

Thesis Title Effect of Health Card Programme on Maternal and Child Health and Family Planning in Districts of Lampang Province.

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ABSTRACT

The objectives of this study are to evaluate the effects of Health Card Programme on Maternal and Child Health and Family Planning Services in districts of Lampang province. By comparing the use of health care services before and after the initiation Health Card Programme, comparing the uses of services among mothers and children who are and are not the members of the Health Card Programme in the districts that have had and do not have the Health card Programme.

This study is a Case - Control Retrospective study. The studied samples were mothers, who had delivered their children between November 1, 1983 to October 31, 1986, of Mae-Suk district which have had the Health Card Programme and Bansa district which do not have the Programme. Both districts are in Amphur Chaehom, Lampang Province. There were overall 600 cases in this study, 360 cases from Mae-Suk district, and 240 cases from Bansa district. Among them, 95 persons in Mae-Suk district were members of the Health Card Programme during the time of the study. The data were collected from reports of deliveries and health services records in the local area. Chi-square test with 95% confidence interval limits and Discriminant Analysis are used to analyze the data.

This study reveals that,

1. The use of Health Care Services before and after the Health Card Programme,

- 1.1. By the first year of the Health Card Programme, the number of prenatal visits and rate of BCG vaccination increased significantly compared to the time before the programme.

- 1.2. By the second year of the Health Card Programme, maternal age, gestational age at 1st prenatal visit, type of delivery and post partum visits were significantly improved than those before the programme.

2. Between the studied district and controlled district,

- 2.1. Rate of vaccination and gestational age at the first prenatal visit in the studied district were better than the controlled district.

- 2.2. Delivery at Health Center, time of contraceptive practice during post partum period, rate of DPT, OPV vaccination in the controlled district were better than in the studied

district. This may be due to the better level of socioeconomic status, transportation, and health personels' attitude in the controlled district.

3. Comparing between the mothers who were and were not the members of the Health Card Programme in the studied district, and the controlled district, the members of Health Card Programme were significantly younger, had less parity, more prenatal visits at earlier gestational age and had higher birth weight of their newborns. These are probably due to the effect of card privileges and better attitude and self health care of the mothers.

4. By the use Discriminant Analysis, the most important determinants to determine the mothers who were the members of Health Card Programme were place of prenatal visit, maternal age, numbers of prenatal visits with 83.8 % accuracy.

This study concludes that the Health Card Programme in Lampang improved the Maternal and Child Health and Family Planning Services especially the use of prenatal care, numbers of prenatal visits, the rate of deliveries at Health Center and the rate of BCG vaccination. However, not all the Maternal and Child Health Services were improved homogeneously. Information, Education and Communication to convince all the mothers in the district of the importance and usefulness of the enrollment in the Health Card Programme on their health and outcome of pregnancy will be of utmost importance to improve the health of mothers and children in the community. In addition, improvement of health services in the hospital or local health station will add to the success of the Health Card Programme.