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SELF-EFFICACY / SOCIAL SUPPORT / THE SIXTH GRADE
STUDENTS

THONGCHAI PRECHA : THE COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE
EFFECTIVENESS OF THREE DENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS
FOR IMPROVING DENTAL CARIES AND GINGIVITIS PREVENTIVE
BEHAVIOR AMONG THE SIXTH GRADE STUDENTS IN HANGDONG
DISTRICT, CHIANG MAI PROVINCE. THESIS ADVISOR : CHANINAT
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The purpose of this quasi - experimental study was to compare the effectiveness among 3 patterns of dental health education programs for improving dental caries and gingivitis preventive behavior in the sixth grade students. One hundred and sixty-six students were simple randomly selected from 2 schools in Hangdong District Chiang Mai province. There were 4 groups for this study. Group 1 received routine dental health education program, group 2 received the application of Self-Efficacy theory program, group 3 received both the application of Self-Efficacy theory with social support from the parents. Group 4 was the control group. There were 42 subjects in each experimental group and 40 subjects were assigned to the control group which did not receive any dental health education programs. Data were collected using questionnaires, oral health status recording forms, and oral health behavior report from dental self care handbook during January to March, 1997. Statistical analyses were done using One-Way ANOVA, Paired t-test and Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient.

The result revealed that the experimental group 3 had statistically significant better knowledge, attitude, perceived self-efficacy, outcome expectation, preventive practice, plaque and gingival status, and level of bacteria in saliva than the other three groups (p-value <0.01). The experimental group 3 had significantly better toothbrushing and flossing behavior than group 2 (p-value <0.05). It was also found that the knowledge, attitude, perceived Self-Efficacy, outcome expectation and preventive practice of the three experimental groups were statistically significantly correlated to plaque and gingivitis status (p-value <0.01). These results indicated that the planned dental health education program with application of Self-Efficacy theory and social support from the parents significantly improved the preventive behavior for dental caries and gingivitis. Thus, it is recommended that this program should be applied and extended to other educational levels and other schools.