

Thesis Title Perception of Analgesic Drugs :

 A Case Study of Using Analgesic Drugs for Self Medication

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ABSTRACT

This research was a qualitative study with the following objectives :

- 1) To study the perceptions of analgesic drugs
- 2) To study the lay concept of pains
- 3) To study the use of analgesic drugs in self medication context

The study was conducted by collecting data through anthropological methods i.e. indepth, group interview and observation together with community survey in a village of Roi-Ed province for 3 months. Indepth interview of 10 key informants was done primarily in the first month to obtain local names of symptoms, symptoms, lay concepts of pains and their remedies. From all the symptoms obtained, an interview guide is then formed. Finally, indepth interview of 34 respondents at the working group age of 15-65 years with experience of using analgesic drugs, community observation and survey, group interview of community leaders and recording of drugs purchased in the community were performed simultaneously during the last two months.

According to the result, the perceptions of analgesic drugs can be summarized for three patterns i.e. pattern of drug's power (perception of a drug with its instant and complete curing action and with its side effect) pattern of habituation (individual's perception of a drug from his experience whether the drug cured him effectively without any complication) and pattern of perceived efficacy by drug's name and other symbol(s) or statement(s) appeared on its label. Pains are classified locally according to people's perception of causation, distinction between symptoms, and paining organ. Analgesic drugs using behaviors are determined mainly by both perception of drugs and pains. In addition, a conclusion can draw from the study analgesic drugs are used not only as pain-killers or antipyretics but also as stimulants and as narcotics. In self medication, modern analgesic drugs are widely used. Groceries in the village are the main source for drugs distribution.

As mentioned, it can be clearly seen that the aspect of socio-cultural, which is difference from that of pharmaceutical, plays a great role for a decision on drug use. Analgesic drugs are not only pain-killers or antipyretics but also stimulants and narcotics. Unreasonable behaviors of using drug have arisen and caused a large number of problems concerning health and overall economic for years. To solve these problems effectively, precise understanding of socio-cultural aspect in drug use is needed. Also, the result may serve as a guide-line for the following study of other socio-cultural health behaviors.