

Thesis Title Factors Affecting Proper Household  
Use of ORS in the Treatment of  
Acute Diarrhoea Among Children  
under Five Years of Age in Rasisalai  
District, Srisaket Province

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#### ABSTRACT

Diarrhoeal diseases are one of the major public health problems in the developing world and are considered to pose the gravest risk to the survival of under five children. Available data indicate a high prevalence of diarrhoeal diseases in Thailand. Proper use of oral rehydration solution is the key element in the disease control and prevention programme to prevent dehydration and infant mortality from diarrhoea. Mothers are considered the

basic workers of the medical system for diarrhoea and play an important role in ORT by using ORS. This study attempted to determine the proportion of mothers who were knowledgeable on the proper use of ORS in the treatment of acute diarrhoea among children under five years of age and examine factors related to the proper use of ORS.

The study area was selected purposively and a descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted at Rasisalai district, Srisaket Province. Five villages were chosen from 2 sub-districts and a sample of 182 mothers with under five children and history of diarrhoea of their children were selected from these villages. Data were obtained through structured questionnaire.

The study revealed that 46.7% of mothers used ORS properly and this was related to the mother's knowledge on diarrhoea and ORS and mother's concern about diarrhoea and opinion towards ORS or, in other words, these factors significantly influenced mother's proper use of ORS. Also, it was found that these factors were interrelated and significantly associated.

These results imply that more emphasis should be given on these factors when a new health concept is to be introduced to the general population for their acceptance and execution.