

Title : KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE AND PRACTICE OF VILLAGE
HEALTH WORKERS IN NUTRITIONAL SURVEILLANCE.

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ABSTRACT

A study of the knowledge, attitude and practice of village health workers (VHWs) on nutritional surveillance was conducted in Uthong district of Suphanburi province in February, 1988. The principal objective was to determine if there exists any relationship between the knowledge, attitude and practice of VHWs on nutritional surveillance and successful implementation of nutritional programs. Twelve villages were randomly selected, six of which were with the nutritional status of under-five children above the provincial average and the rest six villages were below the provincial average. A randomly selected sample of 96 VHWs (VHC & VH) were interviewed individually by using self responding closed questionnaires.

Results of the study show that VHWs had a relatively good knowledge, positive attitude and a high level of practice on different fields of nutritional surveillance. Approximately 81 percent of the VHWs were

found to have correct knowledge on "Breast Feeding and Weaning Practices". About 94 percent agreed with the opinion in questions and 66 percent responded that they practiced on the same field. More or less similar results were found on the "Assessment and Intervention in Protein Energy Malnutrition" except practice, which was found to be relatively weak. About 64 percent gave correct answer on the knowledge of "Detection and Supplementation in Anaemia and Pregnancy", 89 percent agreed with the opinion in question and about 83 percent practiced on the same field. Almost similar results were found on "Nutritional Surveillance and Related Primary Health Care (PHC) Activities in the Community". Relationship between knowledge and attitude, attitude and practice were found to be significant but between knowledge and practice it was insignificant. Association between practice of nutritional surveillance and achievement of nutritional status of the children below 5 years in their areas were also found to be insignificant.