

Thesis Title Risk Factors for Diarrhoea in  
Children Under Five Years of Age in  
Baling District, Malaysia.

Name Shaari bin Saad

Degree Master of Science (Medical  
Epidemiology)

Thesis Supervisory Committee

Porapan Punyaratabandhu, M.D.,  
M.P.H., M.H.S.

Amornrath Podhipak, B.Sc., M.Sc.,  
Ph.D.(Epidemiol)

Lye Munn Sann, M.B.B.S., Dr.P.H.

Date of Graduation 31. May B.E. 2538(1995)

#### ABSTRACT

A followup community study for assessing the environmental sanitation and behavioral risk factors for the occurrence of diarrhoea in children below five years of age in a rural setting in Malaysia. The study was conducted in Baling District from February 4th.1995 to May 3rd.1995. A total of 723 children below five years were enrolled and were followup for three months.

Children and family characteristics, and the environmental and behavioral risk factors were collected at the beginning of the study through questionnaires to the mothers, records from the child health cards, and by observations. Diarrhoeal occurrence were collected later by a two weekly surveillance during the three months followup. The association between diarrhoeal incidence and the children and family characteristics, and the environmental sanitation and behavioral risk factors were then assessed.

Two factors were identified as significantly associated with the incidence of diarrhoea in certain age group of the children under the study, the practice of not always boiling drinking water and the practice of using unsafe water for bathing and washing. Nearly significant associations were noted with the practice of not using soap for washing after defecation, the practice of not always boiling leftover food, the practice of not using food cover, and improper garbage disposal.

The study concluded that that certain environmental sanitation and behavioral factors could act to reduce the incidence of diarrhoea in the the study population.