marital status, knowledge of paraquat, paraquat knowledge resources, number of paraquat using (per year), and the experience of substance 's poison were found to be related to the behavior during the stage of mixing paraquat. During spraying, the following factors i.e. education, paraquat knowledge resources and knowledge of paraquat, were found to be related to the behavior during spraying. After spraying, factors concerning number of family members, working position, economic status, paraquat knowledge resources, knowledge of paraquat, duration of using and the experience of substance's poisoned were found to be related to the behavior after spraying. For the qualitative study's (indepth interview), it was found that the gardeners had less self-protective measure against paraquat poison because they thought that the substance would be harmful only when being swallowed. From the result of the study, it is suggested that any related organizations such as Offices of the provincial or district agriculturers, hospital, health centers and Paraquat agencies should cooperate in providing correct information on how to use the substance as well as the danger which might arise from it so that the gardeners would realize the values of self-protective measure and would have correct behavior when use Paraquat. It is also suggested that health education should be provided for the local school children with respect to the paraquat poisons and blood testing for the gardeners who had long-term using of paraquat.