

Thesis Title Factors Related to the Duration of Having Common Cold Among Children Aged 1-13 Years Who are Under Grandmother Care

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Abstract

The study was to determine how grandmothers cared for and prevented their grandchildren aged 1-13 years when they suffered from the common cold, and to determine factors associated with these caring behaviors. Using the data from the project of Grandmother's Roles in Nurture of Children Aged 0-13 Years Old in Lower Northeastern Province, variables to be retrieved included child's period of sickness and their health information, grandmother's care behavior, household's demographic and socio-economic data, and sources of health information. This covered 252 cases in the study. Chi-square was used to analyse the variables which might associate with the child's period of sickness. The quantitative results would be presented in ratio, percent and means for some important variables. In addition, qualitative information was employed to explain and to elaborate certain associations in order to obtain a clearer picture of child care during common cold sickness.

The results showed that when the children had the common cold, they would be encouraged to drink more water. Also the grandmothers often rubbed the children down with wet towels in order to release body heat. Meanwhile children kept their bodies warm by putting on thick clothes at night. Since the grandmothers realized that high fever would lead to convulsion, they were found to pay most attention on the stage of having high fever. However, they were confident to overcome mild symptoms of the common cold. In terms of prevention, most grandmothers demonstrated their concerns with keeping the child's body warm with suitable clothes, and having a shower appropriately when the weather changed. Factors that

illustrated statistically significant association with the period of common cold were existence of grandmothers' helper, grandmothers' belief in degree of illness, preventive behaviors, caring behavior and number of children under a grandmother's care. Also, such association was found with marital status of grandmother, i.e., the children who were cared for by widowed grandmothers tended to recover from common colds slower than those having grandfathers. Considering the associations between the period of common cold and the ages of children the results showed that the younger the children were, the faster they recovered from common cold. With regard to the association with nutritional status, the better nutritional status the children had, the faster they recovered from illness. Both with ages of nutritional status, such associations existed when the grandmothers had helpers.