Thesis Title	Impact of Multidrug Therapy on Epidemiological Changes of Leprosy in Thailand
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Date of Graduation 23 May B.E. 2537 (1994)

ABSTRACT

From problem of occurrence of Dapsone resistant bacilli among leprosy cases treated by Dapsone monotherapy for a long time, WHO has made newly the recommendation for using newly multidrug therapy (MDT) regimen which was firstly implemented in the leprosy control project in Thailand since 1984 . According to the evaluation of the efficacy of MDT implementation by WHO,there was definite impact on reduction of prevalence-rate in the area where MDT already cover 80 percent of total existing cases of leprosy. However ,there are remaining no obvious evidences of reduction of detection-rate of new cases of leprosy as resulted from initial MDT implementation.

This thesis intended to evaluation whether the completion of the first ten years of MDT implementation in Thailand (from 1984-1993) which already cover 83 percent of total provinces in 1988 and 82 percent of total existing registered cases of leprosy in 1989,will show a good impact on the reduction of prevalence-rate of leprosy cases which are important reservoir thus hypothetically will result in further declining of detection-rate of cases of leprosy.

Some epidemiological indicators of leprosy in Thailand have changed by impact of multidrug therapy implemented since 1984 to 1993 namely the prevalence-rate decline from 8.8 per 10,000 population in 1984 to only 1,24 in 1993 (declining-rate of 85.91 percent in 10 years).The incidence rate decreased 30% (from 0.30 per 10,000 in 1989 to 0.21 per 10,000 in 1993). The proportion of children (<15 years) among newly detected cases decreased 18.18%, (from 8.09% in 1989 to 5.81% in 1993). The proportion of multibacillary form among newly detected cases increased 22.71% (from 35.88% in 1989 to 44.03% in 1993). The proportion of voluntary attendant cases among newly detected has increased 42.94% (from 10.41% in 1989 to 14.88% in 1993). But the mean age of onset of newly detected cases increased 3.56% (from 44.33% in 1989 to 42.80% in 1993) and the proportion of disabled (Grade 2)among newly detected cases increased 42.94% 9 from 42.94% in 1989 to 10.41% in 1993).

From our results of evaluating study of impacts of MDT on epidemiological changes of leprosy in Thailand, One findings on definite changes three important indicators as mentioned above, confirmed previous evidences on definite impact of MDT to lowering and ceasing of leprosy transmission and epidemiological decline as similarly found by WHO and other countries. These finding also indicated and proved definitely that such three epidemiological indicators are reliable tools to measure the epidemiological changes of leprosy.