

FACTORS RELATED TO THE VILLAGE HEALTH VOLUNTEER'S PARTICIPATION IN SCREENING BREAST CANCER IN RATCHABURI PROVINCE

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ABSTRACT

This study was a cross-sectional survey research with the objective of studying the factors related to the participation of village health volunteers in performing the screening of breast cancer in Ratchaburi Province. The studied samples were composed of two groups: 1) 236 female village health volunteers who had been working in Ratchaburi Province for at least 6 months (quantitatively); 2) 20 female village health volunteers who had been working in Ratchaburi Province for at least 5 continuous years, having received training in screening for breast cancer and had more than 1 year experience in performing the screening for breast cancer (qualitatively). The data was collected through the use of questionnaires and an in-depth interview during the period from 20 May-31 July 2557. Statistics used to perform quantitative analysis were percentage, mean, standard deviation, t-test, One-way ANOVA, Pearson's Product Moment Correlation Coefficient and Stepwise Multiple Regression Correlation Coefficient.

The quantitative analysis found that the overall participation of village health volunteer in screening for breast cancer in Ratchaburi Province was at a high level (\bar{X} = 67.36). Analysis per aspect found that "obtaining benefit" had the highest average score (\bar{X} = 3.82) and "making decision" had lowest average score (\bar{X} = 3.64). Village health volunteers who maintained other volunteer responsibility made a difference in the participation of village health volunteers in performing breast cancer screening which was statistical significance (p-value <0.05). Motivation, attitude, and social support had a positive medium relationship with the participation of village health volunteer in performing screening for breast cancer in Ratchaburi Province with a statistical significance (r = 0.703, p-value <0.001; r = 0.567, p-value <0.001; and r = 0.477, p-value <0.001). Motivation, attitude, and social support had a 55.7% co-predictability value regarding the participation of village health volunteer in performing screening for breast cancer (R^2 = 0.557).

Research recommendations are as follows: there should be policies for promoting motivation programs and the attitude of village health volunteer; support their performance; improve their roles and knowledge regarding performing their function; and arrange progressive activities and public relation forums to supply the needed information necessary to maintain a continuous participation in screening for breast cancer activities.

KEY WORDS: PARTICIPATION / SOCIAL SUPPORT / MOTIVATION /
ATTITUDE / VILLAGE HEALTH VOLUNTEER /
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