

Thesis Title : Perspectives and Potential of Graduate Health Volunteers in Expanded Programme on Immunization

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ABSTRACT

Graduate Health Volunteers were given the responsibility of supporting Primary Health Care activities and to serve as a linkage between community and health sector. The project was launched in Chantaburi province of Thailand from 1985 till March 1988. The purpose of the present study was to view different dimensions of GHVs and their potential as support manpower for Expanded Programme on Immunization. The study, conducted in February 1988, assessed performance of EPI activities from 1985 through 1987. It also included assessment of Cognitive, Affective and Psychomotor domains of GHVs and health workers in relation to immunization. Opinions of trainers and supervisors were also sought to identify their future role in EPI.

It was found out that proportion of eligible children immunized against Measles significantly increased after introduction of GHVs in the experimental area. But there was no effect on BCG and DPT coverage. There was significant increase in coverage of pregnant women for tetanus toxoid. The results were based on time-serial analysis.

It was observed that KAP of GHVs matched well with Health workers except in some technical aspects. They had positive attitude towards community based activities. Further needs for training were identified for GHVs as well as health workers. After controlling for sex, age, area of working, education and experience, no significant difference could be observed between KAP of GHVs and Health Workers.

Opinion of trainers and health personnel was used to identify activities in EPI which can serve as a guideline for future role of GHVs in EPI. These included motivational roles in the community, cooperation with village health volunteers and some managerial tasks.

It is suggested that GHVs should be given formal position and be developed into manpower appropriate for HFA leadership. Their usefulness in urban settings should also be examined. Looking to the present needs of the community and human resources needed to implement HFA strategy, Graduate Health Volunteers should be able to provide the right answer, if developed in appropriate perspective.