Thesis title Relationship of weaning practices on the nutritional status and morbidity between breastfed and non-breastfed children aged 6-12 months who reside in Bangkok communities.

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## Abstract

The purpose of this study was to determine the relationship of weaning practices on the nutritional status and morbidity between breastfed and non-breastfed children aged 6-12 months who reside in Bangkok Communities.

Data was obtained by interviewing mothers about their children's health and anthropometric measurements were recorded. Other data included environmental factors which influenced child rearing practices such as socio-economic status, maternal employment, family background, and biological factors such as child morbidity and nutritional status.

In determining the factors influencing age of introduction of weaning food, it was found that there is no significant association between maternal age and education, or between infant feeding and age of introduction of weaning food (P-value >0.05). There is only significant association between maternal knowledge about weaning practices and age of introduction of weaning food (P-value <0.01).

In the study of weaning food consumed by children aged 1-12 months, the data shows that children consumed bananas; orange juice; rice; rice and fruits; rice and meat;and rice, meat and fruits at an earlier age and then gradually increase in consuming multi-mixed foods such as rice, meat and vegetables; and rice, meat, fruits and vegetables.The distribution of children by age of introduction of weaning food, meal per day, and preparation of weaning food between breastfed and non-breastfed children are described.

The result of frequency of daily food consumption by children aged 6-12 months showed a significant difference between breastfed and non-breastfed children. The breastfed children consumed junk food at aged 7 months more than non-breastfed children ( P-value < 0.05). While non-breastfed children consumed vegetables at aged 9 months more than breastfed children ( P-value < 0.05).

Further analysis on the impact of infant feeding on morbidity and nutritional status classified by weight for height found that there is no significant association between infant feeding and morbidity but there is a significant association between infant feeding and nutritional status (P-value<0.0001). However, there is no significant association between age of introduction of weaning food and nutritional status ( P-value >0.05).