

Thesis Title Knowledge, Perception and  
Selfcare Practice Associating  
with URI and Pneumonia or  
Bronchitis in Children under  
Five Years of Age

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#### ABSTRACT

A Hospital based cross sectional study was conducted at two community hospitals at Samphan and Nakhon Chaisri and general hospital of Nakhon Pathom Province, Thailand, 180 mothers/guardians of sick children of under five years who were suffering with different degree of Acute respiratory tract infection (ARI) i.e., (1) Upper respiratory tract infection (URI) and (2) lower respiratory

tract infections (LRI) i.e., Bronchitis/Pneumonia, were selected to interview about ARI occurrence due to risk factors concerning their socio-demographic and environmental characteristics and information related to knowledge, perception with regard to ARI and their selfcare practices in caring for children during illness.

This study demonstrated the risk of ARI of under five are affected by a number of factors particularly passive smoking, age of the children (less than 1 year), family history of chronic Hay fever, Bronchitis, Asthma and Tuberculosis.

The results showed a significant association between knowledge of mothers/guardians about those two levels of ARI with the family size, family history of chronic bronchitis, occupation and education of mothers/guardians. knowledge and selfcare practice have associations with the occurrence of URI and LRI (Pneumonia/Bronchitis) with p-value of 0.0348 and 0.0356 respectively. The parents or guardians of LRI cases (Pneumonia or Bronchitis) seeking medical care later than two days after the symptoms occurred. The occupation of guardians/ mothers of sick children were mostly laborers (48.9%) and farmers (21.1%) and education level were mostly primary (64.4%) and no schooling (12.8%).

Knowledge about ARI has also significant association with the perception on ARI phenomena and selfcare practice

in ARI of mothers/guardians with p-value 0.0000 and 0.0134 respectively. This shows that mothers/guardians with good knowledge regarding ARI have good perceptions regarding ARI and also have good selfcare practices regarding ARI.

The results also showed that an association between perception and chronic family history of Bronchitis. Regarding selfcare practice there were association between it and nutritional status, breast feeding, education of mothers/guardians, chronic family history of Bronchitis and Tuberculosis. Hence ARI control programme should actively utilize the Primary Health Care approach to implement a strategy to reduce the established risk factors particularly passive smoking, breast feeding and nutrition of children of under five. Community participation should play a major role in the national ARI programme together with a revitalized health education programme for mothers/guardians on current information on supportive care for sick children with acute respiratory infections. The results of this study will be important for the health planners for prevention, control and standard case management of URI and LRI.