

Thesis Title The Effectiveness of Health Education Program and
 Social Support Through Housewife Volunteer, Mailed
 Letter on Attending Pap Smear Services of Women in
 Nongwuaso District, Udonthani Province

Name Oratai Chonmasuk

Degree Master of Science (Public Health)
 major in Health Education

Thesis Supervisory Committee

 Roongrote Poomriew, M.P.H., Ph.D.
 Alisara Chuchat, B.Ed., M.Ed., Ph.D.
 Nitas Raiyawa, B.Sc., M.D., M.P.H.M.

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ABSTRACT

It is recognized that, at present, cancer is still a serious public health problem of Thailand. In addition, cancer of the cervix ranks first among Thai woman cancer cases. Also, the incidence of this cancer is estimately increasing. Although cervical cancer can be detected in its early stages and the pap smear test taken just a few moments to administer, only few women have the test. The main objective of this quasi-experimental study was to examine the effectiveness of health education program, social support through housewife volunteer and mailed letter in enhancing knowledge, attitude, practice to prevent cervical cancer and attending pap smear test of women. The relationships among knowledge, attitude, social support, practice and attending pap smear test were also explored.

Principles of communication, theories relating to changing attitude and behavior and learning theory were modified to carry out health education program. Social support was included in the intervention. One hundred and sixty-two married women with age 25-60 years were selected and divided into 2 experimental groups as subjects of the study. The first experimental group of 81 women received health education program and social support through housewife volunteer while the second group received health education program and mailed letter. Health education program consisted of lecture with flip chart, group discussion among woman attending pap smear test and attaining leaflet. Data were collected through interview before and after the experiment. Percentage distribution, mean and standard deviation, Student's t-test, Paired Samples t-test, Chi-square test, Z-test and Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient were employed to analyse data.

Results of the study, after the experiment, indicated that both groups gained significantly more knowledge, attitude and practice than prior to participating in the designed programs. Moreover, the first experimental group gained statistically more knowledge than the second group. There was no statistical difference between the proportions of women attending pap smear test of the two groups. There were no relationships between knowledge, practice and attending pap smear test. But the relationships among attitude, social support practice and attending pap smear test were found. Results of the study suggest that this intervention should be taken into consideration in conducting campaign for women, aged 25-60 years to gain more practice and attending pap smear test to cover and achieve goal as specified by Ministry of Public Health.