

Thesis Title Phycho-social Factors Affecting Mother's Hand-washing
For Childhood Diarrhoeal Disease Prevention.

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Abstract

Diarrhoeal disease is the one of the major cause of children death, especially at 0-2 Years old. This severe disease is infected by feacal-oral route. So it is importance for mother to prevent her children by cleaning her hands, which may take the disease to children's mouth. Although the environment is so bad, hand-washing with soap can surely prevent diarrhoeal disease. This research was aimed at studying mother's hand-washing and phycho-social factors affecting mother's hand-washing. The sample population studied included 155 mothers of children aged 0-2 years in urban of ampour Photharam, Ratchaburi. Questionnaires were used for collecting data. Percentage, standard diviation, means and path analysis were appiled to analyse the collected data.

Major resaults of the study revealed as follows :

1. Mother's hand-washing revealed that nearly all of mothers always washed their hands after defecation and more than three-fourth

washed hands after defecation by soap. Four-fifth of them always washed their hands after cleaning children feces and two-third of them washed their hands after cleaning children feces by soap. Mother's hand-washing before preparing food for children, hand-washing before giving food to children, hand-washing before giving water to children, hand-washing before bottle feeding, hand-washing before breastfeeding, almost mothers sometimes washed their hands and washed theirs by only water.

2. Perception about diarrheal disease revealed that almost mother's perception were not correct with medical science such as if mother ate taboo food; pickle food or spicy food while breastfeeding, children might be diarrhea; children drank water by glass or spoon, mother does not wash her hands before giving water; before giving food, mother does not wash her hands because giving food to children by spoon. Self-efficacy in hand-washing with soap, almost mothers evaluated that they could sometimes wash their hands in hand-washing before breastfeeding, hand-washing before bottle feeding, hand-washing before preparing food, hand-washing before giving food and hand-washing before giving water. Self-efficacy in hand-washing with soap of mother's defecation and cleaning children feces, almost mothers evaluated that they could always wash their hands with soap.

3. The result of path analysis indicate that benefit perception of hand-washing with soap, self-efficacy in hand-washing with soap and age of children were directly affected to mother's hand-washing, three variables can explain the relation to mother's hand-washing about fifty-seven percents. ($R^2=0.5786$) Age of mother was indirectly affected to mother's hand-washing through self-

efficacy in hand-washing with soap. Education of mother was indirectly affected to mother's hand-washing through self-efficacy in hand-washing with soap and benefit perception of hand-washing with soap.

Recommendations from the study revealed as follows :

Health education to mothers about childhood diarrhoeal disease prevention must relate with mother's perception about childhood diarrheal.

1. Try to correct misunderstanding about hand-washing with soap and explain about danger of no hand-washing with soap while looking after children to childhood diarrhoeal disease .

2. Support mother's good behavior to childhood diarrhoeal disease prevention : hand-washing with soap after mother's defecation and after cleaning children feces.

3. Get mother to awareness about benefit of hand-washing with soap while looking after children for childhood diarrhoeal disease prevention and explain that hand-washing with soap while looking after children is not difficult for mother, not waste their time and get worth result for childhood diarrhoeal disease prevention.

4. Group health education ought to divide group by mother's age or mother's level of education owing to each of mother groups are different self-efficacy in hand-washing with soap and benefit perception of hand-washing with soap.

5. Method of health education, may choose one method or more than one method or kind of media or boujour (sheet) or little book for advising about correct hand-washing with soap and important situation for mother ought to hand-washing with soap while looking after children and explain about danger and benefit of hand-washing with soap.