

Thesis Title The Relationship between Selected Factors, Spouse
Support, Mother's Perception of Breast Feeding and
Duration of Breast Feeding in Working Mother

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Abstract

Although breast feeding is the most appropriate and useful for infant feeding, there is a tendency indicates duration of breast feeding has declined over the past decade, especially in working mothers. There are many problems and barriers that may influence the duration of breast feeding in working mothers, for instances, the duration of postpartum rest, the duration of early breast feeding afterbirth, rubber nipple experiences, the duration of introducing rubber nipple, the duration of bottle feeding, the duration of introducing first supplement, spouse support, and the mother's own perception of breast feeding. Thus, the researcher was interested in studying the relationship between selected factors , spouse support mother's perception of breast feeding, and the duration of breast feeding in working mothers. The sample was composed of 150 working mothers afterbirth who have weaned breast feeding, their babies whose ages were between 1-12 months. Data were collected when the working mothers come to health service centers and/or well baby clinic at Rajchaburi Hospital, Maternal and Child Hospital at Health Promotion Center Region 4 Ratchaburi, Private clinics and in the community

which have working mothers. The instruments for data collection include the personal data, the interviewed breast feeding forms, Spouse Support questionnaire and Mother's Perception of Breast Feeding questionnaire. Data were analyzed by using SPSS program for percentage, arithmetic means, standard deviation, Pearson's Product Moment correlation coefficient, multiple correlation coefficient, and stepwise multiple regression.

The results were as follows :

1. There was a significantly positive relationship between duration of postpartum rest, duration of introducing bottle feeding, duration of introducing first supplement and duration of breast feeding in working mothers at .001, .001 and .01 respectively ($r=.3521$; $r=.5301$ and $r=.1797$). There was a significantly negative relationship between rubber nipple experience and duration of breast feeding at .001 ($r = -.3432$) , and there were no significant relationship between duration of early breast feeding after birth, duration of introducing rubber nipple and duration of breast feeding in working mother ($P > .05$).
2. There was a significant positive relationship between spouse support and duration of breast feeding in working mothers at .01 ($r = .2193$).
3. There was a significantly positive relationship between mother's perception of breast feeding and duration of breast feeding in working mothers at .001 ($r = .4965$).
4. The result of stepwise multiple regression analysis showed that 52.61 percent of the variance of duration of breast feeding in working mothers was accounted for by three significant predictors, i.e. duration of introducing bottle feeding, rubber nipple experience, and mother's perception of breast feeding ($P<.001$).

As the result of this study, the recommendations for nursing practice are suggested as following. Nurses in various setting should be aware of the factors that influence the working mothers' duration of breast feeding, i.e. duration of introducing bottle feeding, rubber nipple experience, and mother's perception of breast feeding. Nurse should prepare the working mothers for continuing their breast feeding before returning to work by promoting good spouse support and mothers' perception of breast feeding, and assisting mothers in solving problems concerning breast feeding which will increase the duration of breast feeding for working mothers.