

Thesis Title Knowledge and Perception of Housewives to Achieve the Basic Minimum Needs (BMN) in Sanitation in Nakorn Ratchasima Province, Thailand.

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ABSTRACT

In Pakthongchai district, Nakorn Ratchasima Province, Thailand, 203 housewives were interviewed concerning their socio-demographic characteristics and information relating to knowledge and perception about the sanitation in the BMN indicators, and their sanitary practice in BMN indicators.

Statistical test for association between practices, knowledge, perception and other socio-demographic factors was performed. A significant association was seen between housewives' knowledge and occupational status with p-value = 0.04. A statistically significant association was also found between housewives' perception and number of children with p-value 0.03, member of housewives' group with p-value 0.003 and strong association with family income (p-value = 0.0006). An association also exists between sanitary

practice in BMN indicators and family income (p-value = 0.007) and member of housewives' group (p-value = 0.01).

The result determined an association between housewives' knowledge, perception and sanitary practice in BMN indicators with p-value = 0.02 and 0.002 respectively.

The study reveals that the housewives' sanitary knowledge, perception and practice were related with the family income and working status.

Additional findings were that the housewives had fair and good knowledge, perception and practice about sanitation in the BMN indicators, but the knowledge regarding food, water and environmental sanitation were low. Also, a high percentage of women knew about opisthorchiasis and this was a result of the successful campaign on prevention of liver fluke infestation started in 1991 by the Ministry of Public Health Thailand.

The membership of housewives' group was also significantly related /associated with the sanitary perception and practice.

The recommendations which were drawn from this research results were that more effort have to be made in order to approach the housewives and motivate them regularly to be members of housewives' group. Also, more indepth focus group studies and qualitative research need to be done to obtain more information of people regarding their health practice especially sanitary practice.